

## **Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Advisory (RE&EEAC) Committee Meeting**

January 23, 2014

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee conference call was started at 2:00 p.m. by Ryan Mulholland, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Committee. Mr. Mulholland welcomed the RE&EE Advisory Committee members noted the outstanding work of the Committee over the past year to bring potential recommendations to this point. Mr. Mulholland affirmed that the conference call was to consider recommendations and vote on their approval.

### **Setting the Agenda**

John Smirnow, Committee Chair, Solar Energy Industries Association

Mr. Smirnow led the discussion of recommendations. He noted that all recommendations needed consensus approval to move forward. Mr. Smirnow thanked the RE&EE Advisory Committee members, especially the subcommittee leadership teams that piloted the development of several impactful recommendations.

### **Trade Policy Subcommittee**

The Trade Policy subcommittee offered several potential recommendations to be reviewed by the Committee.

*Potential Recommendation:* The Secretary of Commerce should direct ITA to work with DOE/NREL, the Department of State and other interagency partners to further develop an internal catalog of U.S.-manufactured renewable energy and energy efficiency products and services for use by U.S. facilities overseas. The Secretary should work with the State Department and military branches to ensure that access to the guide is provided for procurement officials and contractors and others working on procurement of RE&EE items. *Vote: Approve.*

*Potential Recommendation:* The Department of Commerce should recommend that the World Customs Organization (WCO) establish specific Harmonized System (HS) tariff codes for renewable energy and energy efficiency equipment, components, and products. *Vote: Approve.*

*Potential Recommendation:* The Secretary of Commerce should work with USTR to bolster and accelerate efforts to eliminate or reduce import duties or tariffs on renewable energy and energy efficiency products and services by seeking to expand voluntary regional initiatives like the APEC Environmental Goods and Services Agreement into global and/or mandatory trade pacts. *Vote: Approve.*

Potential Recommendation: The Secretary of Commerce should encourage USTR to press ahead with negotiations on binding plurilateral or multilateral agreements to reduce localization barriers that inhibit trade in renewable energy and energy efficiency goods and services. *Vote: Approve.*

Potential Recommendation: The Department of Commerce should work with USTR, the State Department, and industry to increase its monitoring and publicizing of local content requirements and other localization barriers in newly proposed renewable energy and energy efficiency programs (such as FITs, RFPs and Renewable Energy Portfolio requirements) in key export markets. When barriers are identified, appropriate action should be taken to effectively reduce or eliminate barriers before they impact U.S. renewable energy and energy efficiency exporters. *Vote: Approve.*

### **Trade Promotion Subcommittee**

The Trade Promotion Subcommittee offered three recommendations for review. All three were approved.

Potential Recommendation: The Secretary of Commerce should direct ITA to more strategically focus trade missions with the input of ITA's Renewable Energy Top Prospects Study. If multi-sector missions are scheduled, they should include only complementary sectors. *Vote: Approve.*

Potential Recommendation: The Secretary of Commerce should direct ITA to work with USTDA, USAID, and the State Department to develop country and regional renewable energy and energy efficiency Integrated Resource Plans, which would support local development and U.S. export efforts. *Vote: Approve.*

Potential Recommendation: The Department of Commerce should facilitate briefings for the U.S. Executive Directors of the Multilateral Agencies and the staffs at these institutions with U.S. renewable energy and energy efficiency industry representatives to highlight current U.S. industry capabilities and competitiveness. *Vote: Approve.*

### **U.S. Competitiveness Subcommittee**

Ken Kramer, chair of the U.S. Competitiveness Subcommittee, led a discussion of several recommendations.

Potential Recommendation: The Department of Commerce should work with industry and other technical experts to increase education and training for the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service, the Economic Development Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and other relevant agencies about the U.S. renewable energy and energy efficiency industries and their competitiveness. *Vote: Approve.*

Potential Recommendation: The Secretary of Commerce should direct ITA to work with the Department of Energy's Clean Energy Manufacturing Initiative (CEMI) to establish a

U.S. Clean Energy Manufacturing and Distributed Energy for the World (CEMDEW) Public Private Partnership to promote U.S. RE&EE export competitiveness. *Vote: Approve.*

*Potential Recommendation:* The Department of Commerce should seek to develop and integrate a multi-year, interagency comprehensive competitiveness roadmap for the RE&EE industries, based on input from the DOE RE&EE industry technology memos and in collaboration with industry representatives. The process should bring together, expand on, utilize, and leverage existing and new programs across relevant agencies. This roadmap should outline strategies necessary to develop RE&EE-friendly domestic market conditions and support the global competitiveness of domestic industries. *Vote: Approve.*

*Potential Recommendation:* Promotion efforts through the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Export Initiative should be broadened to include goods and services intended to increase power infrastructure resiliency and address risks to public infrastructure. *Vote: Approve.*

*Potential Recommendation:* The Secretary of Commerce should direct ITA to create a standard U.S. Country Commercial Guide template for sector analysis with common terminology, data points, and research references across markets. Where energy is identified as a leading sector, the template should include information on energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities, best practices for U.S. exporters, and contact information for key government and regulatory officials. An assessment of U.S. manufacturing and service provider capability and competitiveness should be reflected in the listed “Leading Sectors for U.S. Export and Investment” section through consultation with ITA industry analysts, industry representatives, and other relevant agency initiatives such as the DOE’s Clean Energy Manufacturing Initiative. *Vote: Approve.*

*Potential Recommendation:* An interagency effort led by the Department of Commerce, with support from the Departments of State and Energy, should develop planning standards and policy options to ensure that international transmission investments consider and support U.S. RE&EE exports. The Secretary should urge that the standards developed be utilized by U.S. government agencies and representatives promoting RE&EE exports or when considering transmission investments. *Vote: Approve.*

### **Public Comment Period**

There were no comments made during the public comment period.

### **Committee Business**

The Committee agreed that the subcommittee leaders would hold a meeting with John Smirnow, Scott Sklar, and the co-designated federal officers to discuss the development of a PowerPoint presentation to use during the committee’s meeting to present its recommendations scheduled for February 12, 2014. Afterwards, the meeting was adjourned.