

I wanted to follow up on my previous [update](#) regarding the failed \$535 million loan guarantee to the now bankrupt solar energy company Solyndra. Earlier this month, Energy Secretary Steven Chu testified before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on why his Department disregarded warnings that the solar panel manufacturer was too risky an investment for taxpayer dollars. Secretary Chu refused to apologize for the poor judgment. Instead, he distanced himself from the companies' failure, claiming that Solyndra just "got caught in a bad tsunami." He also denied political involvement in the grant awarding process and indicated that he was only recently made aware of e-mails that suggested that there was political pressure involved in the decision. In addition, he defended his choice, in the event of the company's liquidation, to pay the first \$75 million recovered to two Solyndra investors, prioritizing the interest of certain private investors over the needs of taxpayers.

I am disappointed that Secretary Chu did not apologize for his role in providing \$535 million taxpayer dollars to an unstable company through a process that seems to have been immersed in inappropriate political considerations. I support the continued efforts of Congress to demand that the Administration stop stonewalling and turn over all documents relating to the unwise loan guarantee to Solyndra. It is critical that Congress uncover any inappropriate or potentially unlawful activities and hold accountable all responsible parties. It is also imperative that Congress and the Administration make any necessary reforms to the grant and loan guarantee awards process to prevent future waste of taxpayer money.