

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2007

COME SEE A DEMONSTRATION OF SOLAR OVENS THIS THURSDAY AND FRIDAY!!

Dear Colleague:

As we consider legislation and policy options on energy, the option of utilizing solar ovens, which cook food and purify water entirely under the power of the sun, has recently come to our attention.

WHAT: Demonstration of a variety of 8 types of solar ovens, large and small
WHEN: This Thursday, July 26, 12 – 6pm AND Friday, July 27, 12 – 6pm
WHERE: Thursday – the Upper House Park behind the Longworth Building
Friday – the Upper Senate Park by the fountain

According to the EPA, almost three billion people burn traditional fuels (wood, charcoal and gas primarily) indoors for cooking and heating, and their numbers are expected to "rise substantially by 2020." In India, a February 2007 news article reported that over 1.5 million females die prematurely each year by inhaling poisonous fumes as they cook or heat their homes. In very poor nations such as on the African continent, including Ethiopia and the Sudan, women and children can typically spend 7 hours a day collecting firewood for the family meal; often resulting in denuded forests that impact climate and broad environmental degradation. Cooking with fire often causes serious burns, long hours of crouching, and lung and eye damage.

Solar cooking and solar ovens have the potential to help alleviate these and other problems. Societal benefits include: poverty eradication where local businesses are sustained; technology transfer; capacity building; decreased deforestation rate; energy savings and conservation; reduction in cooking fuel use sterilization of medical instruments; reduction in respiratory, lung, intestinal and eye disease; and, capability to boil water, among others.

The ovens are currently used on a small, grassroots scale in over 100 countries, throughout Africa, Central and South America, and on island countries. Seasonally, they are used as far north as Afghanistan, Nepal, and the Arctic.

THE DEMONSTRATION WILL OCCUR EVEN IN THE EVENT OF CLOUDS/LIGHT RAIN, as there will be photos and videos of food being prepared as well as the demonstration of the ovens themselves.

If you have any questions pertaining to the ovens or the demonstration, please contact Jennifer Barrett in Rep. Udall's office at 202-225-2161. We hope you can attend this important educational event.

Sincerely,



Mark Udall



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