



## Vice President Biden responds to U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer's concerns about Buy American clause in stimulus bill

Published: Tuesday, July 20, 2010, 1:50 PM Updated: Tuesday, July 20, 2010, 4:36 PM



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Vice President Joe Biden has responded to concerns about the Buy American provision in the stimulus bill made by Congressman Mark Schauer last month and has directed several federal agencies to make the changes Schauer suggested.

In June, Schauer, D-Battle Creek, sent a letter to Biden to alert him to what he said was a growing problem with companies cheating the system in order to win contracts with municipalities that have grants from the stimulus fund, which includes a Buy American requirement.

The issue was brought to Schauer's attention by Jackson-based Full Spectrum Solutions, which specializes in energy-efficient lighting. It said it had identified and had proof that at least a half dozen firms were defrauding the government in order to win stimulus-funded contracts.

Today, Schauer released Biden's two-page response letter, that was dated Friday, and in it, the vice president said attorneys with the Department of Energy contacted the six companies Schauer named in his original letter and instructed them to prove their products are American-made.

After Schauer released his letter, many of the companies he listed said they do make their products in the U.S. and several had contacted their own attorneys to stop Full Spectrum from attacking their reputation.

The Department of Energy has also added a complaints "hotline" function on its website so businesses can alert the government to such cases faster.

"This is good news for businesses like Full Spectrum Solutions, American taxpayers, and American workers," Schauer said in a statement. "I am encouraged by the nearly point-by-point response I received from Vice President Biden and the Department of Energy on this issue, especially at a time when job creation is so critical. We need to make sure our taxpayer dollars are creating jobs for workers here at home, and these changes will help us hold bad actors accountable, level the playing field for American businesses and open doors for companies like Full Spectrum Solutions to create more jobs right here in Michigan."