

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3222

August 15, 2009

Dear Friends:

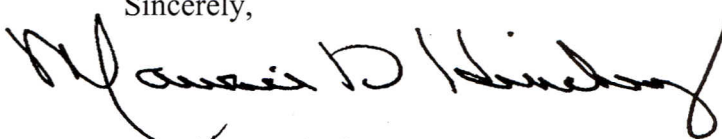
The 1969 Woodstock music festival was, among other things, a celebration of innovation. The festival took place during a time of renewed interest in politics that resulted in broad and sweeping changes in many arenas, including environmental policy and attitudes. The young and young-at-heart of the day used the energy and excitement of Woodstock to spread their passion for positive change by any means they could. They raised their voices and made their opinions heard by their lawmakers and by their country as a whole, resulting in an increase in environmentally friendly local, state, and federal policies. But they did more than that; they took it upon themselves to alter their personal actions in accordance with their beliefs about the necessity of protecting our precious environment, setting an example that we would all do well to follow.

This determination to turn words into action can still be seen in the residents of Woodstock today. While many people around the world are reluctant to commit to the enormous and worrisome task of combating human-induced climate change, the town of Woodstock's Zero-Carbon Initiative has set an incredibly ambitious and admirable goal of reducing the town's net carbon emissions to zero by 2017. This goal will be tough to reach, but if each of us commits to making certain changes in the way we go about our everyday lives, I am confident that the Zero-Carbon Initiative can succeed.

I regret that I cannot be in attendance today. I would love to take part in an event that both celebrates an unforgettably powerful musical movement and also supports the reduction of the town of Woodstock's carbon footprint. Thank you for supporting this important cause. We're all in this together, and every action counts.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



Maurice D. Hinchey