

Washington, DC -- In honor of Earth Day on Sunday, April 22nd, U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) issued the following statement:

“On Earth Day this year we have cause for both concern and hope. Global climate change is real, and addressing our nation’s addiction to fossil fuels may well be the greatest challenge of our time. Sitting back and doing nothing to change our nation’s energy policy puts our economy, our environment, and our national security at risk.

“In just a few short months, House Democrats have taken necessary first steps to reverse this devastating trend, reclaim our clean air and water, and invigorate our economy with new technology and energy independence.

“In January, the House of Representatives passed the CLEAN Energy Act to increase federal investment in renewable energy by repealing subsidies to big oil companies. We created a ‘Renewable Energy Account’ to fund conservation research and development of alternative fuels. As a result, I gathered business leaders, scientific experts, and citizens together in Lansing earlier this year to discuss how best to use these resources and to begin a process to make Upstate New York a major alternative energy center.

“Our region can and should be a leading source of alternative energy – with our central location and commitment to innovation. We can be a champion of renewable energies – not only as a way to ensure an inhabitable world for our children and grandchildren, but to help our local economy thrive.

“Since coming to Congress, I have co-sponsored several important pieces of legislation that would provide the decisive action we need to address global warming. The PROGRESS Act promotes new energy technologies and conservation, providing incentives to encourage domestic development of fuel efficient vehicles. It keeps a promise I made months ago, to fight in Congress for incentives to encourage domestic development of fuel efficient vehicles and ensure that the federal fleet of vehicles comply with the highest standards of fuel efficiency. I am also a cosponsor of the SAFE Climate Act, which sets emissions reduction limits and other standards and establishes an emissions credit trading system.

“I am proud to be part of a Congress that has set forth a national initiative for alternative energy production and increased energy efficiency to make America energy independent and advance our economic, national, and environmental security.

“With resources right here in Upstate New York and a commitment from Congress, we are moving in a new direction to permanently address global climate change and make our nation energy independent.”

###