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## Changes are Underway

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*from the desk of CJ Evans*

**A**t the end of 2023, I made the decision to retire – to step away entirely from ADE's American Diversified Energy application preparation, 3rd Party Studies, and Due Diligence & Analysis services that I began providing in 2005 as a sole proprietor, then through companies formed around teams of subject matter experts:

- One of ADE's leading team members, Goran Nikolich, has incorporated a new company, [Federal Funding Services, LLC](#) (FFS), for which he is the managing director.
- All ADE guidelines, templates, operational documents, etc. have been transferred to FFS.
- Goran has recruited several new team members, including two additional engineers and two financial specialists, one of whom is a recent member of the U.S. Department of Energy Loan Program Office senior staff, and the other of whom is the former CFO of one of ADE's client companies.
- As with all transitions, this one has not gone smoothly.
- Nevertheless, after several hiccups, which have been resolved, FFS has taken over the clients that ADE was serving at the beginning of 2024 and is moving forward with their application preparation.
- FFS, along with the team members who have provided the services that ADE's clients have received over the past several years, which succeeded in a high percentage of cases in securing grants and loan guarantees, will continue to provide these services through FFS.
- I will continue to be available to speak with prospects introduced by Kilpatrick, Townsend & Stockton project finance and energy attorney Mark Reidy and the member companies from the Alternative Fuels & Chemicals Coalition (AFCC) -- which I co-founded along with Mark and Rina Singh -- to encourage them to engage FFS.
- I also will remain available to Goran, on an as-needed basis, at any time that he needs an explanation or background on the materials, guidelines, and documents that he has inherited from ADE, or there is a client question which he or the other FFS team members cannot answer.

I am turning my attention to project financing and the creation of a development capital fund in collaboration with several sources of investment funding, as well as three lobbying initiatives. One of the lobbying initiatives is continuing in the role that I have carried out for the past five years for AFCC:

- I am once again beginning to prepare AFCC's fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriations requests for the 50+ federal funding programs that can advance the initiatives undertaken by AFCC's member companies.

- I also drafted legislative language last year, as part of AFCC's Department of Energy FY2024 appropriations request, which will be included in AFCC's FY2025 request, to direct the interest that is earned by the U.S. Treasury on the repayment of Title 17 loan guarantees – which amounted to \$535 million in 2021 – to a new grant program to be administered by the Loan Programs Office (LPO).
- These funds will be used to establish a 50/50 matching grant program to provide development capital to the initiatives selected by the LPO that have the potential to be able to advance through Title 17 and be deployed.
- The grant program will have the benefit of not only accelerating the advancement of the initiatives that are needed to address the climate crisis but will result in more applications for the Title 17 program, and more interest earned by the U.S. Treasury.
- Thus, the grant program will become self-sustaining (i.e., the money invested in the grant program will generate more money for the U.S. Treasury than is used for the grants, thus increasing revenues for the U.S. Treasury and allowing the grant program to grow in subsequent years).

The two other lobbying assignments are paid engagements and still are under discussion.

I also am venturing into a new area of interest: One of my very good friends is a playwright and TV and theatre producer who produced the original Broadway production of 1776. He has formed a New-York-City-based theatre production company and is in the process of beginning production and initiating stage rehearsals for six plays, for which I have been retained as a consultant and entertainment fundraiser.

These represent very different – and enjoyable -- roles for me to pursue.

Should you wish to obtain assistance in the preparation of an application for a federal grant or loan guarantee; an independent third-party feasibility study, environmental assessment, energy audit, or other third-party study; or have an investor or lender who requires due diligence and analysis, I will be happy to put you in touch with Goran.

Once the funds I am sourcing for project financing and development capital are in place, I will be happy to assist you in those areas as well.

Let me know if I can be of assistance through my new endeavors, or if you would like me to put you in touch with Goran.