

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

7/5/2016

Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
House Committee on Science, Space & Technology
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Science, Space & Technology
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Johnson,

I am writing to communicate my strong support for the Solar Fuels Innovation Act, and to thank you for your leadership in advancing this important area.

The energy provided by the Sun is virtually unlimited. It is my opinion that the direct conversion of solar energy to chemical fuels, which can be integrated with our existing infrastructure, is the greatest scientific challenge of our time. The payoff is incredible, including both energy and environmental security for the United States, as well as the associated economic benefits. Given the scope of these payoffs, it is vital that U.S. researchers continue to lead in the development of solar fuels.

The solar fuels field is still relatively young, with many approaches being aggressively pursued by researchers around the globe. Advances in the fundamental understanding of photochemistry, electrochemistry, biochemistry, and materials science are all required to succeed. I therefore applaud your recognition that support of basic research is the most appropriate investment at this time.

Given the interdisciplinary and impactful nature of the solar fuels challenge, the interest of current and future U.S. scientists is being ignited. The Solar Fuels Innovation Act will therefore leverage past investments in science and ensure the continued U.S. leadership in energy science in technology.

Sincerely,



Thomas Hamann
James Dye Professor of Materials Chemistry



College of
Natural Science

Department of Chemistry
578 S Shaw Lane, RM 411
East Lansing, Michigan
48824-1322

(517) 355-9715 Ex. 146
FAX: (517) 353-1793
hamann@chemistry.msu.edu
<http://www2.chemistry.msu.edu/faculty/hamann>