

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) celebrated Earth Day today and pledged to continue his work in Congress to protect the environment, fight global warming, develop new jobs and grow the economy in Upstate New York.

"In Congress, we have taken key steps towards achieving a 'green' future, and I am committed to working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make sure we keep moving forward," said Arcuri. "I don't think anyone needs reminding just how critical it is for us to invest in alternative energy and renewable technology – anyone who has filled up the gas tank or paid a heating bill recently already knows."

Today, Arcuri attended the opening of Fiberdyne Energy at Fiberdyne Labs in Frankfort, NY. Fiberdyne has implemented solar technologies and developed various wind turbine technologies to power energy efficient lighting.

"This Earth Day, it is important to highlight that harnessing solar technologies and improving energy efficiency, as Fiberdyne does, is a win-win," said Arcuri "It's a win for our nation because it reduces the need for fossil fuels so that our grandchildren can enjoy a pristine and beautiful environment – and it's a win for our region because it helps our local economy thrive. Our region can and should be a nationwide leader in alternative energy production."

Since taking office, Arcuri has strongly supported, and Congress has passed, landmark legislation to create new green collar jobs, cut energy costs and end our dependence on foreign oil.

The historic and bipartisan Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, signed into law at the end of last year, will increase vehicle fuel efficiency standards and help save American families \$700 to \$1,000 per year at the gas pump. New building, appliance and lighting efficiency standards included in the new law will save consumers \$400 billion through 2030. Additionally, the new law will help save 5.3 billion metric tons in energy-related CO2 emissions from 2008-2030 and cut the growth in energy-related emissions of CO2 by 10 percent.

Arcuri also strongly supported, and the House passed, The Renewable Energy and Energy

Conservation Tax Act (H.R. 5351) which includes over \$8 billion in long-term clean renewable energy tax incentives for electricity produced from renewable resources such as wind, solar, biomass and hydropower. H.R. 5351 contains incentives to expand production of homegrown fuels, including creating a new production tax credit for cellulosic ethanol.

“We don’t own this earth- we are merely stewards of it for future generations,” Arcuri added. “We owe it to our children to leave them with a planet at least as good, if not better, than the way it came to us.”

Arcuri has been a strong champion of environmental issues. During the first session of the 110th Congress, Arcuri achieved a 90% voting record on environmental issues, according to the League of Conservation Voters (LCV). Arcuri voted to support the inclusion of a Renewable Electricity Standard that would have required 15 percent of the nation’s electricity to be generated from renewable sources by the year 2020 and to prohibit the construction of logging roads in the Tongass National Forest.

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