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COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR
AND PENSIONS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

March 21, 2013

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585-0001

Dear Secretary Chu:

Your agency will soon be receiving a collaborative grant application led by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES), The Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology from (IMET), HY-TEK Bio and a researcher from the Georgia Technology Institute for funding consideration under the Algal Biomass Yield Solicitation - DOE DE-FOA 0000 811 "Advancements in Algal Biomass Yield (ABY)." I am writing to draw your attention to the merits of this application and to urge you to give it every appropriate consideration.

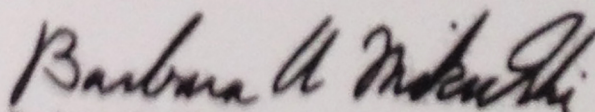
The State of Maryland, through the Maryland Industrial Partnership program (MIPs), and Baltimore City have recognized the efforts of HY-TEK Bio, in collaboration with UMCES, over the last several years. Specifically, the State and the City helped fund the full scale demonstration at the Back Water River Water Treatment facility. The demonstration has been successful.

This team of researchers and entrepreneurs demonstrate ingenuity that will help develop the green economy, create clean tech jobs, and open the door for more efficient biofuel production and products from algae. The proposal submitted by this collaborative team holds tremendous promise for biofuels and the green economy and is responsive to the DOE goals within this solicitation.

The Department of Energy's goal of assisting promising research and development would be well used in advancing this algae technology. The most recent discoveries for "just discovered" microbial flocculation technology, a new dewatering and water recycling technology, and an enzyme-based oil extraction method need significant funding to better understand and replicate and then scale up the initial findings. Further, the core goal of increasing algae growth could be exceeded by this technology.

I very much appreciate your attention and your consideration of this matter. Please keep me posted as these grant awards are made.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

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