

Invest in a Prosperous and Healthy America

GREENJOBS
ADVOCACY DAY

FEBRUARY 10, 2011

1. Create Clean Energy Jobs

Get off the sidelines through innovative financing for clean energy.

Innovation creates new markets and new markets create new jobs. Although the global market for clean energy is estimated at \$1.7 trillion to \$2.3 trillion over the next decade, the U.S. is falling behind in the competition to create clean energy industries and the good, green jobs they involve. We've already let China eclipse us in producing wind turbines and solar panels, and China is now pumping \$12 billion *a month* into its clean energy sector. Expanding access to low-cost financing is urgently needed to increase U.S. investment in renewables and energy efficiency, to reduce the cost of deployment and to bring innovative technologies to market.

- The federal government should provide additional financing support for energy efficiency and emerging renewable energy technologies to enable the private sector to help solve the capital-related issues that weigh down American clean energy businesses today relative to their Chinese counterparts. One example of such a mechanism is the implementation of a well-designed Clean Energy Deployment Administration.

Ignite manufacturing and deployment.

Renewable energy technologies are ready to be widely manufactured and deployed in America. Significant job opportunities exist throughout our domestic wind and solar energy supply chain. Currently, we lack adequate long-term policies to ignite deployment, truly revamp our energy systems and create millions of American jobs. We can begin to change this by:

- Passing a federal **Renewable Energy Standard** and ensuring that we invest in improving and expanding our transmission lines to support renewables and moving to smart grid technologies.
- Creating **incentives for manufacturers** to build clean energy products in America through tax credits such as the Advanced Manufacturing Tax Credit, and financing programs such as the loan guarantees created in the IMPACT Act, which was introduced in the 111th Congress.

Put Americans to work making homes, businesses and industries more energy efficient.

The most easily achieved energy improvements come from efficiency gains, yet, too often, these projects are bogged down by lack of capital or clear-cut incentives. Our homes, buildings and industries can dramatically cut their energy use and, in some cases, become energy producers. Achieving these gains will put thousands of people to work manufacturing, retrofitting and building, and will help shore up our sagging construction industry and decrease energy costs. To do this, we need the proper policies. For example:

- Pass an **Energy Efficiency Resource Standard**. A robust national policy that increases the energy efficiency of America's homes, offices and factories is critical to achieving short- and long-term progress toward a clean energy economy.

- **Residential Efficiency.** Programs and incentives that encourage homeowners to retrofit their houses and ensure that the quality of work is high will cut energy use and consumers' bills while putting people back to work.
- **Building Efficiency.** Programs and incentives that encourage building owners to invest in energy-efficient equipment and services will cut costs for small businesses and make a big dent in our country's energy use.
- **Industrial Efficiency.** Our nation's manufacturing sector accounts for more than a quarter of the nation's energy use. It also employs millions of Americans. A package of investments and incentives that breaks down barriers and long-standing hurdles and encourages combined heat and power, waste heat recovery, and other improvements, will enhance competitiveness and productivity.

Ensure a skilled 21st century workforce.

Producing and implementing innovations in energy requires workers to have the skills set and knowledge base appropriate for the new and advanced clean energy industries. Our workforce undoubtedly has the ability to attain these skills, but we must ensure that all are provided the opportunity.

- By providing full long-term funding of the **Green Jobs Act**, we will create an excellent framework to prepare our future clean energy workers from all walks of life, from those simply excited about diving into these new industries to those searching for a pathway out of poverty.
- Requiring that projects receiving federal assistance comply with **prevailing wage laws and other important labor standards** will ensure that workers engaged in the clean energy economy are afforded the opportunity to earn a decent living while working within these emerging industries.

2. America's Economy Requires 21st Century Transportation

We are well into the 21st century, but American transportation is still rooted firmly in the 20th. Our highways, transit and rail infrastructure need massive investment; further delay only hinders our economy and limits employment potential. Investments in a 21st century transportation system, as well as building the next generation of cleaner and electric vehicles, will create manufacturing jobs across the nation. These investments, coupled with incentives to domestically source many of the components of our vehicles and infrastructure and expand production of clean fuels, will help ensure America remains the world's leading economy while also reducing pollution and ending our dependence on foreign oil.

- **Pass a Comprehensive Transportation Reauthorization Bill.** The 112th Congress needs to pass a comprehensive **Transportation Reauthorization bill** that moves people and goods more efficiently, and simultaneously increases our energy independence, protects our environment, and creates good jobs. **By passing a Transportation Reauthorization bill**, America is investing in our highways, rail, transit systems, and biking and walking infrastructure that can create millions of jobs in manufacturing, operations, and prevailing wage construction jobs.

- **Empower ports to create good, green jobs.** Reauthorization must also include Congressman Nadler's **Clean Ports Act of 2011** to ensure programs like the Port of Los Angeles Clean Truck Program can be fully implemented in order to improve the public health of the 87 million Americans who breathe diesel soot-contaminated air every day, improve working conditions for our nation's 100,000 port truck drivers and create quality jobs at ports across the country.
- **Ensure American leadership in the next generation of vehicles.** We need to support American automakers as they retool to build highly-efficient vehicles, and invest in advanced/ electric vehicles, battery and component R&D, and manufacturing. These investments have demonstrated that they create jobs and enhance U.S. competitiveness in critical emerging industries. Congress should prioritize the development of electrified infrastructure to make these advanced vehicles a more viable component of our transportation system and to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

3. Protect the Health of Our Communities and Workplaces

A 21st century economy with good, green jobs requires the balance of 21st century regulations and laws to protect the health and safety of workers and communities.

- **Oppose clean-air rollbacks.** EPA's existing authority to protect the health of all Americans by curtailing air and water pollution should be preserved, including its legal obligation to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under the 2007 Supreme Court ruling. Congress must also provide investments and policies to assist companies in retooling and becoming more efficient, to provide for a just transition and to ensure fair competition internationally.
- **Reform our laws on toxics.** The broken and ineffective **Toxics Substances Control Act (TSCA) of 1976** needs to be reformed to protect the public from cancer, learning and developmental disabilities, reproductive harm, and other chronic illnesses and disease caused by exposure to toxic chemicals. Congress must pass reform legislation similar to the TSCA bills introduced by Congressmen Rush and Waxman and Senator Lautenberg last year.
- **Update U.S. safety and health laws.** The 40-year-old Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) must be updated with passage of the **Protecting American Workers Act (PAWA)**. New laws, regulations and appropriations, including full funding for the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, should be added to prevent more disasters like the Deepwater Horizon explosion and subsequent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and the explosion at the Massey Upper Big Branch Mine in West Virginia.