



**The Secretary of Energy**  
Washington, D.C. 20585

June 5, 2009

The Honorable Joe Barton  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Barton:

Thank you for your April 22, 2009, letter regarding green jobs. I appreciate knowing of your interest in this rapidly expanding sector of the American economy.

The term "green jobs" is a broadly defined term that is used by economists, academia, the media, and others, including the Obama Administration, to describe the emerging sector of jobs related to the new energy economy in our Nation and around the world.

America's economy is transitioning to one that relies more on the use of renewable and alternative fuels and increased conservation, and on technologies that will protect our environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Broadly speaking, green jobs are related to either producing new and clean energy sources or providing products or services that help us use energy more efficiently. From weatherizing homes to researching and developing advanced batteries to building wind power (to name just a few examples), the U.S. has the opportunity to create millions of these green jobs as we transition to low-carbon fuels and greater efficiency.

In terms of venture capital alone, private investment in the renewable energy sector of the economy topped \$2.6 billion in 2007. In addition, the Obama Administration has proposed strategic investments of \$150 billion over ten years to help the private sector create five million new green jobs, and these are good jobs that cannot be outsourced. These jobs are not intended to replace existing jobs. The growth of green jobs is occurring throughout the country wherever the marketplace supports development. There is no reason that green jobs cannot be created in virtually every State in our Nation and in a wide array of communities.

American companies and workers should build the technologies of the future. To aid in this transition, the Obama Administration supports the establishment of a program to help manufacturing centers modernize and to help Americans learn new skills to produce green jobs. This program will allocate money to the States to identify and support modernization of existing or closed manufacturing facilities that will then produce



advanced clean energy technologies. This will provide the critical up-front capital needed by small and medium-sized manufacturers. We also seek increased Federal support of work force training programs that incorporate green technologies training into their efforts.

President Obama recently stated: “The choice we face is not between saving our environment and saving our economy—it’s a choice between prosperity and decline. The nation that leads the world in creating new sources of clean energy will be the nation that leads the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy.”

I look forward to working closely with you and others in Congress in the months ahead as we address this very important issue. If you have further questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me or Ms. Betty A. Nolan, Senior Advisor, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Chu", written in a cursive style.

Steven Chu

cc: The Honorable Henry Waxman  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
The Honorable Bart Stupak  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations