

Hello All!

The end of the year is here!

There are three items this month:

1. Events in December
2. ASEA gets political
3. Solar Action Alert

1. Events in December

Nomination Meeting for ASEA statewide Board of Directors 2006 is THIS SUNDAY!

Sun. Dec. 4, 12 pm | The Painted Horse Cafe ---w/ special, after-meeting tour of the Hydrogen House

The Painted Horse Café.
10989 E. Dynamite Suite 103
(480) 585-8499

This will be the last day for nominations. If you cannot attend, you can **NOMINATE VIA EMAIL** by responding to this email with your nominations. Emails must be received by Sunday, Dec. 4.

Positions up for grab are:

Chair
Vice-Chair
Secretary
Treasurer
Northern Region Director (2 year term)
Central Region Director (2 year term)
Southern Region Director (2 year term)
3 Director at Large Positions

The Chairperson will nominally act as Chairman of the Board but will have voting power only in the case of a tie vote of the Board. The Chairperson shall preside at all general meetings of this organization; be ex-officio member of all committees; communicate to the Association such matters and such suggestions as may tend to promote the welfare of the Association; supervise any and all employees and contractors of the Association; and transact business in behalf of the Association or the Association Board, acting at the direction of the Board.

The Vice-Chairperson shall perform such functions as may be delegated by the Chairperson and to act in the place of the Chairperson in the event of his inability to act.

The Secretary shall perform such administrative duties as the Board may delegate and shall be responsible for correspondence and membership maintenance of the Association. The Secretary shall work with the Treasurer to manage the routine business of the Association Headquarters.

The Treasurer shall work with the Secretary to manage and administer the procedures and

finances. The Treasurer shall have custody of Association funds and shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements. The Treasurer may be asked by the Board to furnish a surety bond in an amount determined by the Board, the premium for which shall be paid by the Association.

The regional directors will be the conduit from ASEA statewide to their local chapter(s). There are 6 regional directors in total, with three being elected every year, and terms being 2 years in length.

The directors at large help.

To see why becoming an active member of ASEA is important for Arizona TODAY, see below.

The after-meeting tour is free, and for members only...the meeting is for everyone, and is free. You can join at the meeting.

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Local Officers nominations and member meeting for Rio Salado Chapter

Thurs. Dec. 15. 5 pm | Denny's
3315 N. SCOTTSDALE RD. (just south of Osborn on the East side)

The Rio Salado chapter will be electing local officers for 2006.

To see why becoming an active member of ASEA is important for the Phoenix metro area TODAY, see below.

The group normally meets the 4th Thursday of the month. In Nov. this is Thanksgiving. In Dec. it is Christmas. This is the 3rd Thursday of the month, which would normally be the "Living with the Sun" lecture series, but there are no lectures in Dec. or Jan.

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2. ASEA Gets Political

The end of the Federal legislative session is upon us, and the beginning of Arizona's legislative session is near.

On the national scale, we are apart of ASES, who partners with other groups to take on such issues. ASEA is a conduit for getting the message to individuals in Arizona, and facilitating communication with Arizona's representatives in Washington (for example, see, "solar action alert," below).

On the local level, we partner with other likeminded groups, and organize a united voice to let our representatives in downtown Phoenix know where Arizonan's stand on energy and the environment, as these two issues are intimately linked.

Our common goal is simple: a sustainable energy and environmental policy for Arizona.

We are in a position to influence our state's congress when important decisions about energy are being made.

We live in Arizona. It is up to us. It is a difficult road that is only partly built. We must work with our enemies in order to find their weakness. As much as I want to stop all coal plants immediately, and replace them with miles of solar panels, to stop all gasoline powered autos tomorrow, and replace them with alternatives, this is not realistic. These people are much more powerful than we are currently, and are good at making us look like fringe, extremist,

"Environmentalists Wackos." But, there is nothing more powerful than a group of motivated citizens in a "free" society. However, change is slow, especially in politics. It is full of compromise and trade-offs. Our message will be heard better if it is pre-meditated and well articulated. Our voices will have more power if they are controlled, and we sing in harmony, with each note resonating synergistically, than if we all shout, "rabble rabble," individually and simultaneously. It is chess, not checkers, and we need a well plotted, long-term strategy in order to win a sustainable energy and environmental policy for Arizona in the foreseeable future.

