

Washington, DC -- To help local school districts faced with budget pressures invest in cost saving alternative energy upgrades, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) joined a bipartisan majority in the U.S. House of Representatives in voting for legislation which includes \$16.2 million in federal school modernization grants for school districts in the 24th Congressional District - saving taxpayers money, creating construction jobs, and improving educational resources.

“These federal grants will allow local school districts to modernize schools with locally-produced renewable energy – helping students and the local economy alike,” **said Arcuri, who successfully amended the legislation to help area schools reduce costs by investing in locally produced renewable energy systems**

. “By investing in alternative energy modernization we can reduce costs and lower the burden on local taxpayers, while investing in the best learning environment for our children.”

The 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facility Act (H.R. 2187), passed by the House today, authorizes \$6.4 billion nationwide in fiscal year 2010 for public school modernization, renovation, and repair projects that are intended to improve the teaching and learning climate, energy efficiency, and the environmental impact of our nation’s school. School districts in the 24th Congressional District will be eligible for an estimated \$16.2 million in Local Education Agency (LEA) grants. Individual school district amounts can be found here: <http://edlabor.house.gov/documents/111/pdf/publications/HR2187estLEAgrants-fy09%20only-20090513.pdf>

Federal funding for the modernization, renovation, or repair of school facilities can be spent quickly and efficiently to address the loss of 1.3 million construction jobs nationwide over the last year and half. Analyses of the bill estimate that this bill would support 136,000 new jobs.

Last June, the House passed the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (H.R. 3021), however it was not taken up by the Senate. During consideration by the House, Arcuri successfully added two amendments to the bill, both of which are included in the legislation passed today.

Arcuri co-sponsored an amendment to enable a local educational agency receiving a federal grant to use the grant for solar, photovoltaic, wind, geothermal, or biomass, including wood

pellet, renewable energy generation systems. These technologies will help to mitigate the costs of the increasing traditional energy sources on our schools by reducing the schools' dependence on traditional sources. Under Arcuri's amendment, local alternative energy companies, like New England Wood Pellet's plant in Schuyler, NY, could join with local school districts to upgrade educational facilities with cost effective alternative energy systems.

Arcuri also successfully amended the bill to require professional installation of fire and life-safety alarms purchased by schools to ensure the safety and security of local students and teachers. This requirement was strongly supported by the National Burglar & Fire Alarm Association.

The 21st Century High-Performing Public Schools Facilities Act (H.R. 2187) would:

- Require the majority of funds (100 percent by 2015) to be used for projects that meet green building standards. A green school uses 30 percent less energy and 30 percent less water than a conventional school and green schools reduce harmful carbon dioxide emissions by 40 percent.
- Save money in the short-term and in the long-term through the use of green building techniques. In the short-term, green schools have an average savings of \$96,760 per year. In the long-term, savings from green buildings average \$70 per square foot. A green school typically utilizes 33 percent less energy and 32 percent less water.

Since taking office, Arcuri has championed legislation that will invest in alternative energy technology to bring consumer costs down and grow our domestic economy.

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