

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement regarding New York Governor David Paterson's State of the State address.

"I applaud Governor Paterson for directly confronting the very tough economic circumstances facing New York. While acknowledging that tough budget decisions must be made, Governor Paterson recognized the need to make investments in renewable energy, health care, and education that will pay off handsomely for the state in the short and long-term. The governor's innovative approaches to these areas will help create jobs, extend health care coverage to more New Yorkers and help make healthy living easier to achieve, and will enable more New Yorkers to get a better education that will benefit them for a lifetime.

"As someone who has made investments in renewable energy research and development a focus of my work in Congress, I am very pleased that Governor Paterson is putting New York on an aggressive path toward greater energy independence. By calling for New York to receive 45 percent of its electricity needs through energy efficiency and clean energy by 2015, Governor Paterson is setting a standard that all other states can and should follow.

"I look forward to continuing to work with Governor Paterson to advance The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC) that I helped establish in New York last year. TSEC has already enjoyed tremendous success -- attracting several manufacturers to upstate New York, which are expected to create hundreds of new jobs over the next several years. In conjunction with federal funding I secured from Congress, Governor Paterson has committed critical state dollars to TSEC in order to grow the consortium and establish New York as a national and international hub for solar energy research and development. We are fortunate to have a governor who understands the need to aggressively shift away from dependence on fossil fuels and towards various sources of renewable energy, particularly solar power."