

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 13, 2007

Assistant Secretary Alexander Karsner
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Assistant Secretary Karsner:

We are writing to strongly support the application of the Massachusetts partnership to obtain a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). As you know, the recipient of this CRADA partnership would receive \$2 million in capital equipment and technical assistance from the NREL and the Department of Energy (DOE) to design, construct and operate a wind turbine blade test facility.

This wind turbine blade testing facility is extremely important as we look to expand our use of wind energy around the country. Increasing our use of wind energy and other clean, renewable sources of energy is essential to cutting our global warming pollution. Right now, NREL's National Wind Technology Center is the only facility in North America capable of testing these sorts of large-scale wind turbine blades. We support the expansion of our large-scale wind blade testing capabilities in order to allow for the continued growth of our wind energy generating capacity.

Massachusetts is uniquely equipped to administer this wind blade testing facility and we are very pleased that our state has been selected as one of two finalists. Massachusetts' proposed site at the Boston Autoport would be easily accessible because of its proximity to Logan Airport, rail lines and shipping ports. In addition, the proposed site has the ability to expand to allow for the future testing of blades up to 100 meters in length.

The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC), a member of the Massachusetts partnership, has agreed to provide up to \$13.2 million in grant and loan financing, including \$5 million set aside in matching funds for expansion and development of the facility. The Massachusetts proposal further has the support of educational institutions in the region including UMASS, MIT, and Harvard.

Renewable energy development is strongly supported not only by the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation but also by Governor Deval Patrick and the State Legislature. Once again, we write in support of the proposal submitted by the Massachusetts partnership. We strongly encourage the selection of Massachusetts as the location for the CRADA opportunity and the wind turbine blade testing facility.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
U.S. House of Representatives



Barney Frank
U.S. House of Representatives



Richard E. Neal
U.S. House of Representatives



Martin T. Meehan
U.S. House of Representatives



James P. McGovern
U.S. House of Representatives



Michael E. Capuano
U.S. House of Representatives



Edward M. Kennedy
U.S. Senate



John F. Kerry
U.S. Senate



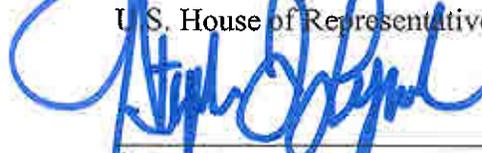
John W. Olver
U.S. House of Representatives



William D. Delahunt
U.S. House of Representatives



John F. Tierney
U.S. House of Representatives



Stephen F. Lynch
U.S. House of Representatives