August 31, 2009

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

RE: FOA#: DE-FOA-0000096, Recovery Act  
Demonstration of Integrated Biorefinery, CFDA # 81.087.

Dear Secretary Chu:

This letter is to ask for your consideration of the University of Florida's (UF) request for the Florida Biorefinery Consortium's Biorefinery Pilot project through the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Research and Development solicitation under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (DE-FOA-000096).

The University of Florida's Board of Trustees have submitted the grant application on behalf of the Florida Biorefinery Consortium, comprised of UF, BioEnergy International, LLC, and Buckeye Technologies, Inc. to help develop and commercialize the next-generation biorefineries for the production of high-value bio-based chemicals from renewable feedstocks.

The Florida Biorefinery Consortium's shovel-ready pilot is aimed at the conversion of high impact biomass into valuable bioproducts to fast-track next-generation, sustainable biorefineries consistent with the solicitation goals of job creation and displacement of fossil fuels in the chemicals and fuels industries. The Buckeye site in Perry, Florida, is located in a Federal and State economic priority area, designated as a USDA Rural Development and a HUB Zone area, and a listed Enterprise Zone.

The objective of the co-location of the biochemical pilot with a cellulosic ethanol facility is to prove the use of diverse cellulosic ethanol, and the ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, cost-effective production of cellulosic ethanol, and the ability to produce multiple biochemical products. Ultimately, this project promotes sustainable, next-generation biorefineries to create US jobs, energy independence, and positive benefits toward the environment.

Thank you, and please give this Department of Energy request all due consideration under all requisite statutes and regulatory guidelines.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Adam H. Putnam
Member of Congress
Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585  

November 4, 2009  

The Honorable Adam H. Putnam  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  

Dear Congressman Putnam:  


This solicitation closed on June 30, 2009, and applications are currently under review. Each application, including the one from University of Florida, will be given due consideration in the review process, and will be evaluated according to the criteria and process described in the FOA. Selections are anticipated to be announced later this year.  

We appreciate your interest, and that of your constituent, in DOE’s implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. If you need additional information, please contact me or Mr. Jonathan Levy, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.  

Sincerely,  

Jacques Beaudry-Losique  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Renewable Energy  
Office of Technology Development  
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy