

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement regarding the New York State Legislature's passage of a budget including funding for The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC). Hinchey, who helped create TSEC last year, secured \$4.676 million in federal funds for the consortium and its partners and helped attract \$1.5 million in state funds last year as well along with \$200,000 from Ulster County.

"The New York State Legislature has taken another very critical step toward establishing New York as a national and international leader in solar energy research and development. Solar power holds a key to our state's economic future and our country's future as a leader in alternative energy development, which I fully expect to be one of the largest sectors of our economy in a short period of time. I commend Governor Paterson and the New York State Legislature on their decision to provide significant funding for The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC) in the state budget that was passed today. In particular, Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, Senator Bill Larkin and Senator John Bonacic were instrumental in advocating for this funding and I thank them for their leadership and foresight.

"I'm very excited that New York State has added its name to the growing list of partners who are supporting TSEC in their effort to develop the solar energy industry in New York. In just the course of one year, TSEC has established itself, partnered with six research universities across the state, signed a manufacturing partner, Prism Solar Technologies, that will create 400 new jobs within the next five years, and is currently in discussions with several other partner companies who are considering significant investments in New York. Additionally, utilizing researchers from their university partners, TSEC is engaged in several research projects that aim to increase the efficiency of solar cells and reduce the cost to make and purchase them. TSEC is also working to identify new solar applications that can reduce operational costs of local farms.

"Clearly, TSEC has accomplished quite a lot in the last year, but I'm confident that the year ahead will be filled with even greater successes and accomplishments. Combined with the significant federal contributions that have already been secured, these funds from New York State will enable TSEC to have the resources needed to be successful in growing the solar industry in New York and creating much-needed jobs here in the state."