



The Secretary of Energy

Washington, D.C. 20585

May 24, 2011

Dear Colleagues:

On October 14, 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order 13515 creating the *White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders* (AAPI). This initiative has the purpose of “improv[ing] the quality of life and opportunities for AAPIs through increased access to, and participation in, Federal programs in which they may be underserved.”

To further demonstrate his commitment, the President attended the AAPI Commissioner meeting on March 14, 2011 and accepted the report and recommendations of the President’s Advisory Commission on the AAPI and the Federal Interagency Working Group. This report reiterated the urgency and need for Federal agencies to implement recommendations to positively impact the AAPI community.

Today, there are approximately 12 million AAPIs living in the United States, or about five percent of the total population. By 2020, the AAPI population is projected to reach 20 million, and by 2050, approximately one out of every 10 (38 million) Americans will be of Asian or Pacific Islander descent.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has been named as one of 23 Federal agencies to be included in the membership of this important White House initiative. I recognize and commend the leadership and progress by the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity (ED), the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer (CHCO), and employees from our AAPI community here at the Department in their efforts to pave the way for a vibrant implementation of this Presidential initiative.

Thomas Phan of the Office of Science will serve as DOE’s champion for this important initiative and a conduit to collaborate with ED, CHCO, and other DOE program offices. Our goals include building opportunities for career growth and mentoring, training, and social and community outreach. We will seek to increase awareness of issues important to the AAPI community and improve communication of Federal opportunities.

Also, DOE will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Asian American Government Executives Network and the Federal Asian Pacific American Council – organizations that have had significant impacts in reaching out to the AAPI community. These organizations (and others) will be sources of additional support and outreach for our DOE effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Chu".

Steven Chu

