

**ARIZONA CLEAN TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS LEADERS URGE SECRETARY SALAZAR  
TO SUPPORT TRANSITION TO CLEAN ENERGY**  
*Business Leaders Send Joint Letter to Washington*

PHOENIX (August 16, 2011) – In the wake of recent news of nearly \$1 billion in federal loan guarantees for an Arizona solar project, 12 Arizona clean energy business leaders have written to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, encouraging him to continue to be a leader in the transition to clean energy on public, private, and tribal lands to benefit Arizona's economy, communities, and environment.

“Now is the time to begin a responsible transition to clean energy sources,” said Craig Cox, executive director of the Interwest Energy Alliance, a trade association that represents renewable energy industry members in six Western states, including Arizona. “With Secretary Salazar's leadership, Arizona has the potential to lead the charge in providing new, clean sources of energy like wind and solar on public, private, and tribal lands.”

“Solar is the fastest growing industry in the U.S., employing some 100,000 people nationwide, and along with other renewable energy sources and green technologies has become a significant economic driver in Arizona,” said Diane Brossart of Arizona Forward, a newly-formed business coalition focused on a statewide sustainability agenda. Charter members include Arizona Community Foundation, First Solar, Freeport McMoran Copper and Gold, National Bank of Arizona, Solon Corporation, Sundt, The Nature Conservancy, Total Transit and Wells Fargo. “Arizona's entire economic base has changed – growth and development is no longer only about real estate and construction – it's about clean energy and green jobs.”

As an example of Arizona's burgeoning clean energy economy, the Department of Energy announced this month that it has finalized [a \\$967-million loan guarantee](#) to support construction of a 290-megawatt solar power plant, called Agua Caliente Solar, in Yuma County, Arizona. The project will use thin-film solar panels manufactured by Tempe-based First Solar, Inc.

In their letter to the Interior Secretary, the business leaders asked the secretary to work with them to “create local jobs while protecting our national treasures,” adding that “Arizona has some of the best clean energy resources in the nation but we are behind other states in harnessing new energy development. We need your personal engagement and guidance, Mr. Secretary, in order to identify and foster long-term policy solutions that work for all stakeholders and ensure a responsible transition to Arizona's clean energy future.”

According to the [Brookings Institution](#), Arizona boasts over 37,000 clean energy jobs, with each job producing approximately \$13,500 in exports, but ranks 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the size and growth of its clean technology industry.

The Bureau of Land Management, which Secretary Salazar oversees, has multiple pending solar and wind projects on public lands in Arizona. Renewable energy development is also happening on tribal lands: Arizona utility SRP has [announced](#) its intention to buy wind power from the Navajo Nation's first project, a 85-megawatt facility named Boquillas Ranch to be built in the northeastern part of the state. The wind farm would be owned by the Navajo Nation.

“Arizona is falling behind other states in capitalizing on the emerging clean technology industry and the economic boost that comes with it,” said State Senator Kyrsten Sinema. “We need to keep moving forward and the Secretary's leadership to do so. In these tough economic times, we must work together to tap into Arizona's wealth of clean energy resources to bring economic growth to the state, and protect our communities and environment.”

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Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

As business leaders and entrepreneurs in the clean energy economy, we seek your active support of our efforts to spur new economic growth and job creation in Arizona. The clean energy sector represents our greatest opportunity to restore a robust economy and regain prosperity. With your leadership, and in collaboration with other Tribal, federal, state, and private partners, we can identify solutions that both create local jobs while protecting our national treasures.

Arizona has some of the best clean energy resources in the nation but we are behind other states in harnessing new energy development. We need your personal engagement and guidance, Mr. Secretary, in order to identify and foster long-term policy solutions that work for all stakeholders and ensure a responsible transition to Arizona's clean energy future.

Already, your department has given the green light to beneficial new investments in solar and wind projects -- wisely done "right from the start" and without significant environmental conflicts -- on public lands in La Paz, Maricopa, and Mohave counties in Arizona. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you to develop additional new projects across the state that meet your goals to both build America's new energy future and protect our treasured landscapes.

We are ready to deploy our workforce, encourage business innovation, and promote U.S. leadership in 21st century clean technologies. We look forward to working with you to find solutions that will build the clean energy economy --and jobs of tomorrow-- here in Arizona.

Sincerely,

Polly Shaw  
Suntech America  
Goodyear, AZ

Glenn Youngblood  
Energy Master LLC  
Surprise, AZ

Daniel Tarico  
Viasol Energy Solutions  
Tempe, AZ

Dave Haycock  
Allwest Energy, Inc.  
Florence, Tucson and Fountain Hills, AZ

Diane Brossart  
Arizona Forward  
Phoenix, AZ

Ben Mancini  
EV Solar Products, Inc.  
Chino Valley, AZ

Tom Harris  
PV Advanced Concepts  
Paradise Valley, AZ

Jim Combs  
Conservative Energy Systems  
Mesa, AZ

Craig Cox, Executive Director  
Interwest Energy Alliance  
Denver, CO

Joe McGuirk  
Sun Miner LLC  
Scottsdale, AZ

Ursula Garrett  
Dependable Solar Products  
Tempe, AZ

Fred Richie  
Stealth Solar, LLC  
Phoenix, AZ