Carl Bernofsky, Ph.D.
109 Southfield Road, Apt. 51H
Shreveport, LA 71105

July 10, 2015

Venita McCellon-Allen
President and Chief Operating Officer
Southwestern Electric Power Company
428 Travis Street
Shreveport, LA 71101

Re: A proposal to supplement and gradually replace coal in power plants with a sustainable, renewable and carbon-neutral source of green energy.

Dear Ms. McCellon-Allen:

I am a retired professor of biochemistry who taught a graduate course in bioenergetics for many years at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans. I am engaging in a major effort to promote what I strongly believe is the most likely type of fuel that will ultimately replace coal in electricity-generating power plants of the future. Inasmuch as the origin of coal is vegetative, its logical replacement is also vegetative – an idea uniquely fulfilled by the abundant, tallow-laden fruit of the Chinese tallow tree, whose robust growth qualifies it as a ideal green energy source despite environmentalists' concerns about the tree's aggressive and invasive nature.

Needless to say, I am not the first to recognize the potential of the Chinese tallow tree as a source of fuel, and I have collected the observations of various experts on my website, *http://www.tallowfuel.com*, which I invite you to visit. I have also prepared a video outlining how tallow tree orchards could be created. See: "Seeds of Power, Part III: Harvesting the Sun," *http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-R0v7u1k8L4*.

I propose that SWEPCO considers having one of its solid-fuel power plants in Louisiana (or an adjacent state) designated as a Biomass Conversion Facility (BCF), while it simultaneously creates an initial 1,000-acre orchard of Chinese tallow trees within a reasonable distance from that plant. The plant would require only limited modification, if any, to accept supplementary feedstocks of tallow seeds.

This would be the first step of a costly and long-term commitment. I estimate the initial acreage above to be only about 1% of what eventually would be required if tallowfuel were the sole source for fueling a power plant. However government resources are now available to ease the financial burden on companies who are serious about exploring alternative sources of energy.

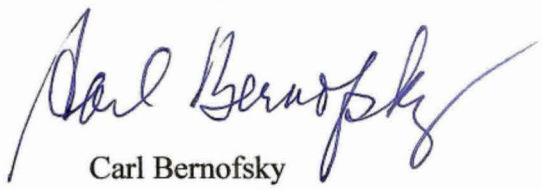
With the 2008 Farm Bill, the U.S. Department of Agriculture created the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), and this was generously re-authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill. The BCAP offers "...financial assistance to owners and operators of agricultural and non-industrial private forest land who wish to establish, produce, and deliver biomass feedstocks to a qualifying energy facility."[1]

According to a recent listing prepared by the USDA Farm Service Agency, there are currently 52 qualified Biomass Conversion Facilities located in the U.S., none of which are in Louisiana, Arkansas or Texas.[2] Clearly, there is an opportunity for locating a BCF in Louisiana, particularly as the climatic conditions in the state are favorable for cultivating an energy-rich crop such as the Chinese tallow tree.

I understand the complexity of what I am proposing and am ready to offer whatever help I can in the form of assistance with planning the project and supplying information about government cost sharing grants and contracts.

Addressing the energy needs of future generations is a serious matter about which procrastination is not an option, and there is no better time than the present to begin. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,



Carl Bernofsky
(318) 869-3871

References

1. USDA News Release No. 0048.15 (Feb. 26, 2015), "USDA Expands Investments in Next-Generation Bioenergy Development," *http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/newsReleases?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=ner&newstype=newsrel&type=detail&item=nr_20150226_rel_0048.html.*

2. USDA Farm Service Agency, "Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) Qualified Biomass Conversion Facilities (BCF's) FY 2015," *http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/Energy/BCAP_Facility_listing_2015.pdf .*

Cc: Copies of this letter will be sent as an e-mail attachment to Thomas Brice (Tpbrice1@aep.com) and Brandon Bradford (Bcbradford@aep.com).