

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

FIFTH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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CRIME, TERRORISM, AND
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4905
January 30, 2012

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President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am pleased by the news that your Administration is finishing its internal audit of the Department of Energy (DOE) loan guarantee program. A careful review of how this money has been spent is long overdue. However, I am disappointed to learn that your Administration is planning to withhold the release of the audit's findings.

With the revelation that a third DOE loan guarantee recipient has now declared bankruptcy, it is evident that there are serious issues surrounding the management of this program. Solyndra, Beacon Power, and Ener1 all appear to have squandered tax dollars due to a lack of due diligence by the DOE in awarding these loan guarantees. Regrettably, we cannot spare the taxpayers from taking the hit from these three companies. There is still time, however, to make sure that similar failures are not realized due to problematic investments.

Now that your Administration is completing its internal review of the loan guarantee program, I believe it is essential that you release the results in their entirety. The American people deserve to know how their tax dollars are being spent, and any delay in releasing the audit results is a disservice to American taxpayers.

When you were elected to the Presidency, you made it clear that transparency would be a staple of your Administration. Now is the time to honor that commitment and share with the public the results of the DOE loan guarantee audit. I know that I, along with many other Americans, look forward to viewing the results and recommendations of this audit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

Vice-Chairman, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

cc: Ralph Hall
Chairman, House Committee on Science, Space and Technology

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology