

*Ithaca, NY* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today will speak via webcast with Cornell University students as part of Focus the Nation's national global warming summit. Focus The Nation is an unprecedented educational initiative on global warming solutions for America occurring today at more than 1,700 campuses, faith-based and civic organizations. Considered the largest teach-in in U.S. history, Focus The Nation is preparing millions of students to become leaders in one of the largest civilizational challenges any generation has faced.

"Global warming is a defining challenge of this generation," Hinchey said. "Focus the Nation will help us further engage the young, brilliant minds in this country to stand up and help push through the vast reforms we need to stop and reverse the consequences of global warming. The change from oil and other fossil fuels to solar and other forms of renewable energy is inevitable, but we will only make that change with the support, enthusiasm, and the ideas of our young people."

In addition to congressional participation, Focus the Nation events will include hundreds of state legislators, mayors and local politicians, as well as thousands of educators and speakers. Focus the Nation's decentralized teach-in and Green Democracy civic engagement capstone is the creation of Dr. Eban Goodstein, author and professor of economics at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon.

Last year, Hinchey helped organize and create The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC), which 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. TSEC will be the first organization of its kind for the photovoltaic (PV) industry, encompassing research and development, manufacturing facilities, industry promotion and market development. Cornell University and five other schools across New York have partnered with TSEC to conduct solar research. Hinchey also visited and toured the Cornell University Solar Decathlon's solar house during the school's participation in the competition last year in Washington, DC.

Along with Congressman Christopher Shays (R-CT), Hinchey is the author of the Energy for Our Future Act, which is a sweeping, bipartisan energy reform bill that repeals billions of dollars in subsidies for the oil and gas industries, encourages innovative mass transit solutions, increased conservation and weatherization, requires renewable energy portfolios and increases the corporate fuel economy standard to 40 miles per gallon. Hinchey is also a cosponsor of the Global Climate Stewardship Act and the Safe Climate Act, which are two bills designed to

significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions.