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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

REPUBLICAN
POLICY COMMITTEE

CANADA-U.S.
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

October 14, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H232 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H204 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

As Dean of the House and a Member who has tried throughout my time in Congress to work effectively across the aisle whenever possible, I am writing to request your support for a simple, common sense bill that I recently introduced to reduce the risk to taxpayers of additional failed and defaulted Department of Energy (DOE) alternative or renewable energy projects. My bill, H.R. 5292, the Energy Accountability Act, would help protect taxpayers by prohibiting the extension of any funds, loan guarantees, and program assistance made available by DOE to project sponsors, owners, or contractors who have previously failed to pay back or defaulted on federally guaranteed loans for alternative or renewable energy projects.

All Members of Congress should be able to agree that we should safeguard our taxpayers with respect to the public funding and financing of alternative and renewable energy projects by making sure that those who have defaulted or failed on previous large-scale, publicly funded and supported projects, cannot evade accountability and come back for another bite of the apple. The protections afforded by my bill will make the entire DOE Loan Guarantee Program more sound, especially as we expand funding, and the number of projects, under the program in the years ahead.

I note that the Senate, in the recently passed bipartisan infrastructure bill, adopted a bipartisan amendment by Senators Van Hollen and Rounds (agreed to 97-0), to provide taxpayer protection for the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Loan Guarantees approved by the Department of Transportation. Certainly, the DOE Loan Guarantee Program, for which the Senate added language to ensure that guarantees are not made "on the basis of political considerations," also deserves the addition of the taxpayer protections provided by my bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill, in its standalone form, or its possible inclusion in a larger legislative vehicle this Congress as we move forward. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me or my office.

Sincerely,

Don Young
Congressman for All Alaska