

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

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

September 19, 2011

The Honorable Cliff Stearns  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Stearns:

We are pleased that you are planning a September 23 hearing to take the testimony of Solyndra executives. We are writing to request that you seek the testimony of representatives of Argonaut Private Equity and Madrone Capital Partners at either this hearing or one in the future.

One important question for the Committee to examine is whether there were sound reasons to make an investment in Solyndra. Some sophisticated and experienced private venture capital investors thought the answer was yes, and they invested over \$1 billion in Solyndra – twice the support provided by the federal government. The Committee would benefit from hearing the views of these private investors as we assess the merits of federal decisions regarding the Solyndra loan guarantee.

In particular, we ask that you seek testimony from Argonaut and Madrone, the two top private investors in the company. Representatives of each, Argonaut Managing Director Steve Mitchell, and Madrone Founder and General Partner Jameson McJunkin, served on Solyndra's board and should be well acquainted with the company. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. McJunkin could provide the Committee with perspective on why Solyndra attracted so much private capital, Solyndra's representations about its economic prospects, and the external factors that have been affecting the U.S. solar industry.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

The Honorable Cliff Stearns  
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Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Member



Diana DeGette  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
and Investigations

cc: The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce