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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 3, 2009

COMMITTEES:
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT,
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Steven Chu
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

It has recently come to my attention that the Department of Energy (DOE) has issued a proposed rule that would change the existing regulations which govern the Title XVII loan guarantee program (DOE Docket ID: DOE-2007-0002-0052 "Loan Guarantees for Projects That Employ Innovative Technologies", published August 7, 2009). Several groups have raised concerns that the thirty (30) day comment period does not provide them enough time to garner the necessary expertise and analysis to make substantive comments on these proposed changes. In a continued effort to make the federal agency process more open and transparent, I respectfully request that DOE extend the comment period for an additional sixty (60) days.

Title XVII Loan Guarantee Program is a complex and highly technical program that requires a significant understanding of both energy development and the lending process. Moreover, because the federal government plays a significant role as the guarantor of these loans it is exposed to a significant amount of risk. Given these considerations, I believe it is in our best interest to extend the comment period so that all the interested parties will have a full and complete opportunity to provide analysis of the proposed changes.

Providing an additional sixty (60) days for comment would provide any interested parties with enough time to prepare analysis and give substantive comments on DOE's suggested changes. I appreciate your full consideration of this request and look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator

cc: David G. Frantz, Director, Loan Guarantee Program Office

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