



Monroe County Legislature

TRAVIS R. HEIDER
LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 14

TRAVIS R. HEIDER
LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 14
275 VIENNAWOOD DRIVE
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14618
OFFICE (585) 753-1940
HOME (585) 461-0817
FAX (585) 753-1946
E-MAIL travis@travisheider.com

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No. <u>080123</u>
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County
Committee Assignment
Memorializing Referral -L

April 7, 2008

To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
389 West Main Street
Rochester, New York 14614

Re: Memorializing the U.S Congress to Pass and President George W. Bush to Sign into Law H.R. 5351, the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008

Honorable Legislators:

New York State consumes 1.24 trillion kilowatts-hours of energy annually, using about 338 million barrels of petroleum. Last year, an objective was set that 20 percent of the electricity purchased by New York State would be produced from renewable sources within the state by 2010. The Renewable Portfolio Standard intends to make 25 percent of all power sold in the state come from renewable sources by 2013. For retail consumers, increasing the share of renewable electricity typically costs 1 to 2 cents per kilowatt, a premium of about 10 percent. Here in Monroe County, homeowners have the option to use one of four "GreenUp" providers for their electricity, utilizing wind, small hydro and biomass alternatives in energy production.

Today, renewable sources provide only six-percent of all energy consumed in the United States. Americans have continued to demand their government to take a harder look at alternative energy sources and production methods. "America is addicted to oil," President Bush stated in his 2006 State of the Union Address and has echoed this reality since that time. However, despite the rhetoric our nation's dependence on foreign oil has continued to significantly impact the lives of working Americans who suffer financially from rising costs at the gas pump and higher home energy bills, meanwhile, oil and gas companies and executives continue to experience record-breaking profits.

The Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008, submitted by New York Congressman Charlie Rangel, would extend the current 30% commercial investment tax credit for eight years, while the cap on residential tax credits would be increased to \$4,000 from \$2,000 and would be extended for six years. Over 100,000 jobs

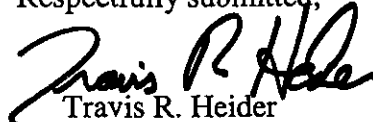
and nearly \$20 billion dollars of investments could be at stake if these credits are not extended and this opportunity is allowed to sunset by Congress according to the American Wind Energy Association and Solar Energy Industries Association.

President Bush has declared his opposition to this initiative when he threatened to veto Congress's 2007 Energy Bill due to the inclusion of solar tax credits. This legislation aims at the extension of a successful economic tool that not only encourages investment in this renewable energy source but also job creation. The \$18 billion in lost tax revenues are to be offset by incurring additional revenues from the oil and gas industry.

In his most recent State of the Union Address, President Bush called for the replacement of up to three-quarters of imported petroleum by the United States by 2025. Alternative forms of energy production will help our nation accomplish this goal, while also promoting greater national security. It is time for the President to act upon his energy objectives, and work with Congress to extend this successful energy policy.

Therefore, we ask you to join us in urging the U.S Congress to pass and President George W. Bush to sign into law H.R. 5351, the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008.

Respectfully submitted,



Travis R. Heider
Legislator - District 14



Harry B. Bronson
Democratic Minority Leader



Carrie M. Andrews
Assistant Minority Leader

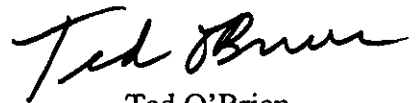
Richard A. Beebe
Legislator - District 6



Carmen F. Gumina
Legislator - District 8



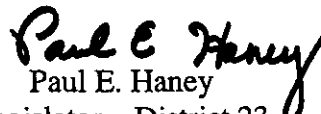
Vincent Esposito
Legislator - District 16




Ted O'Brien
Legislator - District 17



Glenn J. Gamble
Legislator - District 22



Paul E. Haney
Legislator - District 23



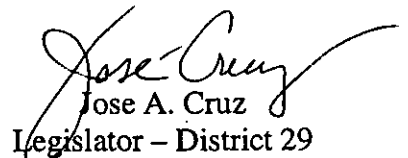
C. Stephen Eckel
Legislator - District 26




Willie Joe Lightfoot
Legislator - District 27

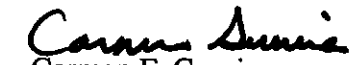



Cynthia W. Kaleh
Legislator - District 28




Jose A. Cruz
Legislator - District 29



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