That is why we need all your help, not just in communicating your opinions to your representatives in government, but in making ASEA a more powerful force by showing up to meetings and volunteering to help get things done. By adding your effort, you multiply our efforts exponentially. By giving even just a little, you inspire others to give more, and it grows in a virtuous cycle. It's not hard, and your efforts directly help spread the idea of practical renewable and sustainable energy in Arizona's collective unconscious. Although we have more sun than any other state, our most abundant natural resource is you!

Local politics is often much more important than national politics. Fortunately/Unfortunately, many people don't understand that. This makes it easier for YOUR voice to be heard. If you write one letter to a local representative, make one phone call, even one email, you will get a response. If WE write 100 letters, make 1,000 phone calls, our voice WILL be heard, and change WILL come. Arizona, Phoenix, Tucson, Flagstaff, any one of these governments can make laws to reduce CO2 emissions; any one of these governments can make laws to save land; any one of these governments can make laws to reduce Arizona's \$6 billion energy deficit. And it's easier to do it here, locally, than to try to convince representatives in Washington to do something nationally. And if WE do it HERE, people in Washington will notice it, and come to the table...and industry will follow suit.

Please, come to the meetings and take an active role. It's your city; it's your state; it's your country. It is a gift to be able to have a voice and not get arrested. Today belongs to you, 5 years from now belongs to you. Your children's future belongs to you. It is decided today. If you are silent, it will all be taken away from you, and it will be your fault, and mine as well. Things are great now because of great things people have done in the past. But without continuing the momentum, it will soon erode. Consider yourself called upon: it is our turn to be great, and make the future even brighter.

Now's our time to practice communicating with our representatives before the AZ legislative session begins:

3. SOLAR ACTION ALERT

HR 4300

Congressman Mike Ferguson (R-NJ) has just introduced HR 4300, a bill to extend the federal tax credits for residential solar applications. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 authorized federal tax credits to homeowners and businesses that install energy-efficient solar panels on their properties. However, these tax credits expire after 2007.

Congressman Ferguson was joined by Congressmen Udall (D-CO), Brown (R-SC), Goode (R-VA) Sanders (Ind-VT), Simmons (R-CT), Walsh and Mark Green (R-WI) in sponsoring the Clean and Green Solar Tax Act of 2005, extending the existing solar tax credits through 2011.

The proposed legislation is very short (2 pages) and simply amends two subsections of section 25D of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 by extending the end dates of the provisions by 4 years. The complete text of the legislation can be found by going to <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and searching for HR 4300.

DISCUSSION

The importance of HR 4300 is two-fold.

FIRST, the here today/gone tomorrow nature of federal tax credits for renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies confuses the marketplace. A stable, long-term tax credit program shows consumers and investors that the federal government recognizes the important role that renewable domestic energy sources will play in the future of the nation.

Research shows that the ability of tax credits to expedite the commercialization process for new technologies depends upon their being available for at least 15 years. A long-term and stable tax credit structure has served to make Germany and Japan world leaders in the development and manufacture of solar technology. The uncertain nature of U.S. renewable energy tax credits, on the other hand, has hurt U.S. companies trying to compete, both in domestic and international markets.

SECOND, it is important to show support for HR 4300 because a majority of Congress and the Administration continue to hack away at federal support of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. The negative economic, environmental and political consequences of relying on fossil fuels in general and foreign oil in particular are obvious. At a time when the federal government should be stepping up efforts to reduce the nation's energy use and bring domestically available renewable energy sources on-line, it is stepping back.

When leadership is shown, renewable energy advocates should support those with the courage to lead.

