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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2107

September 30, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

I am writing to call your attention to WindPole Ventures' request for funding for their "WindPole Tall Towers" application in response to FOA-0000058.

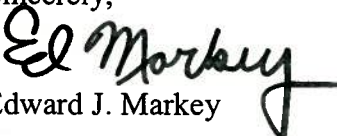
I understand that most wind resource data now comes from low 10 meter towers established for the aviation and consumer markets and that this data may be not be adequate to forecast output since wind turbine hubs now standing 80 meters or higher. WindPole Ventures is a company working on this problem and has put together a plan to build a shared national network for real-time wind resource data at the hub height of today's wind turbines. Their network of 100 meter tall towers could be outfitted to meet the needs of independent electricity grid operators and regional transmission organizations, wind power developers and operators, analysts and power traders and thus accelerate integration of wind power into the grid.

The firm reports that they are reusing Cold War era towers built by AT&T that cost \$15,000 to equip, as compared to \$85,000 to build new temporary 60 meter towers. I understand that NREL and NOAA have favorably reviewed the firm's plan along with private firms who consider WindPole to be building a shared resource that does not compete with other private sector companies.

I stand in full support of the Department's goal of achieving 20 percent of electricity from wind power by 2030. I believe WindPole Ventures' network can contribute to that outcome and urge you to give their application the highest consideration.

Thank you very much for your prompt consideration of this important matter. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Jonathan Phillips on my staff at 202-225-4012.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey