

*At Green Energy Summit of Elected Officials, Israel, Levy, Suozzi Commence Comprehensive Effort to Position LI as Advanced Energy Corridor*



Hauppauge, NY—On Friday, U.S. Representative Steve Israel (D-NY) and County Executives Steve Levy (D-Suffolk) and Tom Suozzi (D-Nassau) released a comprehensive, “best practices” review of green energy initiatives on Long Island and launched a planning process to position Long Island as an advanced energy corridor of the United States.

“Transforming Long Island’s economy to an advanced energy corridor will not only reduce our nation’s dependence on foreign oil, but will also create new jobs and draw new talent to Long Island,” said Congressman Israel, a Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water. “Long Island has transformed its economy once before. Facing the grave threat of World War II and the Cold War, Route 110 went from potato fields and pumpkin farms to the defense capital of America. We now must transform again to meet this generation’s greatest threat. I’ve spent the past several years canvassing our regional strengths and have heard from numerous towns and organizations on Long Island that have initiated clean energy projects. These energy initiatives already exist but can be bolstered through collaboration and coordination. Today’s summit did just that.”

“In my 2006 State of the County Address, I stressed that we should embark on an ambitious plan to create an identity for Long Island as being the nation’s capital in alternative energy research and development,” said Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy. “This Forum helps place this concept into action.”

“In Nassau County, we’ve preserved some of our last remaining open spaces and farmland, planted an organic farm at Old Bethpage Village Restoration and have just taken the first steps towards making Levittown, our nation’s first suburb, into our nation’s first green suburb,” said County Executive Suozzi. “It is important for our local governments to work together and share ideas for reducing energy use, improving energy efficiency and saving taxpayer money so that Long Island can be a model for green energy practices.”

“LIPA has been sowing the seeds of an effective partnership between the authority, local municipalities and school districts in changing attitudes about energy consumption and in

creating tangible energy efficient projects that are actually reducing consumption," said LIPA CEO and President Kevin S. Law. "LIPA is committed to expanding these opportunities into the future and I am optimistic that with the leadership of Congressman Israel and the many elected officials who attended this summit today that we can truly change the energy future of Long Island."

Friday's summit, moderated by Newsday's Tim Knight, included a keynote address from LIPA's Kevin Law and a forum where several of the 30 elected officials in attendance shared best practices for reducing energy use, improving energy efficiency and saving tax dollars. The document released by Israel, Levy and Suozzi on Friday will serve as a background document to guide elected officials as they work together to green Long Island.

Israel, Levy, Suozzi and Law also announced the creation of a working group to position Long Island as an "Advanced Energy Corridor." Long Island has already transitioned from an agricultural and suburban economy in the 1950s to the "defense capital of America" in the 1980s. Today, Long Island has the inherent infrastructure, skilled labor base, and research and development capabilities to be a center for advanced energy progress in the United States.

On Long Island, many different businesses, governments and educational institutions have been developing their own clean energy capabilities, but there has not been a comprehensive "green-print" developed to account for all these initiatives. This summit begins the process by developing a comprehensive inventory of these commitments. Friday's summit provided the first installment of a "green-print" that will foster the development of advanced energy technologies on Long Island.

Nassau County is seeking to transform Levittown, America's First Suburb, into America's first "Green Suburb." Suffolk County is seeking to develop Yaphank as a key area for advanced energy research and development to build the local economy. As a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water, Congressman Israel is working to provide funding and investments for the local energy priorities that are a result of this comprehensive initiative.

Participants of the summit, which included elected and non-elected leaders from towns, villages, school board and not-for-profit groups, were asked to commit themselves to a few certain and specific, achievable goals aimed at doing their part to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and develop a clean energy economy. These commitments will provide a snapshot of where Long Island stands now and where it should be in the next 10 years. Once a "green-print" is developed, Israel, Levy, Suozzi and Law will organize a coherent federal, state and local strategy to support new and existing advanced energy projects throughout Long Island.