

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

October 20, 2014

The Honorable Jay Williams  
Administrator  
U.S. Economic Development Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Williams:

I write to ask for your full consideration of Clean Energy Trust's (CET) application for the U.S. Department of Commerce Regional Innovation Grants (EDA-HDQ-OIE-2014-2004219). The grant would be used to support the Clean Energy Prize Fund, a \$12 million fund that invests in early-stage companies in the Midwest with high growth job creation potential.

CET has a demonstrated a successful track record for providing seed funding for novel technologies and innovations. Many of the high growth companies that CET has supported in the past have come from research universities in the State of Illinois, including the University of Illinois, the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, and the Illinois Institute of Technology. The universities often leverage CET funding by partnering with Argonne and Fermi National Laboratories to help commercialize their federally-funded energy research.

Continuing this support for entrepreneurs is a critical step in making Illinois an attractive home for high tech jobs in alternative fuel development, battery storage technologies, and the renewable energy sector.

Therefore, I encourage you to give this important initiative you full and careful consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin  
U.S. Senator