

May 18, 2009

The Honorable Mike Thompson  
United State House of Representatives  
231 Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Tax Exempt Private Activity Bond (PAB) use for renewable energy generation and energy and water efficiency projects.

Dear Representative Thompson,

We are writing to thank you for your commitment to sponsor legislation allowing the use of tax exempt private activity bonds for renewable energy generation and water/energy efficiencies projects. We appreciate your efforts and add our support for this effort.

Throughout the country we see local governments, businesses and individuals attempting to increase the amount of renewable energy generation and increase water and energy efficiency efforts in order to combat climate change. As you know, Sonoma County has launched the first County level program to support residential and commercial property owners' efforts to install energy/water efficiency and renewable energy generation projects. These efforts are hampered by a lack of access to an economically viable long term financing source. Access to the tax exempt bond market is a solution to this artificial barrier.

By giving local governments the access they need to this long term financing tool, you will enable the growth of climate protection efforts as citizens can develop new sources of renewable generation and reduce their carbon footprints.

Beyond the environmental benefits, the economic benefits are clear. These programs produce green jobs and will greatly stimulate the economy while saving people money on their energy costs. In addition to the increase in renewable generation, we will see energy and water savings achieved as well.

We strongly support the proposed changes to the Internal Revenue Code that will allow the use of tax exempt bond funding for these efforts.

Sincerely,