

# Text of Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address November 4, 2011

## “The White House and Solyndra”

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Hello this is your Congressman Michael Burgess. This week the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the Subcommittee of Oversight and Investigations, held a business meeting to consider authorizing the issuance of a subpoena to the White House and the Office of the Vice President. The subpoenas will require that the Obama administration provide internal documents related to the Department of Energy’s loan guarantee to a company called Solyndra. The committee voted 14 to 9 to approve the issuance of the subpoenas. This is only the second time the subcommittee has had to take such action this term.

Unfortunately, it was an action that was necessary. The Obama administration has continued to gamble with the American taxpayer's dollars. It should have never come to this. The administration should have worked with the United States Congress and provided us the information. They didn’t. As a result, we are left taking the last option to get the information; information that should have been offered voluntarily.

You have to wonder where the Solyndra funding went wrong. The Bush administration considered Solyndra, but opted not to give funding. Then the Obama administration came in, literally just days following the inauguration, and the funding went from being dead in the water to being expedited for the sole purpose of garnering a so-called “green” energy project. In fact it was referred to as a litmus test in internal documents. President Obama said that the Solyndra loan was a model for government investment in green technology.

Unfortunately, the only green involved in this story is the 535 million dollars that the administration lost on behalf of the taxpayers. Corners were cut. Taxpayer dollars were put in jeopardy. And as a result, hardworking Americans are left paying for another government bad idea and a very bad investment - without any explanation from the White House. Compounding the injury was the subordination of taxpayer dollars to the investments of venture capitalists – a clear violation of federal law.

Issuing a subpoena was not an action that was taken lightly. It is a last effort after countless requests for this information. The American people do have the right to know why decisions were made to use 535 million dollars of taxpayer money on a project that had no hope of success. If the White House and the Obama administration have nothing to hide, then they should have been more forthcoming with the information when it was requested. This story is not over and I will keep you informed as it goes forward.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. For information on this issue and other legislative issues before the Congress please visit my website at [burgess.house.gov](http://burgess.house.gov). God bless you and your family. As always, God bless Texas.