

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 9, 2008

The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman  
U.S. Secretary of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As members of the Virginia Congressional delegation, we are writing with regard to the U.S. Department of Energy's recent solicitation of loan guarantee proposals for nuclear reactors and uranium enrichment facilities. As a delegation, we are supportive of the solicitation and it is our hope that the loan guarantee selection process will be completed in a fair, timely, and fiscally responsible manner.

It is not surprising that the amount of loan guarantees applied for far exceeds the amount of guarantee authority available. As the Department begins the selection process we believe that you should be highly sensitive to the government's exposure to financial risk as a result of any guarantee approved under the program. It is commendable that the Department's solicitation makes "creditworthiness of the project" by far the most important selection criterion between competing guarantee applications. This important criterion is especially vital given these challenging economic times.

A fiscally responsible selection has the potential to demonstrate to future Administrations and Congressional decision makers that the loan guarantee program can be administered in a prudent and responsible manner. If it can be said to those decision makers that the loan guarantee program has been run fairly and in a fiscally responsible manner, decision makers will have a higher degree of confidence in the program and its ability to foster a revitalized nuclear power sector. If it cannot, and if the Department's record is blemished with a series of costly defaults, we fear it will jeopardize the prospect for future loan guarantee projects.

It is also our hope that this process is administered fairly. It is essential for the Department to adhere systematically to the criteria of its solicitations and to provide the most objective application possible of the criteria. The support any given guarantee application receives from relevant stakeholders - that is not related to the selection criteria - while of course welcome, should not be allowed to divert the Department's attention in any way from those selection criteria.

We believe that the Department has an opportunity, through the issuance of loan guarantees, for nuclear reactors and uranium enrichment facilities, to advance projects that are vital to U.S. energy policies. We are confident that it can do so with minimal financial risk to the federal government and in a manner that will enhance the future of the loan guarantee program itself. In light of the dedication and talents you have consistently exhibited, we have every confidence you will be able to produce that result. Again, we applaud your efforts, and we ask that you keep us informed of important developments regarding your selection process.

Sincerely,

Bob Goodlatte

John Z. Sauer

Jim Webb

Billy Scott

Vivian Good

Robert J. Wittman

Jim Moran

J. Rody Forke