

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 14, 2011

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cliff Stearns
Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Congressman Stearns:

I am writing in response to your letter dated October 5, 2011, regarding the loan guarantee issued by the Department of Energy (DOE) to Solyndra, Inc. Your letter seeks all internal White House communications regarding the Solyndra loan in order to “understand the involvement of the White House in the review of the Solyndra loan guarantee and the Administration’s support of this guarantee.”

It is my understanding that the three federal agencies most directly involved in the Solyndra loan guarantee, the Department of Energy (DOE), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Department of the Treasury, are all cooperating with the Committee’s investigation into the Solyndra loan guarantee and have been providing the Committee with relevant documents and information in response to the Committee’s requests. Indeed, I have been informed that DOE, OMB and Treasury have to date produced over 70,000 pages of documents, participated in nine briefings for committee staff and provided testimony at several Committee hearings relating to this matter.

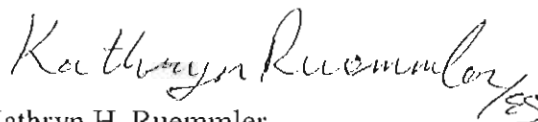
It is also my understanding that the Committee has expressly requested from these three agencies communications with the White House relating to the Solyndra loan guarantee and that these agencies are producing such communications on a rolling basis. As you know, the White House has also provided directly to the Committee over 900 pages of documents reflecting communications between the White House and Solyndra, Inc., as well as certain of its representatives and investors, relating to the loan guarantee. There is nothing in the documents

produced by DOE, OMB, Treasury or the White House that indicates the White House intervened in the Solyndra loan guarantee to benefit a campaign contributor.

Your most recent request for internal White House communications from the first day of the current Administration to the present implicates longstanding and significant institutional Executive Branch confidentiality interests. Encroaching upon these important interests is not necessary, however, because the agency documents the Committee has requested, which include communications with the White House, should satisfy the Committee's stated objective – to "understand the involvement of the White House in the review of the Solyndra loan guarantee and the Administration's support of this guarantee."

We will work with DOE, OMB and the Treasury Department to ensure that the agency communications with the White House that you have requested are produced in a timely manner consistent with the confidentiality interests described above.

Sincerely,



Kathryn H. Ruemmler
Counsel to the President

Cc: The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations