

NICHOLAS MAVROULES
6TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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May 24, 1982

Mr. Paul E. Healy
City Clerk
City of Cambridge
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Healy:

Knowing of your concern for our shared future, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss with you a matter which affects all of us TODAY - our energy future.

We are all aware that America's lifeline, and its Achilles heel, is oil. There is no more serious threat to the long-term economic and military security of this country than that which stems from the growing deficiency of secure and assured energy resources. The 1973 Arab oil embargo alerted us all to the vulnerability of our dependence on petroleum products.

Unfortunately, it is too easy to join a mindset that views all energy technologies and sources other than fossil fuels and nuclear power as something of the future.

However, we can no longer afford to waste precious nonrenewable energy resources when there are renewable energy alternatives available TODAY.

I have long been a supporter of renewable energy resources - solar, wind and geothermal, to name a few.

But federal budget constraints are placing a severe strain on America's energy stability. Though nuclear, coal and oil have continued to receive a great deal of federal support, our renewable energy programs have unreasonably suffered this past year.

The Fiscal Year 1982 Department of Energy appropriations for solar energy research was a mere \$275.45 million, a 54% decrease from Fiscal Year 1981.

Furthermore, if the Administration carries out its plan to dismantle the DOE, then the technological research and development needed before solar and other renewable energy alternatives can become fully cost competitive with electricity from other sources will be slowed down dramatically.

What makes our dependence on oil even more precarious is the Department of Defense's highly vulnerable reliance on oil. Some 80% of DOD's total energy needs must be met by petroleum products.

However, if an energy savings could be realized in the DOD, it would have a significant impact on the nation at large.

The American people have a right to demand that the Pentagon, the largest user of energy in the federal sector, do its part to help shift American energy utilization from nonrenewable energy sources to renewable ones.

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To that end, I introduced HR 5005, the Department of Defense Renewable Energy Utilization Act, which has been incorporated into the military installations appropriations bill and approved by the full Armed Services Committee. There is little doubt that it will be passed by the House, and become law.

This bill authorizes the DOD to procure energy systems powered by photovoltaics (a form of solar energy) and other renewable forms of energy wherever cost effective and applicable.

This bill will assure a growing market for energy systems powered by solar and other renewable forms of energy and will hasten the general commercial, residential, industrial, agricultural and governmental uses of such systems in the U.S. and abroad, thus reducing our dependence on foreign oil sources.

Over the past 25 years, photovoltaic systems have been shown to be highly reliable and workable energy resources. In fact, a highly successful photovoltaic demonstration project is here in the sixth district, in Beverly, MA.

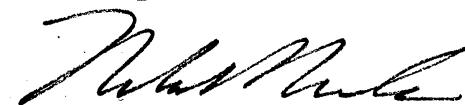
All fuel costs (i.e. sunlight) for photovoltaic systems are free, and maintenance and operations costs are reduced to an occasional cleaning of the panels in dusty areas. Today, these systems are less expensive, on a life cycle basis, than small diesels, primary batteries and thermo-electric systems.

The future has arrived. Solar energy and other renewables are proving their reliability and usefulness time and time again.

We have the opportunity to enhance America's energy future. We have everything to gain and nothing to lose by this effort.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,



Nicholas Mavroules
Member of Congress

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S-455

Comm. from Paul E. Healy, City Clerk, transmitting comm. from Rep. Nicholas Mavroules, relative to renewable energy sources.

In City Council,

June 7, 1982

Placed on File