



At Roots of Woodstock Live Concert

August 15, 2009

A Statement from
Assemblymember Kevin A. Cahill
101st Assembly District

As Chair of the Energy Committee in the New York State Assembly I have been taking on the issues of climate change and our economic future by pushing initiatives aimed at making our state energy independent. Whether it is legislation advancing comprehensive energy planning, clean renewable power, energy efficiency or green building, it is all aimed at that one ultimate goal, energy independence.

A commitment to energy independence and the development of a green economy will thrust us forward in the same way that development of trade routes did at the founding of this state some four hundred years ago; as the development of our post roads and canals did for the next two hundred years, and like our superhighway system and development of hydroelectric resources did during the 20th Century. New York has been able to define itself as the leader of every epoch of American history. And now in this 21st Century when the security of the Empire State depends is unquestionably and inextricably tied to energy, we have a chance to do it again.

Energy independence is right for New York in so many ways. By meeting our energy needs in New York State we will be shielded from the volatility of the global energy market. By reducing consumption we will lower energy costs, create new jobs, improve air quality and combat climate change. As we have so many times before, New York has the potential to lead the nation to a new, brighter future. This cannot and will not happen from the top down. **It is going to take the collective will of each and every New Yorker to help shift our focus to energy independence. I am proud to see that Woodstock, with its Zero Carbon Initiative, has decided to lead the way.**