



STATE OF ARKANSAS
MIKE BEEBE
GOVERNOR

March 23, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Re: State Energy Program Assurances

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As a condition of receiving Arkansas's share of the \$3.1 billion funding for the State Energy Program (SEP) under the American Recovery and Renewal Act of 2009 (H.R. 1)(ARRA), I am providing certain assurances found below. I have written to the Chairman of the Arkansas Public Service Commission and requested that the commissioners consider additional actions to promote energy efficiency consistent with the federal statutory language contained in H.R. 1 and with their obligations to maintain just and reasonable rates, while protecting the public. I have also written to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Arkansas General Assembly and requested that legislators consider actions that will improve new-building energy codes consistent with Arkansas law and Arkansas constitutional requirements, and to consider the statutory language contained in ARRA.

We are prioritizing our energy investments to take advantage of existing programs and to expand programs where appropriate. Our State is committed to meaningful improvement in energy efficiency and renewable energy, as well as a balanced state energy policy. I want to assure you that, within the limits of my authority, we will move forward in these critical areas.

We look forward to immediate distribution of the Federal SEP funds to permit my State to make progress in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Beebe".

Mike Beebe

MB:jb

cc: Gil Sperling, Director, Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs
U.S. Department of Energy
David Terry, Executive Director, National Association of State Energy Officials
Maria Haley, Director Arkansas Economic Development Commission
Bev Lindsay, Stimulus Coordinator, AEDC
Chris Benson, Director Arkansas Energy Office, AEDC