

GABRIELLE GIFFORDS
8TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA
WASHINGTON OFFICE:
222 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2542

DISTRICT OFFICES:
TUCSON OFFICE
1661 NORTH SWAN, SUITE 112
TUCSON, AZ 85712
(520) 881-3588
COCHISE COUNTY OFFICE
77 CALLE PORTAL, SUITE B-160
SIERRA VISTA, AZ 85635
(520) 459-3115



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0308

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIR AND
LAND FORCES
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THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

February 11, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

I deeply appreciate your ongoing promotion of responsible energy legislation to help reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, reinvigorate our economy, and protect our natural environment. I supported H.R. 6, the energy bill signed into law last December. It was an excellent first step, but there is more work to be done.

To reach our goal of true energy independence, Congress must pass tax incentives to sustain renewable energy development. In particular, I urge you to bring legislation to the House floor that will extend and expand the solar investment tax credit and the residential solar tax credit.

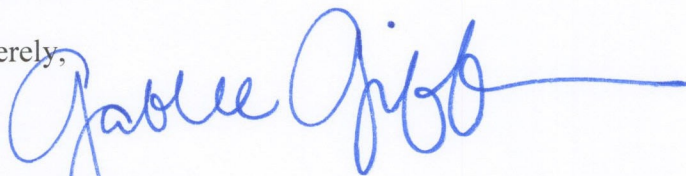
Solar technologies represent some of the fastest, most effective and most economically beneficial ways to fulfill this Congress's mandate to fight for energy independence. That is why the solar tax credits are vitally important. They provide essential financial support and market certainty needed for the solar industry to continue to grow and thrive.

Experts in the solar industry have indicated that Congress must take action to extend these tax provisions during the first three months of 2008, or we risk a significant contraction in this industry. In January, the President of the Solar Energy Industries Association, Rhone Resch, stated, "...if the investment tax credit for solar energy is not extended and expanded early in 2008, we will see a net job loss of over 40,000 high quality jobs by 2009."

In this time of rising concerns about global warming, the economic downturn, and our nation's dependence on oil, we simply cannot afford such a setback. The solar industry is one of the fastest growing in the country; its products generate jobs and offer some of the best means for achieving energy independence. Continued growth depends on immediate Congressional action to extend and expand these critical tax incentives.

Under your leadership in 2007, the House twice passed extensions of these provisions. Unfortunately, however, they did not survive in the final version of H.R. 6. I believe we cannot rest until these vital measures are signed into law. I respectfully urge you to move legislation that includes a long-term extension of these credits as soon as possible. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gabrielle Giffords". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress