

On January 26, 2011, I introduced the Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Act of 2011 to boost the competitiveness of the U.S. clean technology industry both domestically and overseas. As part of the “ [Make it in America](#) ” manufacturing initiative, this legislation will help further the Sacramento region’s progress toward becoming a clean tech capital, and work to develop America as a leader in clean technology. The bill is co-sponsored by leading Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee, including Ranking Member Emeritus John D. Dingell (MI-15). This legislation passed the House last Congress, but was not considered by the Senate prior to adjournment.

America must continue to lead the way in innovation in order to both rebuild today’s economy, and bolster the industries of tomorrow. The clean energy sector is one area where the U.S. is unfortunately falling behind – and we must change that. America has an historic opportunity to become a leader in clean technology. My legislation will create a strategy for achieving our clean energy goals by encouraging American clean technology manufacturers across the country to sell their American products here at home and around the world.

Our nation’s clean tech industry is lagging behind many of its international competitors, particularly in exports. According to a recent U.S. Senate Report, the U.S. clean technology industry exported about \$7.7 billion in products and services between 2004 and 2008, compared to China’s \$22.7 billion and Germany’s \$19.6 billion. Moreover, the Department of Energy has found that the increase in exports of green technology could reach \$40 billion per year and could create more than 750,000 jobs by 2020.

The Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Act would create a Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Fund – to be administered by the International Trade Administration within the Department of Commerce – to help increase the competitiveness of American-made clean technology industry in the U.S. and in the international marketplace. The newly-created Fund would support the development, implementation, and sustainability of a National Clean Energy Technology Export Strategy, and assist U.S. Clean Tech firms with export assistance in finding and navigating foreign markets to sell their goods and services abroad.

This legislation would also help strengthen America’s domestic clean technology manufacturing industry by requiring the Fund to promote policies that will reduce production costs and encourage innovation, investment, and productivity in the domestic clean energy technology industry. In turn, that will help American companies increase their demand and create new, good jobs in communities like Sacramento.

From world-class universities and training facilities to a range of existing clean tech companies and forward-thinking utilities, Sacramento is uniquely positioned to become a national leader in a country working to become a global leader in clean technology. This legislation will foster growth in this sector and help jumpstart our local economy.