



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

November 26, 2012

Dear University Students:

I am pleased to inform you of an upcoming opportunity hosted by the U.S Department of Energy – one that will harvest some of your greatest ideas – and I am excited to see the solutions you will develop. On behalf of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, I welcome your participation in the second annual Better Buildings Case Competition.

As you know, saving energy saves money for consumers and businesses, while simultaneously benefitting our natural environment. You also know that good policies and business practices can help to foster these energy-saving decisions. For this reason, President Obama and the Department of Energy launched the Better Buildings Challenge to make commercial buildings 20 percent more energy efficient by 2020. Through the Better Buildings Challenge, CEOs, university presidents, and state and local policymakers have made a substantial commitment to energy efficiency, and are working on developing new business practices that lead to buildings that use less energy, save money, and perform better. We would like your help in this initiative too.

The Better Buildings Case Competition provides teams of university students with case studies that describe some of the most difficult barriers to energy efficiency investment, many of which are being experienced by Partners of the Better Buildings Challenge. Your job is to devise creative yet practical solutions to these problems that can be shared with the marketplace, thereby enhancing our Nation's energy security, and helping to ensure that the United States remains competitive globally.

You all are at the front lines of our effort to build a new energy future, and your ingenuity and innovation can help us to realize the many benefits of energy efficiency. I have confidence in your abilities, and I hope that you will participate in this coming year's Better Buildings Case Competition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Chu".

Steven Chu

