



5 September 2016

**Professor Andres Cuevas**

**Research School of Engineering  
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Senate Standing Committees on Economics  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

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Re: ARENA and the Budget Savings (Omnibus) Bill 2016

Dear Senators,

There is growing concern that the proposed Budget Savings (Omnibus) Bill 2016 may lead to the disestablishment of ARENA. As one of the most senior Australian researchers in the field of renewable energy, I urge you to ensure the continuity of Government funding for R&D in renewable energy technologies, particularly Solar Photovoltaics.

Last year I received the European Becquerel Prize for outstanding merits in Photovoltaics, considered by many as the most prestigious in the field. Also in 2015, and again this year, two of my PhD students received significant awards at international conferences, given in recognition of the most remarkable and outstanding research work in the field of Photovoltaics. Such research work has been funded by the Government of Australia, particularly via ARENA, which provided PhD scholarships to both students (and many more). A large part of my recent research, and that of my colleagues, has been funded by ARENA, without which our internationally competitive laboratories and staff could not be maintained.

Australia and its researchers have played an instrumental role in making Photovoltaic Solar Energy what it is today: an inexpensive, inexhaustible and clean source of electricity. Please do not turn your back on the future, let ARENA continue helping Australia and the World implement a modern energy system that ensures the prosperity and well-being of our children and grandchildren.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Professor Andrés Cuevas