

Floor Statement of Rep. Jerry McNerney
Safe Climate Caucus
March 13, 2013

Mr. Speaker,

I rise today to raise awareness of how energy use impacts climate change and to show by example what is being done about it. Our nation continues to rely on high polluting energy sources that threaten our climate and threaten our national security. We need to focus at all levels of government- federal, state, and local- as well as the private sector to promote clean energy and energy efficiency. State and federal facilities, above all else, should be the gold standard for clean energy and energy efficiency.

For example, Lincoln Unified School District – located in Stockton, California - recently committed to placing solar panels on rooftops throughout the school district. Lincoln was able to purchase these solar panels through low-interest Clean Renewable Energy Bonds to help finance this project that is estimated to save \$1 million per year in energy costs. Not only does this project increase use of clean energy sources, but all savings will be put back into educational programs. This is truly a win-win for our youth.

In addition, the University of the Pacific – also located in Stockton – has increased energy efficiency and sustainability. Pacific installed solar panels, energy-efficient light bulbs in the quad and other locations, a robust recycling program, and a replacement chiller on its air conditioning system that uses 52 percent less energy than the old chiller. It is impressive that these advancements were led by both students and faculty at Pacific.

These are just two reasons why I am introducing the Solar Energy Deployment Act. We need to encourage greater use of solar and other clean energies in our neighborhoods and on public and private lands.

The Solar Energy Deployment Act awards grants on a competitive basis to state and local governments to design and install solar equipment on rooftops or above parking lots they own.

I commend the efforts made by schools and public entities, such as Lincoln Unified, University of the Pacific, and others across California and the U.S. that are making concerted efforts to utilize clean energy sources and to become more energy efficient.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield back.