



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON

Mayor Mary Clare Higgins
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April 18, 2007

The Honorable Richard E. Neal
2208 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

ATTN: Melissa Mueller

RE: Solar Energy Tax Credits in H.R. 550

Dear Congressman Neal:

I ask you to co-sponsor and support the Securing America's Energy Independence Act, H.R. 550. This legislation would benefit the City of Northampton by adding more high-paying jobs and investment and jump-starting the use of clean solar power in our city. Please use your influence on the Ways and Means Committee to ensure that the solar tax provisions in H.R. 550 are enacted into law this year.

As part of our commitment to reduce greenhouse gases associated with municipal facilities and operations, Northampton has joined the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign and taken steps to implement energy efficiency and clean energy measures.

The Securing America's Energy Independence Act would support our city's use of solar power by extending the solar investment tax credit (ITC) through 2016. This long-term policy would help make solar an economic choice for more of our residents, provide companies with the stability to make major new investments, and create quality-high tech jobs. The longer the tax credits are in place, the faster the cost of solar energy will fall as the industry creates economies of scale.

I applaud your leadership to make our country a world leader in solar energy development. As Congress works to pass comprehensive energy legislation, I urge you to continue your efforts and ensure that H.R. 550, the Securing America's Energy Independence Act, is enacted this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Clare Higgins".

MARY CLARE HIGGINS
Mayor of Northampton