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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3505

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The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independent Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu,

I am writing to you today with my support of the full application (FOA No. DE-FOA-0000259) submitted by the Solar Valley Research Enterprise (SVRE) for the Photovoltaic (PV) Manufacturing Initiative, a renewable energy research and development program. SVRE is a not-for-profit organization formed by the University of Toledo, a leader in alternative energy research and development, and the Dow Corning Corporation in a joint venture with Hemlock Semiconductor Corporation.

By selecting this not-for-profit organization for this Federal grant, the SVRE will be centered in two Midwest locations, one in Northwest Ohio near the current University of Toledo's Wright Center for Photovoltaic's Innovation and Commercialization, and the other near Midland, Michigan in the Great Lakes Bay region. These two facilities will contain manufacturing-scale capabilities, high tech laboratories, and will also be dedicated to the acceleration of solar research with a focus on reducing the cost per kilowatt hour of solar power, all the while aiding in solar researchers from start to finish. Energy is continuing to be a central economic driver, and alternative energy sources such as solar will directly impact the availability of jobs, incomes, and the quality of life for many years to come. As the United States moves towards lessening its dependency on foreign oil, solar will continue to play a vital role.

As you know the heart of the Midwest, and in particular Ohio and Michigan, have a strong manufacturing base with a recent spur in job growth in the alternative energy sector within the past several years. According to the National Association of Manufacturer's, I represent the largest manufacturing district in Ohio and the 20th largest of all Congressional Districts. This is in stark contrast to two year ago when I represented the 9th largest manufacturing district in all of Congress. These significant

declines can be felt throughout the entire region. Through public-private partnerships like the SVRE, the manufacturing sector will be strengthened through research and development, which will in turn allow homes and businesses throughout the United States to take advantage of a renewable energy from the sun through advances spurred by development and innovation being brought to the forefront by organizations such as the SVRE.

I strongly support the SVRE's proposal to the Department of Energy's Photovoltaic (PV) Manufacturing Initiative, and I ask that you give your full consideration of this proposal. The people of this region will ensure the success of this initiative.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress

REL/cat

Cc: Carol Battershell, Executive Director for Field Operations, Golden Field Office,
Department of Energy
Ron Bloom, Senior Manufacturing Policy Counselor, Department of the Treasury