

Congressman Used Position on House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense to Obtain Funds, Which Will Create or Save More Than 85 Jobs & Lay the Groundwork for Hundreds of Future Jobs

Binghamton, NY - In an important boost to the region's economy, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that he has secured final congressional approval of \$25.36 million for local renewable energy and defense companies to further or expand their work in Broome, Tioga, and Tompkins counties. The funds will help create or save more than 85 jobs and lay the groundwork for the creation of hundreds of jobs in the coming years.

"Collectively, this influx of more than \$25 million in new federal funding will help advance our region as a leader in renewable energy technology and enhance its role as the developer of premier technology used by the men and women of our armed forces," Hinchey said. "I was very pleased to secure this federal investment, which positions our area well to receive future, larger investments that will help to further grow our economy. We know full well that the need for renewable energy is about to grow significantly and we are ensuring that this region will play a central role in that expanding sector of our economy. At the same, our nation's military is in need of more sophisticated equipment and these companies are delivering top of the line gear that will help save lives and ensure that our troops go about their work as effectively and safely as possible."

The congressman used his position on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense to secure the funds as part of the fiscal year 2010 Defense Appropriations bill, which passed the House last night and is due to receive final approval from the Senate today. The more than \$25 million in new federal funding will go to: BAE Systems (\$3.84 million), Binghamton University's Center for Autonomous Solar Power (CASP) (\$4 million), Endicott Interconnect (\$4.8 million), Johnson Outdoors (\$2.4 million), Primet Precision Materials (\$6.4 million), Rockwell Collins (\$2.72 million), and Widetronix (\$1.2 million).

"History shows us that many of our country's great innovations were initiated by investments in research for our military, which led to other unanticipated improvements and developments. That's exactly what we're doing now through an investment of more than \$25 million in some of our region's most promising companies," Hinchey said. "Our expectation is that the development of these products in each of these cases will have a very positive effect on the internal economic growth of the region and the entire country with regard to solar energy and other innovative sectors. These companies have an enormous potential to expand their

creativity and incorporate new innovations that will yield a wide array of products for broad, commercial use. By investing in these companies and institutions now, we are placing a down payment for the creation of many more jobs in the future."

The funds that Hinchey secured will be used for the following renewable energy initiatives:

- Binghamton University CASP, \$4 million -- The funding will be used to further establish the school as a leader in solar energy research and development. The school's CASP will spur economic growth in the Southern Tier and position the school and the region's businesses as leaders in providing cutting-edge technology for defense, aerospace, consumer and industrial markets through solar power designs that will contribute to operational and logistical efficiency. Specifically, the new funding will help the CASP to develop new storage systems, or "supercapacitors," that are better suited for the solar power generation technology the center is developing -- large area thin film flexible solar modules. Supercapacitors are intended to help improve the challenges associated with gathering solar energy at peak availability for off-peak usage.
- Primet Precision Materials, \$6.4 million -- This Ithaca-based high-tech battery company will use the funds to advance its technology and form a unique partnership with Applied Materials, a major semiconductor company, as well as Cornell University and Binghamton University, two well-established research universities with expertise in this field. Primet will use a portion of the funding to further develop an advanced composite nickel-manganese-cobalt and other lithium ion battery technologies for the U.S. military with energy sources that are smaller, lighter, safer, and longer-lasting than any lithium batteries available on the market today, greatly extending duty cycle and survivability for applications ranging from handheld devices to unmanned aerial vehicles. An additional portion of the funds will be used to further an advanced battery consortium that Hinchey is helping to form that would enable Primet and Applied Materials to work together on developing batteries that can more efficiently and effectively store energy generated through solar technology.
- Widetronix, \$1.2 million -- This Ithaca-based company will work with The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC), which Hinchey helped establish in 2007. The funds will be used to scale Widetronix's low-defect silicon carbide wafer production process to accommodate larger wafer sizes and production volumes sought by the commercial customers and the U.S. Department of Defense. While focused on commercializing the company's innovative manufacturing process, the funding will also help to create jobs in the region.

Hinchev also obtained the following funds for defense companies located in the Southern Tier:

- Endicott Interconnect Technologies, \$4.8 million -- The company will use the funds to develop state-of-the art microelectronic chips for the U.S. military that will safeguard against foreign tampering of equipment. This funding is in addition to the \$105 million in federal contracts for the company that Hinchev announced earlier this week.
- BAE Systems, \$3.84 million -- The company will use the funds to support the development, integration, and testing of a low-signature, remotely-operated system for the special operations force maritime environment (surface craft). The Navy's future family of maritime craft must possess low-signature capabilities to ensure survivability of maritime units during infiltration and exfiltration. The company is seeking to develop a remotely-operated defense system that can be quickly deployed and retracted to greatly minimize the craft radar cross-section during all phases of a mission.
- Rockwell Collins, \$2.72 million -- The funds will be used for an enhanced Pilot Vehicle Interface (PVI), which will reduce the workload of aviators by displaying and presenting information in a manner that makes it easier for military pilots to read and utilize information in the cockpit. The general purpose of a PVI redesign is to reduce the workload of aviators by displaying and presenting information in a manner that meets the conventional mission profile. This reduced workload experienced by pilots utilizing a standardized military helicopter cockpit will greatly enhance their ability to focus on other tasks and spend less time with their head down in the cockpit.
- Johnson Outdoors, \$2.4 million -- The company will use the funds to continue producing greatly needed tents and shelters for the military. Specifically, the money will be used to ensure steady production of tents for military personnel, maintaining a domestic supply essential to U.S. national security.

"These funds represent an investment in our local economy now and an even larger investment in our future," Hinchev said. "These companies and research institutions hold the promise of technology that will be needed and developed on a grand scale. In order to reach that ultimate goal, we need to lay the groundwork now, which is also helping to spur economic growth now."

As part of the fiscal year 2010 Defense Appropriations bill, Hinchey also secured \$100 million for Lockheed Martin in Owego to continue the development of the missions system for the next fleet of presidential helicopters. This was Hinchey's first year serving as a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense. Once the Senate approves the fiscal year 2010 Defense Appropriations bill, it will then be sent to the White House for President Obama's approval.