

Energy Secretary Backing Solar Energy

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Courtesy of GetSolar Staff.



The new Secretary of Energy, Ernest Moniz, is throwing his weight behind solar energy.

Secretary Moniz,, who is following in predecessor Steven Chu's footsteps of the aggressive pursuit of renewable energy resources, especially solar. At a U.S. Energy Information Administration-hosted conference on June 17 in Washington, D.C., Moniz [voiced his optimism](#) about the future of solar energy.

"I would argue that I believe that the scale and time frame of impact of solar technology, I believe, again, is underestimated," he said at the U.S. Energy Information Administration-hosted event. "There are many situations today when solar is in fact competitive. We are aggressively pursuing this in many dimensions. I think that's an example of something we will look back on in 10 years and be surprised at the scope."

According to PV Magazine, Jenny Chase, head of solar analysis at Bloomberg New Energy Finance, believes these predictions for the rapid growth of solar will prove to be accurate, and that she has predicted similar growth as well. [She told the magazine](#) that she sees no reason why solar shouldn't grow quickly, especially on the distribution end.

Homes and businesses across the country are turning to solar panels to provide their energy sources, and many states are approving legislation that will make the permitting and installation processes easier and more affordable for Americans.

Federal Support for Solar

Moniz espoused his pro-solar comments after he made a congressional testimony the week prior, his first since being sworn in. At that time, the new Energy Secretary, who served in the Clinton administration as the DOE undersecretary, promised some management changes in the department, earning praise from both sides of the aisle.

According to The Hill, Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-Ky.), the subpanel's chairman, is confident Moniz will be able to navigate through Congress effectively.

Moniz has also stated that he believes cheap gas that is obtained through shale gas exploitation or fracking can help the country transition to renewable, zero-carbon energy sources, such as solar power.

"Gas is a bridge to a low carbon future," said Moniz, "to develop technologies, lower the cost, get the market penetration of these new technologies."

The DOE secretary also believes that competition with state-backed Chinese firms should stimulate American solar panel manufacturers, speeding along the growth of solar in the country.

"Costs have dropped dramatically." said Moniz. "This is getting very interesting."