

*Kingston, NY* - The New York State Solar Energy Industries Association (NYSEIA) this week honored Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) for his leadership in promoting solar energy research and development throughout the state. Hinchey helped organize and create The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC) in New York in 2007. The consortium is an 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.

"I am honored to help lead the effort to make New York a central hub for solar research and development," Hinchey said. "Through the combined efforts of government, business, and educational leaders we have established The Solar Energy Consortium, which is doing a remarkable job of bringing new solar energy businesses to New York. Through sustained investments in the solar sector we can dramatically grow our economy, strengthen our national security, and improve the environment. I appreciate all of the great work the New York State Solar Energy Industries Association is doing and look forward to continuing to work with its members."

Using his seat on the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has now secured more than \$14.2 million in federal funds for TSEC and its partners. The consortium has partnered with Prism Solar Technologies and Solar Thin Films, which together plan to bring more than 800 new jobs to upstate New York within 4-5 years. Additionally, TSEC is currently partnering with approximately 13 smaller companies. In just the last year, TSEC and its partners have collectively created nearly 100 jobs in the Hudson Valley.

To further his ability to secure funds for solar energy initiatives, Hinchey this year joined 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. NYSEIA presented an award to Hinchey as part of its award luncheon during the American Solar Energy Society's annual conference in Buffalo. The congressman was unable to attend the event due to the congressional calendar. Formed in 1994, NYSEIA's statewide membership consists of: solar electric (PV) and solar thermal manufacturers, distributors, and retailers; PV, solar water heating, and solar space heating installers; energy efficient and green building designers, architects, and engineers; vocational and technical educators training students and the future workforce; and others.

The organization works to educate the public, legislators, policy makers, and regulators on the environmental, economic development, and energy supply benefits of solar energy use. NYSEIA also participates in key public policy and regulatory decision making processes affecting the solar industry. The group also collaborates with other renewable energy, environmental, and economic development groups to expand development and use of solar energy in New York State.