

Message to the Solar Energy Industries Association Board of Directors

Dear Board

After twelve remarkable years at the helm of SEIA, I have decided to step down as President and CEO on May 31st. I leave feeling confident that SEIA will carry on the significant progress the organization has made during my tenure.

I look back on my time with deep gratitude for the great people I have met along the way. From the individual members who are building this industry one installation at a time, to the many mentors who have served on the Executive Committee and the Board, to solar champions of all kinds who motivated me to fight as hard as I could for solar, this has been an incredible professional experience.

We had a great run over the last dozen years and during that time we grew SEIA into one of the most politically effective trade associations in Washington D.C. and in state capitals across the country. When I started at SEIA, we had 65 members, our budget was \$350,000, we had lost our DC business license and we were about to lose our tax status as a 501c6. There was no D&O insurance and the office we occupied was one room in the Grange Building where the bathroom was three floors down. Today, we are an association with a \$12 million budget and about 1,000 member companies and 40 employees.

In addition to growing the organization, we have passed some of the most important legislation in the energy industry and have opened markets throughout the country. We passed the investment tax credit (ITC) that jump started the industry in 2005, worked tirelessly to ensure the ITC never expired and most recently executed an ITC extension that will provide unprecedented market stability for the industry through 2023.

We expanded state RPS's across the country and protected and enhanced net energy metering laws to expand markets for distributed solar. We created dozens of initiatives that streamlined the siting, permitting and financing of large-scale solar energy projects. And don't forget the American Recovery and Reinvestment act of 2009 that included 17 separate provisions for solar, all driven out of ideas from our first policy summit at the Arizona Biltmore.

Together we created a powerful, single voice for the solar industry, representing all technologies and all markets, including residential, commercial and industrial and utility-scale solar. We created Solar Power International, a conference and trade show that became a financial engine for the association and the best party in the industry. We founded the Solar Foundation and helped it grow into a self-sustaining organization that provides essential services to the industry. We took over the Solar Alliance and pumped millions of dollars into advancing state policy. And the list goes on and on.

During that time we collectively installed more than 30 GWs of solar energy, increased US jobs by more than 200,000 and forced the cost of solar down by more than 80%. This growth pumped more than \$150 billion into the U.S. economy during difficult economic times.

I am inspired by and proud of these accomplishments, but most importantly, I am thankful to have worked with some of the smartest and hardest-working people I have ever met. SEIA has truly become my second family, and I could not be prouder of each staff member and their dedication to our mission.

I am honored to have made a small contribution to help create an industry that has such a positive impact on the U.S. economy, energy security and the environment. With the ITC effectively extended through 2023 and solar energy markets growing throughout the country, now is the right time for me to move on to new challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Again, thank you for the trust you have put in me to lead such a worthwhile and noble organization.

Sincerely,

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