

Jim Himes: An Advocate for Clean Energy

“As countries around the world race to find alternatives to fossil fuels, we must ensure that America reasserts a leading role in creating a safe and secure clean energy future. The country that leads in clean energy development will emerge as the strongest economic power, and our national security demands we control our own energy future. We do not need to choose between economic strength and environmental protection. By creating the right set of financial incentives, we can achieve a significant and steady reduction in emissions while creating the new American industry that will employ your children and mine”—Jim Himes

Reducing our Dependence on Foreign Oil through Efficiency and Innovation

While the most productive way to control costs is to increase our energy efficiency, we must also face the reality that our modern world depends on cheap available energy. We simply cannot keep sending billions of dollars to dangerous Middle East countries to purchase oil. Policies Jim has supported would:

- Cut the use of oil by more than 5 million barrels a day by 2030. That is equivalent to all the oil we currently import from the Middle East and Venezuela, or one quarter of our nation’s current total daily consumption.
- Provide incentives for the use and development of smart-grid technologies that measure energy consumption and can safeguard the electricity grid from crashes and security compromises. This will protect the grid from security compromises that could halt energy availability nation-wide, and would have dangerous world-wide economic and political implications.

Creating Jobs in the Clean Energy Economy

The transition to clean energy will drive economic growth.

- The energy reform Jim helped pass would generate roughly \$2 billion per year in new clean energy investments in Connecticut over the next decade and 17,000 jobs.
- Legislation Jim helped pass will give more Americans the opportunity to install renewable-energy retrofits on their homes and businesses, spurring deployment of utility-scale solar and wind energy while creating tens of thousands of high-paying domestic jobs.
- Dollar for dollar, investments in a clean energy economy will create four times as many jobs as investments in the oil and gas industry.
- Studies find that clean energy jobs tend to pay about 20% above the national median average.

Ensuring Safety for Workers and the Environment

While we work toward a clean energy future, we must ensure that all of our current and future energy production adheres to the strictest safety and environmental standards. The recent tragedies on an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico and in a West Virginia coal mine serve as stark reminders of what can happen when safety standards are overlooked in the pursuit of short-sighted business interests. Protecting lives, livelihoods, natural resources and our planet’s fragile eco-system must never take a back seat as we strive to transition to a secure clean energy future.

Controlling Costs for Consumers, Businesses, and Home Owners

While the most efficient way to reduce energy costs is to use less, utility costs are one of the most significant expenses for families and businesses

- Energy consumers across Connecticut stand to benefit enormously from the *American Clean Energy and Security Act* Jim helped write and pass because it will bring the rest of the country into line with the market-based emissions limits already set by New England’s Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.
- Additionally, the Act makes energy efficient consumer products more affordable, invests in system-wide energy infrastructure, and makes energy efficient housing more accessible.
- Jim wrote and passed a provision that makes it more affordable to make a newly purchased or built home energy efficient.