

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

June 21, 2012

The Honorable Dr. Steven Chu  
Secretary of Energy  
United States Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu,

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, Sasol, which is an integrated energy and chemical company with facilities located in Lake Charles, Louisiana and its partner Novomer, in support of Novomer's application for Department of Energy funding through the Office of Fossil Energy's Oil and Natural Gas Program (FY2012 Unconventional Gas and Oil technologies; DE-FOA-0000724). Specifically, Novomer and Sasol are submitting an application under Topic Area 3: "Next-Generation" CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR.

Novomer and Sasol are uniquely capable of producing CO<sub>2</sub>-philic polymers and hydrophilic alcohols, which can be combined to produce an entirely new class of high-performance tailorable surfactants that could greatly increase the recoverable oil from existing wells. The objectives of this project are to bring this first-in-the-world technology from an early stage laboratory project to a technology which is ready for field trials.

If successful, these novel surfactants will establish the United States as a world leader in "Next Generation" CO<sub>2</sub> Enhanced Oil Recovery, a technology for which there is massive and growing global demand. Domestically, this technology has the potential to increase U.S. recoverable petroleum. Next Generation CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR can provide 137 billion barrels of additional technically recoverable domestic oil, with 67 billion barrels becoming economically recoverable when the average price of oil is \$85 per barrel. This volume of economically recoverable oil is sufficient to reduce oil imports by one-third. As an added environmental benefit, the technical storage capacity offered by this technology would sequester 45 billion metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Because of the potential to significantly increase U.S. oil production, reduce the United States' dependence on foreign oil and enhance our energy security, we urge you to give this project every consideration.

With best regards, I am,

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu  
United States Senator

MLL:ca