

I am committed to addressing our nation's growing demand for energy through the development of clean and alternative energy sources – making America energy independent and boosting the economy. I am proud to represent an area of the country that is truly ahead of the curve in private development and use of alternative energies like wind and solar power.

Access to biofuel sources, our local scientific and technological community, and proximity to major metropolitan centers make Upstate perfectly poised to become a leader in alternative energy.

Since taking office, I have gathered business leaders, scientific experts, and citizens together to begin a process to make Upstate New York a major alternative energy center. I held a public roundtable meeting with area experts and community members to collect local ideas on alternative and renewable energy programs that would benefit Upstate New York both economically and environmentally. [Read More](#)

In Washington, I have cosponsored two pieces of legislation specifically designed to increase the research, production, and implementation of alternative energy sources.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the CLEAN Energy Act (H.R. 6), which would repeal \$14 billion in subsidies given to big oil and gas companies and invest those funds in clean, renewable energy research and development. [Read More](#)

The U.S House of Representatives also passed the Advanced Fuels Infrastructure Research and Development Act (H.R. 547) to make alternative fuels like cellulosic ethanol more affordable and accessible. [Read More](#)

I am also a cosponsor of the Program for Real Energy Security (PROGRESS) Act, (H.R. 1300) which would create a national initiative for alternative energy production and increased energy efficiency to make America energy independent and advance our economic, national and environmental security. [Read More](#)

In Congress, we have taken action against skyrocketing gas prices and passed legislation to crack down on price-gouging as well as allow the Justice Department to take legal action against oil price fixing by OPEC nations. [Read More](#)

Fighting NYRI's Power Line Proposal

I've lived in Upstate New York nearly my entire life, and I can say without hesitation that no other issue has ever generated so much opposition from the community at-large.

I assure you, I will not stop fighting NYRI's plan to cut a scar through our backyards and our communities. Since my election last November, I have fought at every turn, and in every way possible, to prevent NYRI from using federal eminent domain to construct a power line. We are committed to continuing the fight and putting up as many roadblocks as we can to this ill-conceived proposal.

You can be sure the voices of residents most affected by NYRI's poorly-planned and ill-conceived power line proposal will be heard.

At the Federal level, the greatest challenge we face in opposing this project is Section 1221 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This law allows the Department of Energy (DOE) and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to override the judgment of state and local policymakers in approving projects like the one proposed by NYRI.

I joined my colleagues U.S. Reps. John Hall and Maurice Hinchey in introducing two pieces of legislation that would effectively prevent NYRI from using federal eminent domain law to condemn private property along the proposed route. [Read More](#)

I also successfully amended the Rail & Public Transportation Security Act to require the

Departments of Homeland Security and Transportation to evaluate the safety and security of placing high voltage direct current electric transmission power lines along active railroad rights-of-way. [Read More](#)

When the DOE announced a draft National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC) covering a vast majority of New York State in April, I joined my colleagues, Reps. Hinchey and Hall, and demanded that the DOE hold hearings to hear from residents in Upstate New York. I have also requested Congressional hearings on this federal policy that takes away local rights in all states except for a large part of Texas. [Read More](#)

The DOE's decision to hold a public meeting in Rochester in June was insulting and unacceptable. The purpose of public hearings was supposedly to provide people most affected by a power line proposal to voice their concerns and to question DOE officials.

To give the people of the 24th district a change to voice their concerns, I hosted 2 public meetings - in Utica and Norwich. I collected hundreds of public comment forms to submit to the DOE in Washington, D.C. [Read More](#)