

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS  
OF COMMENDATION AND APPROVAL  
OF CEER'S PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



CENTER FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH  
UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO — U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

CEER - A092

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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 Policy  
Office of Energy Research  
U.S. Department of Energy*

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*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*

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*July 26, 1978*

*"We 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 Policy  
Office of Energy Research  
U.S. Department of Energy*

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October 10, 1978

*"Good progress has been made in the last twelve months in developing a stronger, 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 programs."*

Joel Snow  
Associate Director for Research Policy  
Office of Energy Research  
U.S. Department of Energy

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August 3, 1979

*"As a result of our meeting and other discussion, 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

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February 4, 1980

*"My Department of Energy co-leagues 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

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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 are 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*

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Excerpts of letters from the Department of Energy addressed to Dr. Ismael Almodóvar, 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 be provided jointly by the University and the Commonwealth. We have always viewed such support as essential to the future of the Center."*

*Edward F. Frieman  
Director of Energy Research  
U.S. Department of Energy*

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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."*

*N. 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.

*19 de septiembre de 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. La investigación científica está dirigida al desarrollo de fuentes alternas de energía constituye la garantía y el arma más efectiva para continuar el desarrollo obtenido y alcanzar las metas de bienestar social. Entendemos que el CEEA está llevando a cabo un gran esfuerzo de investigación con el propósito de buscar alternativas que permitan que Puerto Rico se libere total o parcialmente de la dependencia energética prevaleciente."*

*"Por último se les recomienda que se explore la alternativa de que la Oficina de Puerto Rico aporte fondos a los programas de investigación y desarrollo del CEEA."*

*Lcdo. Miguel A. Rivera Ríos  
Presidente, Junta de Planificación de P.R.*

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*February 4, 1980*

*To: Dr. Gary H. Toenniessen  
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 resolve some of the environmental problems and economic dilemmas of Puerto Rico at the same time.*

*"Their intent as a commonwealth is eventually to become energy self-sufficient and at the same time to protect their environment, a task which is not easy nor until now has it been obvious how to accomplish this goal. But a number of events have transpired which are significant and change the picture."*

*"They have off the shores of Puerto Rico at Punta Tuna the finest site in the world for OTEC (Ocean Thermal Electric Conversion).*

*". . . they have affiliated with CEER a USDA-supported plant physiologist by the name of A. G. Alexander who has been testing and breeding strains of sugar cane 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 much studied but which should be truly a national center.*

*"During the last year Dr. Laurence Tilly has 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 are energy projects, agricultural projects, and environmental projects all together at one time."*

*Prof. David M. Gates  
Professor of Botany  
University of Michigan*

February 7, 1980

*"I believe that an organization such as CEER devoted primarily 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*

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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 role should appropriately redefined so as 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 more probably require additional funding."*

*Ing. José Marina, Director  
Planning and Engineering  
Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority*

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14 de julio de 1980

*"Con relación a la Segunda Semana de la Conservación de Energía, aprovechamos la ocasión para reiterarle nuestro agradecimiento 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*

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9 de enero de 1981

*"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."*

*Jenaro Collazo Collazo  
Secretario  
Departamento de Servicios Sociales*

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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 Calvin  
Professor of Chemistry  
University of California  
and Nobel Prize Winner

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10 de Febrero de 1981

*"Les felicitamos por la excelente labor realizada y les deseamos continuados éxitos en sus programas."*

Wilson M. Loubriel  
Director Ejecutivo  
Autoridad de los Puertos

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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

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To: Sr. Carlos Quirós  
Coordinador Interagencial  
La Fortaleza  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Mar. 12, 1981

*"Mi participación en este comité me ha permitido apreciar de cerca la muy efectiva labor del Centro para Estudios Energéticos y Ambientales (CEEA) de la Universidad de Puerto Rico y de los logros obtenidos en la investigación sobre fuentes alternas de energía y de los aspectos ambientales de las mismas."*

*"Las funciones del CEEA son complementarias a las actividades del Departamento de Recursos Naturales y a las 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

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Excerpt from *Caribbean Region Solar Cooperation Study* (January 6, 1979)  
prepared for SERI by Donovan, Hamster, and Rattien, Inc.

*"SERI may wish to consider the Puerto Rico Center for Energy and Environment Research (CEER) as a link or translator for Spanish-speaking islands. The CEER is interested in world-wide contacts as well as in technological R&D, and may be a suitable partner for SERI activities in the region. . ."*

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Excerpt from the NAS report *Energy in Puerto Rico's Future* (1970), prepared by the Committee on Future Energy Alternatives for Puerto Rico at the request of the Puerto Rico Government.

*"Puerto Rico, in dealing with its own energy problems, should grasp its opportunity to become an international energy laboratory, seeking and testing solutions especially appropriate to the oil-dependent tropical and subtropical regions of the world. The Island's geographical position and its established energy research and development facilities enhance this potential, which should be called to the attention of agencies and institutions with investments to make in accelerating development overseas."*

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