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\*\*\*Press Release\*\*\*

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## **Alessi urges Paterson to continue funding Solar Pioneer and Solar Entrepreneur Program**

Assemblyman Marc Alessi is urging Governor Paterson to continue funding the Solar Pioneer and Solar Entrepreneur Program through the end of the year. The program offers incentives to homeowners, businesses and municipalities to transition to clean, green and renewable energy sources.

“This program has been so successful that it is running out of funding,” Alessi said. “If we allow that to happen there could be a loss of 400 jobs at companies right here on Long Island, and could be a devastating setback to the program.”

Alessi is asking Paterson to release \$6-10 million in emergency funds from the Regional Green House Gas Initiative (RGGI). This would allow the program to continue and keep local contractors on the job. RGGI funds are reserved for energy saving and renewable programs – like the Solar Pioneer program – throughout the state.

“LIPA has been paying into the RGGI, and these funds are meant to come back to them to fund programs that reduce greenhouse gases – such as LIPA’s Solar Pioneer and Solar Entrepreneur Programs,” says **Marc Clejan, CEO of GreenLogic Energy**. “To date, very few of these RGGI funds have made it back to LIPA and LIPA desperately needs some funding from RGGI to keep the programs running till the new budget year. We urge Paterson to release these funds right away to keep these programs funded and these much needed Long Island jobs.”