

LES AUCOIN
1ST DISTRICT, OREGON



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

September 18, 1979

Dear Colleague:

Tomorrow when the Housing Subcommittee meets to mark-up the Solar Bank bill, I plan to offer two amendments.

The first amendment would provide that the Solar Bank could be funded from general revenues in the event that the Energy Security Trust Fund has not been enacted by the Congress, or there are not adequate funds available in the fund. We should not count on the Windfall Profits Tax to provide the financing for the Solar Bank. Since it has not passed the Senate, the final form of the Energy Security Trust Fund -- and the amount of revenue that will be generated by the Windfall Profits Tax -- are open to question.

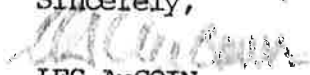
Prudence dictates that we provide a stand-by mechanism for funding the Solar Bank. If the Solar Bank is good public energy policy, then it will still be good policy if it is funded from general revenues.

The second amendment I will offer will conform the authorization levels for the Solar Bank to those in the bill recently approved by the Senate. The committee print calls for the authorization to be \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 1981 through FY 1983. My amendment would provide for an increase to \$225,000,000 in FY 1982 and \$300,000,000 in FY 1983.

A lower authorization figure in the first two years is appropriate. It will take time to organize and staff the Bank. But as the public becomes better informed about the benefits of solar power, and as lenders adjust to the program, it will grow in popularity. Moreover, the energy crisis demands that we set firm, ambitious goals for tapping alternative energy resources.

I hope you will join me in supporting these two amendments during tomorrow's mark-up of the Solar Bank legislation.

Sincerely,


LES AUCOIN
Member of Congress