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## United States Senate

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February 8, 2007

Alexander A. Karsner  
Assistant Secretary  
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Assistant Secretary Karsner:

I appreciate your leadership on energy issues for our country. I enjoyed our conversation earlier today, and I look forward to working with you to ensure that the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado – the Nation's premier research laboratory for energy efficiency and renewable energy – is funded at a level necessary to achieve energy security for the nation.

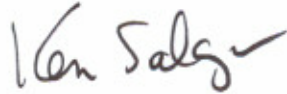
This morning I shared with you three specific infrastructure needs at NREL for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2007. Following our conversation, our senior staff discussed these priorities further. Based on our conversation and the subsequent conversation between our respective staffs, I understand that the lab's key infrastructure priorities are as follows: (1) \$30 million to equip the new Science & Technology facility; (2) \$20 million for expansion of the lab's Integrated Biorefinery Research Facility; and (3) \$63 million for a new Research Support Facility. I therefore urge you to direct \$113 million to NREL in Fiscal Year 2007.

Given the President's goals outlined in his Advanced Energy Initiative, particularly with respect to biomass and biofuels, solar and wind energy, new advanced vehicle technologies, and new battery technologies, I am confident you will agree NREL must have the necessary facilities and research equipment to carry out its mission. I will continue to fight for the additional \$300 million investment for the Department's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) budget for Fiscal Year 2007 when the Continuing Resolution (CR) is debated on the Senate floor. It is equally important that the Administration specifically identify these funding priorities for NREL in the DOE spending plan that is submitted to Congress pursuant to the CR.

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I am grateful that you are aware of NREL's funding needs and that you will work with me and the Congress to ensure that those needs are met in FY07 and beyond. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Salazar" with a checkmark at the end.

Ken Salazar  
United States Senator

cc: Honorable Samuel W. Bodman, Secretary