

April 30, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585-1000

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Secretary Chu and Administrator Jackson:

The process of rebuilding the American economy has begun in earnest, and one of the key ways the president has announced is to structure your country's long-term plan for economic revitalization atop a foundation of robust, government-directed "green job" creation.

As senior officials in President Obama's administration, the task of implementing that vision for the future is likely to fall on you, given your respective range of talents and experiences in science, technology and public policy. But in confronting this charge, I hope you will allow me to commend your attention to the example of Spain – a nation that took the lead more than a decade ago in developing, implementing and enforcing a "green jobs"-focused economic program similar to the one you are considering now.

My name is Gabriel Calzada Alvarez, associate professor of applied economics at King Juan Carlos University in Madrid. Last month, with a team of Rey Juan Carlos' University researchers, I released a detailed study analyzing the qualitative effects and quantitative impact of Spain's experience with green jobs (empleos verdes), in part finding the vast majority of these jobs created by the government over the past decade are not in any meaningful way permanent and many are no longer in existence today. Further, our study analyzed the magnitude of public resources invested by the government in this green sector, and found that, for the money it took to create a single green job, roughly 2.2 other, private sector jobs were displaced as an opportunity cost of that decision.

I understand that each of you were asked about this study in recent, separate appearances before the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and whether you had yet been availed of its core conclusions. As both of you testified that you had not in fact had such an opportunity, I write to you today: to submit myself as an available witness at your disposal, and while I am in Washington, D.C. next week to humbly offer up any time you might have to be briefed on the baseline findings of the study.

President Obama has often used the example of Spain as a model to be followed in pursuing a new course for the United States on energy, employment and the environment. Next week, I will have the pleasure of being in Washington to consult with U.S. lawmakers and policy experts as they look to organize a policy agenda around your nation's stated imperatives of creating new, durable jobs, lessening your dependence on energy from outside the United States, and supporting the development of alternative energy sources. To the extent possible, and as time permits, I am more than grateful for an opportunity to speak with you as well.

My schedule has me in Washington, D.C. starting on Monday, May 4, and concluding on Wednesday May 6. Although much of my time is committed, I would happily reevaluate and reschedule as appropriate should you find a time suitable at which to meet.

To this letter, I have attached a web link that will direct you to the referenced study. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you for your consideration.

Saludos,



Gabriel Calzada Alvarez
Professor
King Juan Carlos University
Madrid, Spain

<http://www.juandemariana.org/pdf/090327-employment-public-aid-renewable.pdf>