

MARSHA BLACKBURN
7TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE
DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4207

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
217 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-2811

DISTRICT OFFICES:
7975 STAGE HILLS BOULEVARD
SUITE 1
MEMPHIS, TN 38133
TELEPHONE: (901) 382-5811

198 EAST MAIN STREET
SUITE 1
FRANKLIN, TN 37064
TELEPHONE: (615) 591-5161

1850 MEMORIAL DRIVE
CLARKSVILLE, TN 37043
TELEPHONE: (931) 503-0391

September 16, 2011

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

The Honorable Cliff Stearns
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

Dear Chairman Upton and Chairman Stearns,

I would like to commend the work that you and your staffs have put into the Solyndra investigation and subsequent hearings. The September 14, 2011 hearing on Solyndra and the Department of Energy loan guarantee program allowed members on our committee to uphold the long held tradition of our committee by providing rigorous oversight.

During this week's hearing, however, it was made surprisingly clear during my questioning that neither Jonathan Silver, Executive Director, Department of Energy Loans Program Office, nor Jeffery Zients, Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget, had comprehensively reviewed the history of Solyndra when they took over their respective positions. For example, Mr. Zients stated that while he had been briefed on the Solyndra guarantee he personally had never reviewed any files on the company. Likewise, Mr. Silver while affirming that the Department of Energy has a comprehensive file on Solyndra, he too had never personally reviewed it.

While I will certainly like to further examine the lack of a comprehensive review Mr. Zients and Mr. Silver failed to implement for the Solyndra guarantee there is a much larger question at stake concerning what type of review has been conducted for other companies that have already received taxpayer funds through the DOE's loan guarantee program and may be at risk of collapse. I request that we rigorously examine the DOE

loan guarantee program as a whole in future hearings to ensure that taxpayer's best interests are protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marsha Blackburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

MB:sm