

### *Local Congressman Breaks Ranks with House Speaker and Democratic Leadership*

**WASHINGTON, DC** - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) released the following statement regarding his vote against energy legislation (H.R. 2454) - commonly referred to as "cap and trade" - authored by the House Democratic Leadership that stands to increase utility rates for Upstate New York families and businesses, overburden domestic manufacturers, and incentivize the development of additional electric transmission lines.

"There is no doubt that my vote on this bill was one of the most difficult I have had to make since I have been a Congressman. However, I was sent to Washington by the people in the 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District to make these tough decisions. Let me first be clear, I want to act as a steward for the environment, but I was elected to protect the welfare of my constituents and in doing so I could not vote for a bill that is so likely to have a negative impact on jobs and the economy in Upstate New York.

"Some of my colleagues claim that this bill will create as many jobs as it would cost, but there is no guarantee where those jobs would be located. We all know that New York State already has some of the highest electricity rates in the country, and if those rates were to dramatically increase as a result of this legislation, it would almost certainly cost jobs in Upstate New York and discourage new businesses from locating here.

"I also know that when my constituents approach me in the grocery store or on the street they talk about how hard they must work just to make ends meet and if there was even a chance that this bill could cause the already high price of energy in Upstate New York to increase, I could not, in good faith, support this piece of legislation."

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