



AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY



House Appropriations Committee  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

April 25, 2017

Dear House Appropriator:

The undersigned groups, representing millions of taxpayers nationwide, applaud your work on ensuring that proper discretion is exercised to protect taxpayers' interests in preparation for the FY 2018 budget. In the interests of taxpayers we urge to eliminate funding for the SunShot Initiative.

Currently, taxpayers take an outsized role in the deployment of solar technologies. Through the SunShot Initiative, the Department of Energy (DOE) spends \$270 million per year to "induce companies to lower production and installation costs associated with photovoltaic solar panel systems and reducing the price of solar power." In practice, the initiative fuels lobbying and cronyism on a massive scale.

A recent congressional investigation into the DOE revealed, for instance, that organizations routinely promote rooftop solar with public monies. The Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC), which received millions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies over the past nine years, advocates for onerous net-metering subsidies at the state level and provides technical assistance on panel installations.

Across the country, rooftop solar prices have failed to decline at the same rate as utility solar or even conventional energy sources. The Trump Administration should put an end to the mess of subsidies and favors to connected solar rooftop companies. American ratepayers are tired of paying for net-metering through higher electricity bills. Utilities are seeing lower revenue as the result of failed net-metering initiatives, and have less money left over to invest in utility solar, wind, and natural gas generation. With these maladies in mind, the Trump Administration should not look to repeat the failures of previous administrations.

Cheap, abundant energy can thrive if the government removes regulatory burdens and favoritism at the federal, state, and local levels. Further government intrusion into a sector will only mean higher energy prices for consumers *and* less clean options overall. Meanwhile, taxpayers will remain on the line for the failures of solar companies like SunEdison and Solyndra.

We encourage you to avoid picking winners from losers in energy markets, and alleviate taxpayers from handouts to solar businessmen with political clout. The SunShot Initiative is ground zero of the solar subsidy machine, and needs to go.

Sincerely,

David Williams, President  
Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Phil Kerpen, President  
American Commitment

Doug Macgillivray, Director of Federal Affairs  
American Energy Alliance

Brent Gardner, Chief Government Affairs Officer  
Americans for Prosperity

Grover Norquist, President  
Americans for Tax Reform

Jeff Mazzella, President  
Center for Individual Freedom

Myron Ebell, Director, Center for Energy and Environment  
Competitive Enterprise Institute

Matthew Kandrach, President  
Consumer Action for a Strong Economy

Tom Schatz, President  
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste

George Landrith, President  
Frontiers of Freedom

Mario H. Lopez, President  
Hispanic Leadership Fund

Andrew Langer, President  
Institute for Liberty

Brandon Arnold, Executive Vice President  
National Taxpayers Union