

CEER - Aga EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS (OF COMMENDATION AND APPROVAL OF CEER'S PROGRAM ACTIVITIES)

Center for Energy and Environment Research

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The following excerpts are from letters written to the Director of the Center for Energy and Environment Research by U.S. Department of Energy officials:

December 1977: "We are again pleased to see continuing progress in the evolution of the Center into a comprehensive energy research and education resource both for the University of Puerto Rico and the Commonwealth Government. We are again pleased to see good progress continuing in the various Center programs and look forward to working closely with you and your associates throughout the transition period." - Joel Snow, Associate Director for Research, Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy

March 20, 1978: "I am particularly optimistic for the prospect of the Center to become an international center of environmental research and training for Latin America." - Jeff Swinebroad, Manager, Environmental Programs Division of Biomedical and Environmental Research, U.S. Department of Energy

July 26, 1978: "I have been extremely pleased with the progress you and your colleagues have been making this year, and sincerely hope that the new funding level will at least allow continued, if slower, progress next year." - Joel Snow, Associate Director for Research, Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy

October 10, 1978: "Good progress has been made in the last twelve months in developing a more comprehensive conservation R&D program focused on specific Commonwealth needs and problems. This (Solar Technology) remains a strong research area in the overall program. In conclusion, the Oversight Committee is again pleased to see the progress being made in the individual...

"CEER Research Program," Joel Snow, Associate Director for Research Policy, Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy, August 3, 1979. "As a result of our meeting and other discussions, members of the Oversight Committee have indicated satisfaction with the progress made by the CEER during the current program year, despite funding limitations and deferrals. We believe that a strong foundation has been laid for future year accomplishments."

Toni Grayson Joseph, Associate Director for Field Operations Management, Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy, February 4, 1980. "My Department of Energy colleagues

are all impressed with the progress being made in many of the key areas and we look forward to assisting you in the next phases of the Center's activities."

Richard E. Stephens, Director, Division of Institutional Programs, Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy, February 20, 1981. "I want to congratulate you on the quality of work that Don Sasscer and the Center for Energy and Environment Research have been doing on the Landing Craft Utility (LCU) off the coast of Punta Tuna. The uninterrupted supply of seawater to the heat transfer monitors for the Biofouling Corrosion and Materials (BCM) Program has been notable in OTEC development. The entire team is to be congratulated for finding a way to implement your excellent and creative suggestions to Mr. F. Castellon."

William E. Richards, Acting Director, Division of Ocean Energy Systems, U.S. Department of Energy. Excerpts of letters from the Department of Energy addressed to Dr. Ismael Almodovar, President, University of Puerto Rico, July 21, 1980. "Let me say at this point how pleased we are with the substantial progress made by the Center during the past five years in developing and carrying out important energy research and development programs of relevance both to the Commonwealth Government and to the Department. I am also pleased to see that you are proposing that future financial support of the Center's core activities."

The text should be corrected as follows:

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"The support should be provided jointly by the University and the Commonwealth. We have always viewed such support as essential to the future of the Center," said Edward F. Frieman, Director of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy, on May 14, 1981. "We believe that the excellent progress made by the Center over the last several years in developing strong programs in such areas as biomass and bioconversion, solar photovoltaics, conservation, and energy-related research has made the Center competitive with other research laboratories pursuing similar work. Increased efforts must be made, of course, to diversify the base of financial support for the Center including, where possible, increased support from the university itself, the Commonwealth Government, and from private industry. We believe that the Center's past and current accomplishments will significantly aid this diversification." Douglas Pewitt, Acting Director, Office of Energy Research.

The following excerpts are from letters written by local government agencies and from members of the UPR President's Senior Advisory Committee on Energy and Environment.

On September 19, 1979, "Esta junta considera que el gobierno de Puerto Rico debe prestarle atención prioritaria a la problemática energética desde la perspectiva de la investigación científica dirigida al desarrollo de fuentes alternativas de energía constituye la garantía y el arma más efectiva para continuar el desarrollo obtenido y alcanzar los niveles de bienestar social. Entendemos que el CEEA está llevando a cabo una gran investigación con el propósito de buscar alternativas que permitan que Puerto Rico se libere total o parcialmente de la dependencia energética presente. Por último, se recomienda que se explore la alternativa de que la Oficina de Puerto Rico aporte fondos a los programas de investigación y desarrollo del Centro," said Miguel A. Rivera Ríos, Presidente, Junta de Planificación de P.R.

On February 4, 1980, to Dr. Gary H. Toenniessen of The Rockefeller Foundation, "I have served for three and a half."

"Years on the Advisory Committee to CEER (Center for Energy and Environment Research), University of Puerto Rico. "They are dedicated to resolving some of the environmental problems and economic dilemmas of Puerto Rico simultaneously. Off the shores of Puerto Rico at Punta Tuna, we have one of the finest sites in the world for OTEC (Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion). They have affiliated with CEER a USDA-supported plant physiologist by the name of Alexander who has been testing and breeding strains of sugarcane for energy production. He has had great success. Puerto Rico also has one of the few tropical rainforests within U.S. territory, a rainforest which has been extensively studied and should be truly a national treasure. Last year Dr. Lawrence Tily joined CEER as Director of all ecological and environmental programs. He is a first-rate scientist with particular expertise in limnology. Here in Puerto Rico, we have energy projects, agricultural projects, and environmental projects all functioning at once." Prof. David M. Gates, Professor of Botany, University of Michigan.

February 7, 1980, "I believe that an organization such as CEER, primarily devoted to researching energy problems of the area, is vital and should continue to exist in the future." Dr. Derek P. Gregory, Vice President, Engineering Research Institute of Gas Technology.

February 26, 1980, "Upon evaluating your preliminary report entitled 'Research and Development Program Needs for Energy Alternatives in Puerto Rico', we agree that the Center's role should be appropriately redefined to enable it to perform the research and development program for attaining Puerto Rico's energy independence. We are aware, of course, that in order to fulfill this expanded role the Center will likely require additional funding." Eng. José Marina, Director, Planning and Engineering, Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority.

July 14, 1980, "In relation to the Second Energy Week Conference, we take this opportunity to reiterate our gratitude."

"Por su valiosa colaboración en esta actividad, que ha sido de enorme utilidad para todos." Sra. Octavia Maldonado Pons, Coordinadora, Programa de Gobierno, Oficina de Energía de Puerto Rico, 9 de enero de 1987. "Les felicito por haber alcanzado varias de las metas en los programas de ecología y desarrollo de fuentes alternas de energía. Les exhorto a continuar trabajando en busca de soluciones de los programas energéticos y ambientales de nuestra isla." Enaro Colleze Collazo, Secretario, Departamento de Servicios Sociales.

To: Dr. Alex G. Alexander, Head, Biomass Division, February 6, 1981. "I have already told you how much we (the Committee) appreciated your presentation last month. How impressed we were at the progress you have made toward the development of an energy cane (Sordan 77) and the fact you are beginning a movement toward the operation of a biomass fuel 300 MW power plant." Dr. Melvin Galvin, Professor of Chemistry, University of California and Nobel Prize Winner.

10 de Febrero de 1981. "Les felicitamos por la excelente labor realizada y les deseamos continuados éxitos en sus programas." Wilson M. Loubriet, Director Ejecutivo, Autoridad de los

Puertos.

To: Sr. Carlos Quirós, Director de Operaciones y Gerencia Gubernamental, Oficina del Gobernador, March 20, 1981. "Consideré prudente, por lo tanto, dirigirme a usted ya que estimo que la labor que el Centro realiza es encomiable y necesaria para continuar el funcionamiento de la Junta de Calidad Ambiental y otras agencias gubernamentales." "En especial, tenemos sumo interés en desarrollar programas integrados en educación ambiental y en el desarrollo de estándares de calidad ambiental que tomen en consideración las condiciones tropicales de nuestra Isla. Estos proyectos son de alta necesidad no solamente en Puerto Rico, sino en todo el Caribe." Pedro A. Gelabert, Presidente, Junta de Calidad Ambiental.

To: Sr. Carlos Quirós, Coordinador Interagencial, La Fortaleza, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Mar. 12, 1981. "Las funciones del CEA son complementarias a las actividades del

"Departamento de Recursos Naturales y a los de otras agencias del gobierno," "La labor de investigación del CEEA es indispensable para la solución de nuestros problemas energéticos y ambientales y para el bienestar de nuestro Puerto Rico," Fred V. Soltero Harrington, Ph.D. Secretario Departamento de Recursos Naturales presenta el Caribbean Region Solar Cooperation Study (Enero 6, 1979) Preparado para SERI por Donovan, Hamster, y Retting: parte del informe de la NAS Energy in Puerto Rico's Future (2020), el Committee on Future Alternatives for Puerto Rico a petición del Gobierno de Puerto Rico. ---Página siguiente---