

15-046696



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

December 1, 2015

Mr. Scott Sklar
Chair
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
Advisory Committee
c/o The Stella Group, Ltd.
1616 H Street NW, 10th Floor
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Sklar:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee (RE&EEAC). As the Department of Commerce (Department) seeks to capitalize on export opportunities driven by the development of smart cities, input like yours from a cross-section of clean energy and energy efficiency companies and organizations will be essential.

I agree with the RE&EEAC's assessment that growing investment in smart cities provides a rare opportunity to highlight the benefits of an integrated resource management approach to address the needs of global citizens, business, and the environment. As you know, this is why Deputy Secretary of Energy Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall and I led the Smart Cities-Smart Growth Business Development Mission to China in April and why Deputy Secretary Bruce Andrews will lead a similar Smart Cities Infrastructure Business Development Mission to India in February 2016.

I have shared your step-by-step recommendations with Deputy Secretary Andrews to assist with the planning for the upcoming business development mission to India. You are absolutely correct that U.S. renewable energy and energy efficiency technology and service providers are poised to offer the critical solutions that will improve services, promote economic growth, and enhance quality of life in urban environments. Deputy Secretary Andrews and I will continue to work with industry, including through the RE&EEAC, to ensure that the Department's approach to future smart cities trade missions is tailored to support unique opportunities for U.S. exporters.

To discuss these and other areas where we can work together, I encourage you to contact Victoria Gunderson, our Smart Grid Trade Specialist in the International Trade Administration's Office of Energy and Environmental Industries, at (202) 482-7890 or victoria.gunderson@trade.gov. I value your input and guidance on the renewable energy and energy efficiency industry issues and look forward to discussing this topic further at the RE&EEAC meeting on February 2 and working with you to support innovation, jobs, and exports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Penny Pritzker".

Penny Pritzker



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The Secretary of Commerce
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November 30, 2015

Mr. Scott Sklar
Chair
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
Advisory Committee
c/o The Stella Group, Ltd.
1616 H Street NW, 10th Floor
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Sklar:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee (RE&EEAC). The Department of Commerce (Department) consistently strives to provide and improve upon the tools necessary to grow American business abroad and jobs here at home, which is why input from the RE&EEAC concerning the U.S. Government's support for export financing is so important.

I have been a consistent champion of the U.S. Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im Bank) and the crucial support it provides to small and medium enterprises and to entrepreneurs in key growth industries, like renewable energy. For 81 years, the Ex-Im Bank has been a lifeline for U.S. exporters, providing working capital financing, loans and loan guarantees, and insurance for international transactions. We are hopeful that the Congressional process currently underway will lead to the reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank so that it will be able to resume offering critical financing support to U.S. exporters.

In the meantime, our trade specialists across the country continue to work every day with U.S. companies to identify and utilize the full spectrum of export finance resources available. I agree with the RE&EEAC that improving support for export financing will require more collaboration between our Government, our exporters, and financial institutions. I have shared your recommendations with the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee staff, and the Department will work with our interagency partners to respond to each of your concerns and recommendations.

I look forward to continued collaboration between the RE&EEAC and the Department of Commerce to improve and expand upon the financing resources available to our current and future exporters.

Sincerely,

Penny Pritzker