

Washington, DC -- Today, U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) praised the State of New York and Morrisville State College for investing \$4 million in SUNY Research Foundation funding for construction of a “green” biofuel facility in Cortland County.

“With our natural resources, top-notch local scientific and technological community, and central proximity to major metropolitan centers -- Upstate New York is perfectly poised to become a national leader in alternative energy production,” Arcuri said. “Alternative energy production projects, like a biodiesel fuel plant here in Cortland County, benefit the environment and provide a boost to the local economy. Construction and the daily workings of a plant such as this will create jobs and strengthen economic development - at the same time making our air and water cleaner for the next generation and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.”

Earlier this year, the House of Representatives passed – with Arcuri’s support – the CLEAN Energy Act, which would repeal \$14 billion in subsidies given to big oil and gas companies over 10 years and invest those funds in clean, renewable energy research and development. Additionally, the measure would ensure oil companies that were awarded the 1998 and 1999 leases for drilling pay correct royalties to the federal government. The bill would also create a Strategic Renewable Energy Reserve to invest in clean, renewable energy resources and alternative fuels, promote new energy technologies, develop greater efficiency and improve energy conservation.

“The 110th Congress is 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,” Arcuri said.

“Construction of a biorefinery here in Upstate New York is an incredible example of the power of partnerships between local Universities, the business community, farmers and the environmental community to bring prosperity and progress to Cortland County.”

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