Dear NAME:

Thank you for contacting me with your strong support for investing more federal resources into a green economy and your support for a “green” budget.  I agree with you that America must invest in a sustainable green economy as climate change and global economic competition require this.

Here in Congress, I am a strong supporter of programs and policies that invest in renewable, sustainable and clean energy sources.  If America is to end our reliance on foreign oil, keep our environment clean and give our children the opportunity to live healthy lives then we must invest in a green future.  You will be pleased to know that I have co-sponsored several bills that would move America in that direction.

For example, I am proud to co-sponsor the American Jobs Act of 2011 (H.R. 12).  If enacted, this legislation would put Americans back to work by investing in the future; sustainable and renewable energy projects.  More specifically, the American Jobs Act of 2011 establishes the American Infrastructure Financing Authority (AIFA) as a wholly-owned government corporation to make direct loans and loan guarantees to facilitate transportation, water, or energy infrastructure projects.  By investing in critical energy infrastructure projects, we can put America on a path towards energy independence through renewable and sustainable energy sources.

Another bill that I’m pleased to co-sponsor is the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act (H.R. 139).  If this bill becomes law, it would designate the Arctic National Wildlife Refuges (ANWR) coastal plain as wilderness and components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, thereby shielding it from future oil exploration.  This 1.5 million acre coastal plain—often called "America's Serengeti " for its similarity to Africa's wildlife-rich plain—is America's premier birthing and nursing ground for Arctic wildlife.  The coastal plain is home to polar bears, grizzlies, wolves, golden eagles, snowy owls and a migrating herd of 130,000 caribou.  Additionally, I am a co-sponsor of the West Coast Ocean Protection Act (H.R. 612), which would amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit leases for the exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas in any area of the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of California, Oregon, or Washington.

Unfortunately, the House has not moved forward with conservation or green minded legislation during the current 112th session of Congress.  In fact, many of the bills that have been brought to the House floor for a vote are focused on eliminating significant regulations that help protect and preserve our waterways, wildlife, forests, open lands and the air we breathe.  It’s unlikely that legislation that moves America towards a sustainable and renewable energy future will come up for a vote in this session of Congress, but you can be assured that I remain adamantly committed to protecting our environment, conserving Americas’ natural resources and investing in a green future.   Thank you, again, for taking the time to share your thoughts with me and I hope you’ll keep in touch with me.