American Clean Energy and Security Act (H.R. 2454)
Myth vs. Fact

MYTH: H.R. 2454 is a "cap and tax" bill.
FACT: H.R. 2454 does not contain any tax provisions that will increase taxes on seniors, middle class families and small businesses. New Jersey residents will not see their taxes increase.

MYTH: The bill will raise energy costs for residents of New Jersey.
FACT: The bill includes provisions to protect consumers, including electricity consumers, from the economic impacts of the cap-and-trade program contained in the bill. Allowances would be allocated to electricity local distribution companies for the benefit of their customers. The bill explicitly requires that allowances be used for consumer benefit. **In New Jersey, residents will save approximately $6 each month on their energy bill due to the energy efficiency and consumer protection provisions of the bill.**

The bottom line is that transitioning off foreign oil and creating millions of jobs will have minimal impact on average households.

MYTH: This bill will cost jobs and stop economic growth.
FACT: This transition to clean energy is going to be a key driver for economic growth-unleashing private sector investment that will far outweigh government incentives. The measure will create millions of new American clean energy jobs that can't be shipped overseas - whether it's installing solar panels, manufacturing wind turbines, or renovating homes for greater energy efficiency - as well as entirely new industries. NJ could see a net increase of about $4.6 billion in investment revenue and 48,000 jobs.

The clean energy jobs plan promotes building a smart grid and the production of clean electric cars. The plan includes incentives for farmers and agriculture and provisions for retooling factories - a move that will breathe new life into America's manufacturing sector and assembly lines that have been left idle by this recession. Under the EPA's analysis of HR 2454, the nation's gross domestic product grows robustly - from $13 trillion in 2008 more than $22 trillion in 2030, as clean energy technology is deployed. In addition, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) reports that this bill will reduce the federal budget deficit by approximately $24 billion.

MYTH: This bill will harm manufacturing jobs and ship jobs overseas.
FACT: This legislation will strengthen U.S. global competitiveness, helping America become the world leader in new energy technologies, while preventing American job losses to other countries. Transitioning to a green economy will create good jobs manufacturing clean energy technologies, weatherizing and updating new energy efficient buildings, and making thousands of other products in America. A single wind turbine contains up to 400 tons of steel, along with 8,000 parts, from copper wire, gearboxes, and ball bearings to electronic controls. Jobs making these components must be created here in New Jersey. The clean energy jobs plan includes critical protection

measures for American workers and businesses to prevent the shifting of jobs to other countries. Under the bill, energy-intensive, trade-exposed industries like steel will receive allowances to cover transition costs as America moves toward energy independence. The auto industry will also receive incentives to manufacture electric and other advanced technology vehicles.

MYTH: It is unfair for America to take action on climate change when some of the biggest polluters in the world, like China and India, are not.
FACT: We need to enact this bill to make sure that America, and not China, becomes the leader in new energy technologies that will create millions of new jobs and be needed worldwide over the next decade. A comprehensive energy bill will unleash investments in new clean energy technologies that can be manufactured here in America and exported to nations like China and India.

MYTH: This bill requires homeowners pass an energy efficiency inspection prior to selling their homes.
FACT: The legislation does not require homeowners to upgrade the energy efficiency of their homes or obtain an energy inspection or rating prior to sale. There is nothing in this bill requiring national building codes for existing homes.
According to the National Association of Realtors, "The House-approved bill:
• Exempts existing homes and buildings from any federal guidelines for new construction energy efficiency information labels.
• Prohibits the implementation of any labeling during a sales transaction."
The legislation does contain building code standards for newly constructed buildings, but there are no requirements that existing homes or buildings be upgraded to meet any standards. The Building Energy Performance Labeling Program is limited to new construction only requiring, by January 2014, new residential buildings be constructed to use 30 percent less energy than comparable buildings built to "baseline" standards established in 2006.

The bill also provides incentives to lenders and financial institutions to provide lower interest loans and other benefits to consumers who build, buy, or remodel homes and businesses to improve their energy efficiency. These energy usage and efficiency standards are designed to increase public knowledge of building energy usage and efficiency without hindering real estate transactions. The legislation does not interfere with a consumer decision. It is up to the homeowner to decide whether to spend the money on upgrades for existing homes, just like they would to upgrade a bathroom or a kitchen.

MYTH: Small businesses will suffer as a result of climate change legislation.
FACT: This Spring, more than 22,000 small business owners delivered a petition to Congress calling for action on energy and climate. There are dozens of small and large companies in South Jersey that will benefit from this legislation as they develop the next generation of energy technologies.

MYTH: No member of Congress could have realistically read the entire bill.

FACT: Not true. The bill was formally introduced in the House on May 15th, 2009. It was marked up by the Committee on Energy and Commerce and reported out of that committee on June 6th. That was the version that was considered on the House floor on June 26th, giving members 20 days to read the bill. That was more than enough time. It is true that a 300 page amendment was offered; however, the vote did not take place until 20 hours after the amendment was reported, giving Congressman Adler plenty of time to read the final additions to the bill.