State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196
401-222-2080

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

February 26, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: State Energy Program Assurances

Dear Secretary Chu:

As a condition of receiving our State's share of the $3.1 billion funding for the State Energy Program (SEP) under the American Recovery and Renewal Act of 2009 (H.R.1) (ARRA), I am providing the following assurances. I have written to our public utilities commission and requested that they consider additional actions to promote energy efficiency, consistent with the Federal statutory language contained in H.R. 1 and their obligations to maintain just and reasonable rates, while protecting the public. I have also written to the State Legislature and requested that they consider actions to improve building energy codes, consistent with State law and State Constitutional requirements, and to consider the statutory language contained in ARRA.

We are prioritizing our energy investments to take advantage of existing programs and expand programs where appropriate.

Our State is committed to a robust improvement in energy efficiency and renewable energy, as well as a balanced State energy policy. I want to assure you that, within the limits of my authority, we will move forward in these critical areas.

We look forward to immediate distribution of the Federal SEP funds to permit my State to make progress in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald L. Carcieri

cc: Gil Sperling, Director, Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs, USDOE
Commisisoner Andrew Dzykewicz, RI Office of Energy Resources
David Terry, Executive Director, National Association of State Energy Officials