

*Discuss Plans for Tech City to Become A Home For Various Solar Companies*

*Lake Katrine, NY* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) today detailed how the economic recovery bill that is expected to pass Congress in the next few weeks will benefit The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC), create green jobs, and grow the solar energy industry in New York. Hinchey and Schumer discussed the economic recovery bill while visiting Tech City, which is benefiting from TSEC's initial efforts to attract solar businesses to the area.

"The U.S. economy is in the worst shape since the Great Depression, which is exactly why we need a major economic investment package that will create jobs and grow the economy," Hinchey said. "It is absolutely critical that the money spent in the economic recovery package be spent in ways that will not just rebuild our country's aging infrastructure, but also advance our infrastructure by using the funds to expand the research, development, and everyday use of solar energy and other renewable energy products. The Solar Energy Consortium has put New York on the map when it comes to renewable energy. I am confident that the consortium can use funds from the economic recovery package to play a critical role in creating local jobs and advancing America as a world leader in solar energy."

Hinchey and Schumer have been helping to lead efforts in the House and Senate to ensure that the economic recovery bill has funds that would create green jobs and advance the renewable energy industry. Hinchey has led the effort to focus funding on solar energy projects that would enable TSEC to advance its work.

House leaders yesterday announced plans for an \$825 billion economic recovery package. The Senate is expected to announce its proposal next week. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey will be helping to refine the actual bill next Wednesday.

Hinchey helped organize and create TSEC in 2007. The consortium is a new industry-driven, non-profit organization that provides leadership, organization, resources, and support for the establishment of a major solar energy industry cluster in New York. The consortium has already partnered with two major manufacturing partners, which plan to bring more than 800 new jobs to upstate New York within 4-5 years. In addition, TSEC is currently partnering with several smaller companies who have already generated more than 70 jobs through their efforts

with the consortium. Using his seat on the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has already secured nearly \$14 million in federal funds for TSEC and its partners.

"Time and time again, the United States has missed tremendous opportunities to shift away from oil and other fossil fuels and towards investments in renewable energy," Hinchey said. "America's past energy shortcomings present a huge opportunity to put people to work in ways that will transform our economy here in New York and across the nation. I am very pleased with how far TSEC has come since its creation less than two years ago and I am excited about its potential for the future."

The congressman recently gained a seat on the powerful and influential House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, which will enable him to direct increased funding to advance the research and development of solar energy products for defense and commercial applications. The congressman said that he believes TSEC is well-positioned to take the lead on a wide array of those solar projects. As the single largest consumer of energy in the world, the U.S. military stands to benefit greatly from investments in solar energy products. Hinchey noted that a greater commitment to renewable energy will lower the military's operational costs, reduce the frequency that combat troops need to refuel and repower equipment, and help the environment through lower greenhouse gas emissions.

In order to advance TSEC, Hinchey helped secure \$1.476 million in federal funds in 2007 to help bring companies such as Prism Solar Technologies into the consortium. The congressman also secured final approval of \$3.2 million in 2007 for C9 Corporation to conduct solar research and development in conjunction with TSEC. In June 2008, Hinchey secured the House Appropriations Committee's approval of an additional \$2.9 million for TSEC and its partners. In September 2008, Hinchey secured final congressional approval of \$2.4 million for C9 Corporation and PrecisionFlow Technologies to further develop their solar technology in conjunction with TSEC for the U.S. military. The congressman also secured final congressional approval of \$4 million for Binghamton University's new solar initiative, the Center for Autonomous Solar Power (CASP). Binghamton University is a TSEC partner. Additionally, the New York State legislature approved \$1.5 million for TSEC last year. Ulster County has also committed approximately \$300,000 to the consortium.

A wide array of renewable energy funding is contained within the \$825 billion package that the House initially proposed. Hinchey said he plans to work with the State of New York and the Obama administration to help direct funds back to TSEC and to work in the House to increase the level of funding for many of the proposed energy programs before the bill is finalized. The initial House proposal contains \$54 billion for renewable energy and energy efficiency programs

throughout the country. Some of those funds will go toward:

- **Local Government Energy Efficiency Block Grants:** \$6.9 billion to help state and local governments make investments that make them more energy efficient and reduce carbon emissions.
  
- **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Research:** \$2 billion for energy efficiency and renewable energy research, development, demonstration, and deployment activities to foster energy independence, reduce carbon emissions, and cut utility bills. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis to universities, companies, and national laboratories.
  
- **Advanced Battery Loans and Grants:** \$2 billion for the Advanced Battery Loan Guarantee and Grants Program, to support U.S. manufacturers of advanced vehicle batteries and battery systems. America should lead the world in transforming the way automobiles are powered.
- **Energy Efficiency Grants and Loans for Institutions:** \$1.5 billion for energy sustainability and efficiency grants and loans to help school districts, institutes of higher education, local governments, and municipal utilities implement projects that will make them more energy efficient.
- **Home Weatherization:** \$6.2 billion to help low-income families reduce their energy costs by weatherizing their homes and make our country more energy efficient.
  
- **Smart Appliances:** \$300 million to provide consumers with rebates for buying energy efficient Energy Star products to replace old appliances, which will lower energy bills.
  
- **Electric Transportation:** \$200 million for a new grant program to encourage electric vehicle technologies.
  
- **Department of Defense Research:** For research into using renewable energy to power weapons systems and military bases. A dollar figure for this initiative is still being determined.
  
- **Alternative Buses and Trucks:** \$400 million to help state and local governments purchase efficient alternative fuel vehicles to reduce fuel costs and carbon emissions. Locally, Hinchey previously secured federal funds for Ulster County to purchase a new hybrid bus for its transit

system. The county is looking to purchase three additional hybrid buses in the year ahead.

- **Industrial Energy Efficiency:** \$500 million for energy efficient manufacturing demonstration projects.

- **Diesel Emissions Reduction:** \$300 million for grants and loans to state and local governments for projects that reduce diesel emissions, benefiting public health and reducing global warming. This includes technologies to retrofit emission exhaust systems on school buses, replace engines and vehicles, and establish anti-idling programs. Seventy percent of the funds go to competitive grants and 30 percent funds grants to states with approved programs. Last year, the EPA was able to fund only 27 percent of the applications received.

The economic recovery bill is expected be debated and voted on in the House and Senate within the next several weeks and then be signed into law by President Obama.