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FROM: Senator Edward M. Kennedy  
Congressman Paul Tsongas

DATE: September 18, 1975

RE: Solar Energy Research Institute

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On Tuesday, September 23rd, at 9:30 AM in Room S 138 of the Capitol, Ed King, President-Elect of the New England Council will meet with members of the New England Senate and House delegations to discuss efforts to encourage an active and unified regional effort in support of a New England location for the \$50 million Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI).

SERI is being established by the Energy Research and Development Administration to bring together industrial, manufacturing and research expertise to encourage the commercial utilization of solar energy. It will be a major force in a national effort to develop a plentiful, environmentally sound, and economically attractive alternate to present energy sources.

In its interim report to E.R.D.A. the National Academy of Sciences has stressed that intellectual atmosphere, access to technical suppliers and the availability of the services required by a laboratory of substantial size are more important to the success of SERI than climate or weather and that high priority should be assigned to a location which will foster easy interchange between SERI, universities, industry, ERDA laboratories and other government agencies.

We have called this meeting so that the delegation will be fully aware of on-going efforts in our area to prepare a proposal for siting SERI in New England and so that the delegation can lend its full support to those efforts when a formal proposal is submitted to E.R.D.A.

E.R.D.A. is expected to call for proposals in late October, with the site selection process itself to begin in early November.

Competition from other regions of the country is expected to be intense and it is extremely important that New England begin now to put together a proposal whose scientific and technical merit will stand up against heavily funded campaigns already underway in states like Colorado, New Mexico, Florida and Arizona.

For further information please contact either Anne Strauss (224-4543) or Fred Faust (225-3411).