



WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman John Olver delivered the following remarks on the floor of the House of Representatives in support of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations Conference Report:

"Mister Speaker, I am proud to stand here today in support of the Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations Conference Report.

I'd like to thank the Chairman, Mr. Pastor, and the Ranking Member, Mr. Frelinghuysen for their great work on this legislation, and praise them for their cooperation and bi-partisanship.

Because of their work, and the excellent work of our subcommittee staff, we have before us a comprehensive, fair, and targeted bill that makes significant investments in our country's future and in the goal of achieving energy independence.

We've been able to do this with only a slight increase of \$200 million over last year's funding level.

These investments will build on the success of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act in developing a clean energy economy to create more American jobs.

I'm particularly grateful that this bill increases by over 10%, funding for the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy program. This program, funded at \$2.2 billion, invests in producing cleaner and more efficient energy technologies to produce inexpensive energy from domestic sources.

Included is \$225 million for Solar Energy research, \$311 million to improve vehicle and battery technology, and \$200 million for research into improving energy efficiency in commercial and residential buildings – which currently consume about 40% of our nation's total energy usage.

As a scientist, I am also pleased to see \$4.9 billion for the Office of Science's basic and applied science research programs. Such investments are critical to maintaining America's place as a leader in the world economy.

Additionally, this legislation supports President Obama's historic commitment to nuclear non-proliferation by providing \$2.1 billion for securing vulnerable nuclear material. This will protect Americans from the risk of nuclear material falling into terrorists' hands by securing stockpiles in the former Soviet Union. The money will improve our ability to stop nuclear and

radiological materials from being smuggled into the U.S.

Again, I strongly support this bi-partisan legislation and I urge my colleagues to vote yes on final passage."

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