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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3005

July 20, 2009

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The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Electric Drive Vehicle Battery and Component Manufacturing Initiative (DE-FOA-0000026;
Application Nos. 633783202382157500 and 633782962610595000)

Dear Secretary Chu:

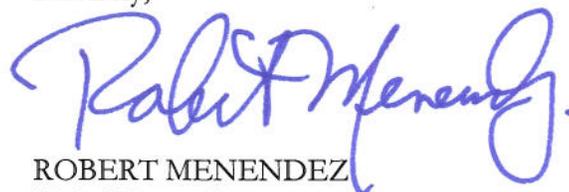
I write to express my support for two applications submitted by Chemetall Foote for funding under the Recovery Act—Electric Drive Vehicle Battery and Component Manufacturing Initiative.

As someone who supports President Obama's goal of putting one million plug-in hybrid vehicles on the road by 2015, I believe we need to do all we can to support the industries that can make the vision of electrifying our transportation sector a reality. Embarking on this transition is critical to our efforts to rebuild our manufacturing base with clean energy jobs, increase our energy independence, and achieve our climate goals. A key part of our efforts to expand access to hybrid and all-electric vehicles is ensuring that the batteries that power them are affordable, which means investing in the development of one of their key elements, lithium.

That is why I am pleased to support these two projects by the world's largest producer of lithium specialty chemicals and lithium compounds, Chemetall Foote, a subsidiary of Rockwood Holdings, which is based in Princeton, NJ. Chemetall Foote seeks to expand its lithium carbonate manufacturing facility in Silver Peak, NV, and convert it to geothermal-based electricity, which will increase its competitiveness relative to foreign producers of lithium carbonate. The company also seeks to install a lithium metal purification plant in Kings Mountain, NC, to produce battery grade lithium metal, which multiple companies are utilizing to produce battery cells that could provide as much as a twofold increase over the current lithium ion battery cells in terms of increased driving distance of hybrid and all-electric vehicles.

Chemetall Foote is well-positioned to achieve important results from these projects, which would mean significant steps forward in realizing the goal of expanding access to electric cars. Thank you for considering my recommendation of these two projects.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator