

**Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee
Recommendations Submitted June 14, 2012**

Position on Trade Agency Re-organization and ITA FY2013 Budget

- Letter to Secretary Bryson

Addressing local content requirements

The Secretary of Commerce should work with the U.S. Trade Representative and other relevant agencies to:

- **Recommendation 12:** Increase local-content-related enforcement activities, e.g., formally challenge Ontario and/or Indian local content requirements.
- **Recommendation 13:** Expand work within international forums, e.g., APEC and OECD, to address local content requirements proactively, e.g., develop a list of government support best practices as alternatives to local content

Increasing access to sources of new capital for U.S. renewable energy and energy efficiency investment

The Secretary of Commerce should:

- **Recommendation 14:** Support extending EB-5 visa program and expanding the visa allocation from 10,000 per year to 30,000 per year.
- **Recommendation 15:** Through SelectUSA, prepare marketing materials for the EB-5 visa program targeting investment towards the U.S. renewable energy industry.
- **Recommendation 16:** Through SelectUSA, coordinate with Commercial Officers and US Embassy staff on a focused country specific marketing program for the Regional Centers to focus on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency projects and companies.

Increasing speed of OPIC decision-making and public knowledge of U.S. benefit

The Under Secretary for ITA, as a member of OPIC's board, should advocate for OPIC to:

- **Recommendation 17:** Increase the number of board meetings held per year.
- **Recommendation 18:** Continue to shorten the time between approval of a loan and its actual disbursement and project managers be incented to retain ownership in completion by being given partial credit on approval and remaining deal credit upon disbursement.
- **Recommendation 19:** Provide a public statement of domestic benefits during the loan approval process.
- **Recommendation 20:** Provide a public annual report on usage of U.S. contractors in OPIC-sponsored funds' invested deals.

Improving shipping finance options for U.S. renewable energy exporters

The Secretary of Commerce, as a member of ExIm Bank's Board of Directors, should advocate for the bank to:

- **Recommendation 21:** Create a U.S. Compensatory Drawdown Trust – A U.S. exporter can transfer the obligations of a compensatory waiver by paying into the drawdown trust an amount not to exceed 25% over the invoiced foreign flag rate. Exporter is then no longer obligated to the terms of the waiver. Other exporters can now utilize the trust fund for the differential of shipping on U.S. flagged vessels, promoting the use of the U.S. maritime industry.
- **Recommendation 22:** Amend the Statutory Waiver - Allow statutory waivers to be eligible for conversion to compensatory waivers, enabling shippers to take advantage of the Ex-Im financing option.