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September 23, 2010

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

I write today over the significant concern expressed by many of my constituents in Florida regarding their inability to properly benefit from important joint Federal/State energy efficiency initiatives involving rebates for customers who purchase HVAC units and switch to solar power. The Florida ENERGY STAR Residential HVAC program promised rebates to Floridians who made efficiency upgrades in their air conditioning units. Additionally, Florida's solar rebate program promised funding for homeowners and businesses that switched to solar power.

As you are aware, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides funding for these two programs. For thousands of families and businesses in Florida who made energy efficient upgrades, the federal rebate program was the deciding factor that finally made such purchases affordable.

Unfortunately, due to the inability of the State of Florida to fund and properly allocate resources to the state-sponsored portion of these initiatives, the rebate applications of thousands of Florida citizens and businesses have effectively been denied, and the federal portion is not being used for its intended purpose.

It is apparent that some confusion exists in the Florida Legislature regarding precisely what steps must be taken to ensure that Florida does not lose the estimated \$31.5 million in combined solar and HVAC funds. I would appreciate clarification of what must be done by the State of Florida in advance of the September 30th deadline to make this vital funding available to homeowners and businesses. In addition, should the Florida Legislature fail to take the appropriate actions, please outline what options the Department of Energy has to extend the deadline or otherwise ensure Florida consumers who made purchases based on the promises of this federal program receive these recovery rebates. Floridians should not be punished due to inaction by the Florida Legislature.

Thank you in advance for your assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ted Deutch".

Theodore E. Deutch
MEMBER OF CONGRESS