

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 2, 2010

The Honorable Byron Dorgan  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and  
Water Development  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Bennett  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and  
Water Development  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Dorgan and Ranking Member Bennett:

We write in support of funding in fiscal year 2011 (FY2011) for the U.S. - Israel Energy Cooperation Program.

The U.S. - Israel Energy Cooperation Program was authorized in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-140), and is consistent with bilateral agreements between the United States and Israel. This program provides funding to support collaboration between United States and Israel in research, development, and commercialization of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

This program has been appropriated \$4 million since fiscal year 2009, which has been matched 100 percent by the State of Israel. This funding is supporting numerous collaborative research efforts between American universities and renewable energy companies and their counterparts in Israel. It is our understanding that the Binational Science Foundation and Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation, which jointly administer the program, have received over 50 new proposals for collaborative projects since the first round of grants were awarded. In response to the significant interest in this program, Israel's Minister of National Infrastructure announced that Israel would provide up to \$10 million to match funding provided by Congress in FY2011.

Israel has emerged as a world leader in renewable energy technology development and is home to numerous research institutions, universities and corporations that are at the forefront in the pursuit of alternative energy. Given the charge of the Federal government to support alternative energy development, the prospect of leveraging Israeli expertise to pursue our renewable energy goals and in light of Israel's \$10 million matching commitment, we urge you to provide \$10 million for the U.S. - Israel Energy Cooperation Program in FY2011.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and consideration of our request.

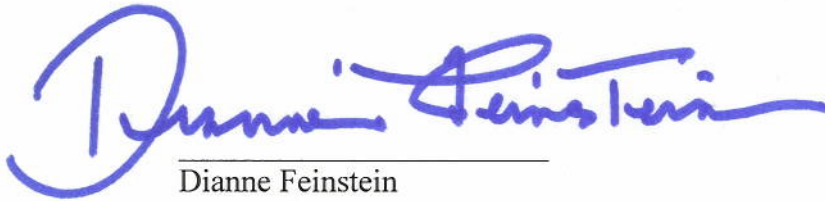
Sincerely,



Arlen Specter



Kit Bond




Dianne Feinstein



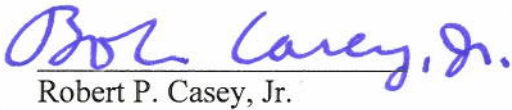
James M. Inhofe



Barbara Boxer



Ron Wyden



Robert P. Casey, Jr.



Mark Begich