



Remarks of Ryan Alexander, President

Taxpayers for Common Sense

No More Solyndras Act Telepress Event

September 12, 2012

Thank you joining us for our news event on the ‘No More Solyndras Act,’ a recently proposed quote unquote solution to the problems with the Department of Energy Loan Guarantee Program. I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues from National Taxpayers Union, Heritage Foundation and the Competitive Enterprise Institute to discuss concerns with this bill.

While each of our groups have different missions, we agree on the urgent need to stop taxpayer losses from the Department of Energy Loan Guarantee Program. ‘The No More Solyndras Act’ has some merits and represents a step forward, but it also has a glaring loophole that should have it redubbed the ‘Even More Solyndras Act.’ The bill protects roughly 50 projects in the pipeline, including one that could cost taxpayers 15 times more than we lost on Solyndra. Lawmakers need to stop the program from putting taxpayers on the hook for billions in loan guarantees instead of passing bait and switch legislation.

The bill misses the mark. While we’re pleased no new projects can apply, all projects that have already applied hold their place in line, jeopardizing billions of taxpayers dollars on high-risk projects that underwent the same flawed process that Solyndra did.

It was recently revealed that approximately [50 applications](#) sit active in the queue. The projects include an [\\$8.3 billion loan guarantee](#) for nuclear reactor project in Georgia and a nearly \$2 billion loan guarantee for a [liquid coal facility](#) in Wyoming. There’s a \$1.7 billion loan guarantee for a [coal gasification plant](#) in Indiana plus more than 15 solar projects in the pipeline!

Some of these applicants are clear losers for taxpayers. This bill would allow a [\\$2 billion loan guarantee](#) for a uranium enrichment project to remain on deck, ready to receive a loan guarantee despite the fact that the company has received a delisting notice from the New York Stock Exchange. Talk about taxpayers striking out, the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) is currently in line to receive a loan guarantee for its [enrichment facility](#) in Piketon, OH. On the other hand USEC hit a home run with a \$100 million giveaway in the continuing resolution.

While we agree that the bill that the bill does some good things—in addition to stopping any more companies from applying it limits DOE’s ability to subrogate taxpayers right to reclaim lost assets in the event of default and involves the US Treasury more in the process—a long overdue reform. But to TCS these reforms are too little, too late.

To truly protect taxpayers the 'No More Solyndras Act' must stop the release of any additional loan guarantees. Not just new applicants—all applicants. No new loan guarantees from DOE period.

The bill is supposed to be on the House floor Friday. Representative Tom McClintock (R-CA) will be offering an amendment before the Rules Committee in just a few short hours that would stop the issuance of any new loan guarantees – period – none of this grandfathering business. We urge House leadership/Rules Committee to allow for a transparent debate and a vote on this important amendment. Without strengthening the bill, lawmakers would be signing off on a bill that doesn't stop the next Solyndra, it guarantees it.

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