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CHAIRMAN

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6115

Majority (202) 225–2927
Minority (202) 225–3641

September 26, 2011

The Honorable Darrell Issa
Chairman
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Issa:

I am writing to address comments you made about me in an appearance on C-SPAN's Washington Journal.

You said, "There's been this attitude that somehow government can weigh in with loan guarantees and money and pick winners, specific company winners, and losers. We see that as a backdoor, easy way to end up with corruption in government because the people picking winners and losers, in this case Solyndra, include Henry Waxman."

You also stated, "In the case of the President's people, in the case of Henry Waxman, you clearly had people who saw a link between their campaign contributions, their ideological bent, and these companies."

I am writing to let you know that I had no involvement in the selection of the Solyndra loan. In fact, the first time I met with representatives from Solyndra was in July 2011, when the company's CEO, Brian Harrison, informed me – erroneously, it turned out – that the company's prospects were bright.

As a former chairman of the Oversight Committee, I know that the public pays attention to statements the chair makes. That gives whoever occupies the chair of the Oversight Committee a special responsibility to be accurate.

Sincerely,

Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform