

United States Senate

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TSONGAS URGES PRESIDENT TO SET NATIONAL GOAL FOR SOLAR ENERGY

Senator Paul Tsongas today urged President Carter to make an aggressive commitment to solar energy in his forthcoming Domestic Policy Review on that subject. In a letter to the President, Tsongas called for a "national goal of 25% for U.S. energy consumption of solar energy by the year 2000."

Tsongas wrote, "In the State of the Union message you said that the Administration is laying new foundations. You now have the opportunity to build a new foundation for solar energy which can shape out transition to a renewable energy future."

The Massachusetts Senator, who is a member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, called for the establishment of a comprehensive framework for legislative and administrative goals to affectuate both short-term and long-range solar planning. He also suggested the establishment of a highly visable solar information program to be directed toward industry and the general public.

Tsongas stated, "An aggressive program need not require unreasonable increases in funding during the next year if administrative, regulatory and institutional programs are stressed, multi-year commitments are made, and authorized solar programs are adequately staffed and implemented." He continued, "Gradual reductions in conventional fuel subsidies can also help significantly to offset the cost of an expanded solar program."

President Carter announced his intentions to review the issue of solar energy on the nationally promoted "Sun Day" last May. His decisions are scheduled for release shortly.

The letter to the President was co-signed by Senators John Durkin, Max Baucus, Charles H. Percy and Pete V. Domenici.

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