

PRESS RELEASE

11th District
Massachusetts

Level
Lawrence
Lexington

50 Kearney St.
469 Essex St.
180 Bedford St.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - September 20, 1977

TSONGAS INTRODUCES SOLAR, OTHER ENERGY AMENDMENTS

U.S. Rep. Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.) will offer a number of amendments to stimulate research and development of solar and other renewable energy resources when the House takes up legislation to authorize programs for the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) today.

"I am convinced of the need to shift to the use of renewable resources to meet the crisis of dwindling supplies of oil, gas and nuclear fuels and our increasing reliance on imported energy," Tsongas stated. "Both the House and Senate have recognized this need by authorizing future purchases, after 1979, as part of the National Energy Act. My amendment speeds this up and calls for purchase in the coming year of \$28 million of systems which use solar cells to generate electricity, thereby providing incentives for mass production of the cells. This will reduce the cost and make solar energy competitive with non-renewable resources such as coal and oil."

The Tsongas amendment also calls for \$10 million for engineering and design to find out the best way to automate the manufacturing process. Cost savings to the Federal Energy Administration and the Defense Department have been estimated to be \$500 million and 142 million gallons of gasoline over the next five years when the conversion is made to solar photovoltaic systems.

Tsongas, who is a member of the House Ad Hoc Energy Committee, pointed out the advantages of solar energy to consumers who will benefit from the clean, non-polluting, noiseless systems which produce no fumes, no waste and no toxins. The amendment has been endorsed by groups representing labor, consumers and environmentalists as well as 50 Members of the House.

The package of amendments Rep. Tsongas will introduce also include those that will encourage the development of wind energy and the conversion of solid wastes to energy. He will push for the establishment of an educational program which would provide energy traineeships for graduate students in engineering and physical and social sciences related to energy.

-- 30 --

For additional information: Rich Arenberg, Washington: (202) 225-3411