It is uncertain that HR 4300 can make it through the legislative gauntlet before Congress adjourns for the year. Whether or not the legislation can get through the House and Senate in time, it is still important to contact your Congressional delegates in both the House and the Senate to express your support for HR 4300 and appreciation for the efforts of Congressmen Ferguson and Udall and the other co-sponsors.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS

A letter template for your use is provided below, but personalized messages carry the weight of 100 letter templates. Handwritten letters get the most points, then typed ones, phone calls, and last, emails. Keep the message short; make sure you make it clear that they should support HR 4300. Use the 2 discussion topics above for talking points. It is important that we have a united voice in this. If you have other requests of your representatives, include those in separate correspondence. Thank you for your support. If our leaders know what we want, they will do our will to win our vote.

Senators

[Kyl, Jon](#)- (R - AZ) Class I
730 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510
(202) 224-4521
Web Form: <http://www.kyl.senate.gov/contact.cfm>

[McCain, John](#)- (R - AZ) Class III
241 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510
(202) 224-2235
Web Form: <http://www.mccain.senate.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=Contact.Home>

Representatives

Contact by mail and phone are listed below.

Electronic correspondence is different for each representative. Links that take you to: <http://www.house.gov/writerep/> simply require you to type in your zip code before taking you to the correct form for your representative. If you do not know who your representative is, go to <http://www.house.gov/writerep/> and type in your zip code to get to the form.

Rick Renzi
Arizona-1st, Republican
418 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515-0301
Phone: (202) 225-2315
<http://www.house.gov/renzi/email.shtml>

Trent Franks
Arizona-2nd, Republican
1237 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515-0302
Phone: (202) 225-4576
<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

John B. Shadegg
Arizona-3rd, Republican
306 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515-0303
Phone: (202) 225-3361
<http://www.house.gov/formshadegg/emailtemplate.htm>

Ed Pastor
Arizona-4th, Democrat
2465 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515-0304
Phone: (202) 225-4065
<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

J. D. Hayworth
Arizona-5th, Republican
2434 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515-0305
Phone: (202) 225-2190
<http://www.house.gov/formhayworth/formprocfiles/form.shtml>

Jeff Flake
Arizona-6th, Republican
424 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515-0306
Phone: (202) 225-2635
jeff.flake@mail.house.gov
(Please include your full name, mailing address and phone number. All replies from this office are sent via the U.S. Postal Service. We can only reply if we have your full name and address.)

Raúl M. Grijalva
Arizona-7th, Democrat
1440 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515-0307
Phone: (202) 225-2435
<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

Jim Kolbe
Arizona-8th, Republican
237 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515-0308
Phone: (202) 225-2542
<http://www.house.gov/kolbe/IMA/issue.htm>

LETTER TEMPLATE:

Dear _____,

I am writing you to tell you how important long-term government support for solar energy is, especially for those of us in the state with the most solar resources in the country. That's why it is imperative that you support HR 4300. The negative economic, environmental, and political consequences of relying on fossil fuels in general and foreign oil in particular are obvious. The here today/gone tomorrow nature of federal tax credits for renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies confuses the marketplace. A stable, long-term tax credit program shows consumers and investors that the federal government recognizes the important role that renewable domestic energy sources will play in the future of the nation.

Research shows that the ability of tax credits to expedite the commercialization process for new technologies depends upon their being available for at least 15 years. A long-term and stable tax credit structure has served to make Germany and Japan world leaders in the development and manufacture of solar technology. The uncertain nature of U.S. renewable energy tax credits, on the other hand, has hurt U.S. companies trying to compete, both in domestic and international markets.

All conventional energy technologies that are profitable today are so because of strong government support in the past. In fact, they all won billions of dollars and long-term support in the Energy Act of 2005 as well. If renewable energy is ever to have a chance to compete, a more fair playing field has to be established. It is up to you to help lead us in the right direction. Support HR 4300 and other sustainable energy and environmental legislation.

Sincerely, _____

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That is all for now. Feel free to email me with as many questions and comments as you like. Please nominate members for board positions via email!

Happy New Year's!

Ben Marcus
ASEA
Arizona Solar Energy Association