

September 14, 2009

Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Honorable Dan E. Arvizu
Director, National Renewable Energy Laboratory
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Washington, D.C. 20024-2157

Mr. Erik Lantz
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Dear Secretary Chu and Director Arvizu:

Allow me to begin by conveying my genuine appreciation for the time, effort and considerable staff resources your agency devoted to the examination of a study my team and I had the privilege to publish earlier this year. The report, Study of the Effects on Employment of Public Aid to Renewable Energy Sources, has received generous attention in your country since its release, and has, I hope, contributed in some small way to the ongoing discussion of how best to position your economy for growth and future prosperity in an increasingly carbon-constrained world.

I am an economist by training, and a Spaniard by birth and citizenship. As such, the prevailing concern that formed the basis of our investigation was not whether a “green jobs”-focused economic policy would be successful if implemented in America; whether such a policy would be politically popular if sold as such; or whether trade-offs and considerations related to risk and reward, cost and benefit, and return on public investment would be palatable to an American audience.

Rather, our objective was to examine the national renewable energy program as it has been instituted in Spain over the past decade, assess its strengths, identify its weaknesses, and render a conclusion based on data provided by publicly accessible, government-derived sources.

The findings produced by our team, it can be assumed, you know well. And although your response considers at length areas that extend beyond the scope of our investigation, much less seems to be mentioned about the areas in which that investigation takes place – specifically on issues related to the number of renewable sector jobs created in Spain via public subsidy, compared to the amount of taxpayer money spent on them.

Beyond the attention paid to what is not addressed in our report, it appears a separate object of your criticism is the contention that our report “lacks transparency and supporting statistics.” Although we believe the appendices and citation indices to be complete in this regard, on this, we’re glad to share with you every bit of data and supporting information we have. And in person, too – if you should find it your schedule to make time for me to visit.

Later this month, I will have the pleasure of being in Washington, D.C. for four days -- from September 21 through September 24. If agreeable, I would appreciate greatly the opportunity to sit down with you, your staff, and/or possibly even the authors of the August response memorandum, whom I’ve copied here, so that

I can better and more thoroughly explain the report's methodology, clarify what I believe are some misconceptions and transmit to you all relevant and appropriate data underlying our conclusions.

In the meantime, please take the time to consider a response to the NREL report put forth by Institute for Energy Research economist Robert Murphy. I've linked to that analysis – as well as a brief summation of our original findings – below.

Let me close by thanking you and your staff once again for your investment of time and resources in examining and commenting on our work. It's my hope that you might be willing to protect that investment, possibly by setting aside whatever time you may have available so that I might have the opportunity to address in person, and hopefully resolve, any and all issues regarding this study that remain.

Sincerely,



Gabriel Calzada
Founder
Instituto Juan de Mariana
Madrid, Spain

Key findings from Calzada Green Jobs report:

<http://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/2009/03/31/running-of-the-bull-us-green-jobs-rhetoric/>

Murphy response to NREL analysis: <http://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/2009/09/03/the-nrels-flawed-white-paper-on-the-spanish-green-jobs-study/>