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Thursday, February 4, 2010

Natwar Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer
Government of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite #203
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Gandhi:

This is in regard to the Renewable Energy Incentive Program ("REIP), managed by the DC Department of the Environment ("DDoE") and created pursuant to the Clean Energy Act of 2008 (Act# A17-0497).

The program provides rebates for solar renewable energy installations, for qualified residents and installations, and is funded at a level of \$2 million annually with funding from the Sustainable Energy Trust Fund, comprised of surcharges including in DC rate payers' utility payments.

In Fiscal Year 2009, the program was suspended midway through the year. Only \$600,000 of these funds were disbursed and the remaining \$1.4 million was apparently reprogrammed within DDoE, or within the District government.

Since these were not appropriated funds, nor funds that finance the appropriation, they must be returned to the DDoE, so the program can fulfill its statutory functions.

I am concerned that this year's \$2 million allocation of these funds has likewise been deobligated, which, in turn, has brought the program to a halt.

Accordingly I am requesting that you please inform me how the unobligated \$1.4 million of rate payer funds can be recouped by DDoE; and, explain how we can avoid a repetition of this use of rate payer funds in the current fiscal year.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

/ s /

Councilmember Jim Graham

cc: Keith Anderson, Acting Director DDoE