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September 21, 1977

Mr. Lawrence Levy  
President  
Northeast Solar Energy Center  
70 Memorial Drive  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142

Dear Mr. Levy:


Thank you for writing.

I am delighted to see that the northeastern states are conducting a firm and aggressive program to develop a regional SERI. As you know, the Minnesota SERI group in combination with representatives from Michigan, are in the process of establishing a central region SERI in our State.

I am not optimistic that a direct regional SERI/DOE relationship will be established without congressional action. And, I now understand that Congressman Tsongas has decided not to seek the establishment of such a relationship by amending the ERDA FY78 authorization legislation. I am concerned that the regional SERI's be provided with sufficient funding to ensure that they play an aggressive and active role in national efforts to rapidly develop solar energy. I am not satisfied, not satisfied at all, that mid-level managers at DOE are sympathetic to the regional SERI concept. It is going to take some effort, particularly in the Appropriation Committees, to ensure that our regional SERI's receive an appropriate level of funding. In this regard, I encourage you to continue conversations with both Congressman Tsongas and, of course, Tip O'Neill. It is clear that the Speaker's active support of the regional SERI concept will be critical to their future growth.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

  
Hubert H. Humphrey  
Vice Chairman