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July 24, 2009

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

Attention: DOE SGIG Applications

Dear Secretary Chu:

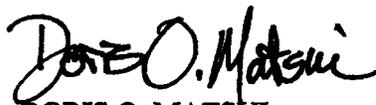
I would like to express my full support for Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)'s request for a Smart Grid Investment Grant (DE-FOA-0000058). SMUD and its three partners – the California Department of General Services, Los Rios Community College District (Los Rios) and California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) – are pursuing an integrated approach that will expedite our region's move toward a cleaner, more sustainable future.

SMUD, the nation's sixth-largest consumer-owned electric utility, serves 590,000 customers in the Sacramento region. In more than 60 years of providing reliable, affordable electricity to the Sacramento region, SMUD has built a national and international reputation as an innovator, particularly with respect to energy efficiency and renewable resources such as solar and wind. SMUD's customers have ranked their public utility first in California in customer service for each of the last eight years.

Provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 would help SMUD and its partners install automated meters and reduce the demand for electricity, particularly during hours of peak usage. The smart grid program will lower utility bills for American families and businesses and support the two-way flow of electric power and information between utilities and consumers. Furthermore, this initiative will allow our major urban centers to meet ambitious local and state mandates, become energy independent as a nation, and most important, leave our children and grandchildren a more sustainable future.

I believe SMUD's request meets the goals and philosophy of the federal stimulus plan. These organizations are trusted members of the community and would be responsible stewards of the stimulus funds. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
DORIS O. MATSUI  
Member of Congress