

U.S Department of Energy
State Energy Advisory Board
Resolution 07-01

BACKGROUND

With record high fuel prices and heavy reliance on foreign sources of oil, new alternative fuel vehicles and technologies are crucial to addressing the nation's energy security and independence.

Originally called **Sunrayce USA**, the first solar car race was organized and sponsored by General Motors in 1990. Subsequent races were held in 1993, 1995, 1997 and 1999 under the name **Sunrayce**. In 2001, the race was renamed **American Solar Challenge** and was sponsored by the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Beginning in 2005, its name changed again to reflect the border crossing into Canada and is now called **North American Solar Challenge**, with the addition of co-sponsor Natural Resources Canada.

The event, scheduled for the summer of 2008, allows opportunities for university students to design, build and race an electric car powered by photovoltaics (PV), and compete in a long-distance test of endurance and efficiency, driving thousands of highway miles.

ISSUE

DOE support for a 2008 **North American Solar Challenge** is vital for continued coordination of the event. Many university teams throughout the country have expended considerable efforts and resources over the past couple of years in anticipation of a 2008 event.

RECOMMENDATION

In accordance with its legislative mission and strategic plan, STEAB makes recommendations to the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) regarding energy efficiency goals, objectives and programmatic direction. We believe the **North American Solar Challenge** helps fulfill this objective by assisting in technology transfer and promoting educational activities that result in using more renewable energy.

Therefore, members of the State Energy Advisory Board (STEAB) respectfully encourage the U.S. Department of Energy to continue financial support for a 2008 **North American Solar Challenge** event. This support will be an on-going expression of U. S. DOE's commitment to renewable energy development.

Unanimously Adopted by the STEAB on 8/16/2007