

Congressman Rothman Votes to Boost American Innovation, National Security and Jobs

(Washington, DC) — Today, Congressman Steve Rothman (D — NJ), a member of the Science and Technology Committee, voted to strengthen our economy and national security by raising investment in alternative energies and fuel efficient vehicle technology. H.R. 3246, the Advanced Vehicle Technology Act will create the most comprehensive national vehicle research and development program to date, by advancing clean American energy and fuel efficiency. The Bill was adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 312 to 114.

“By investing in this American innovation, energy and technology that increases fuel efficiency, we are creating jobs, rebuilding our economy and protecting our national security,” said Rothman. “The Advanced Vehicle Technology Act is a long-term solution that will reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy and is part of a broad economic strategy to move this country out of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.”

The Advanced Vehicle Technology Act will build on the historic fuel efficiency standards enacted by Congress in 2007 and the success of the Cash for Clunkers program that rewarded Americans who turned in almost 700,000 gas-guzzling and air-polluting older cars for newer, more fuel-efficient models.

“New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the country and I am from one of the most densely populated areas of that state,” said Rothman. “We are plagued by congestion, and we need to figure out a way to transition from the cars that are on the road today to cleaner technology, to reduce pollution and increase energy efficiency.”

The Advanced Vehicle Technology Act is supported by a broad coalition, including labor groups like the United Autoworkers, auto companies such as Ford Motor Company, General Motors and Chrysler, business groups like the Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers and environmental groups, such as the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

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CONTACT: Carrie Giddins, 202-225-5061; 202-420-1524 (cell)