

PHIL BREDESEN
THE GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE

23 March 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

RE: State Energy Program Assurances

Dear Secretary Chu:

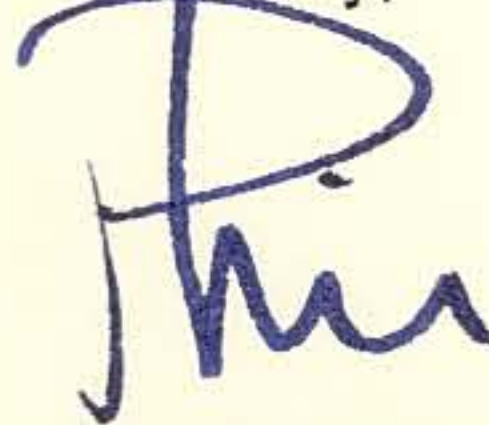
As a condition of receiving our State's share of the \$3.1 billion funding for the State Energy Program (SEP) under the American Recovery and Renewal Act of 2009 (H.R. 1)(ARRA), I am providing the following assurances. I have communicated with our public utility commission and requested that they consider additional actions to promote energy efficiency, consistent with the Federal statutory language contained in H.R. 1 and their obligations to maintain just and reasonable rates, while protecting the public. I have also communicated with the State Legislature and requested that they consider actions to improve building energy codes, consistent with State law and State Constitutional requirements, and to consider the statutory language contained in ARRA.

We are prioritizing our energy investments to take advantage of existing programs and expand programs where appropriate.

Our State is committed to a robust improvement in energy efficiency and renewable energy, as well as a balanced State energy policy. I want to assure you that, within the limits of my authority, we will move forward in these critical areas.

We look forward to immediate distribution of the Federal SEP funds to permit my State to make progress in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Sincerely,



Phil Bredesen