

Powering our Nation's Reservoirs

117th Congress

House Sponsors: Reps. Paul D. Tonko (D-NY) & Jared Huffman (D-CA)



"Floating solar offers tremendous opportunities to expand domestic renewable energy and protect our threatened water systems. Our legislation gets is done for our communities, our environment, and our economy!"

❖ Paul Tonko

Opportunities abound with floating solar!

- Floating solar increases renewable energy production without reducing available land.
- The water helps regulate the temperature of the panels, making them work more efficiently, and the panels help shade the water, reducing evaporation in regions impacted by historic droughts.
- Despite their promise and early successes, **FPVs (floating photovoltaics) make up only 2 percent of domestic solar installations.**
- The U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratories (NREL) estimates over 24,000 man-made water bodies in the U.S. are suitable for FPVs, including nearly 500 in New York.
- Deploying FPVs on just 27% of suitable water bodies could **produce almost 10% of current national electricity generation.**

Promising investments are underway

- Through the Community Project Funding process, **Rep. Tonko secured \$3 million in congressional funding as part of the FY22 federal budget for the City of Cohoes to build floating solar panels** on a municipal reservoir.
- The project could power all City-owned buildings & streetlights, **saving an estimated \$500,000 in annual electricity costs**, with 40% of the produced electricity still available for civic use.
- This investment shows the power of local and federal partnerships in strengthening energy infrastructure in a sustainable, and economically advantageous way.

Congress can help advance this technology!

The POWER our Reservoirs Act of 2022:

- ❖ Requires the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to study the feasibility of deploying floating solar panels on their reservoirs and make the results of the studies publicly available.
- ❖ Ensures that renewable energy from floating solar panels is considered as part of the USACE's annual Sustainability Report and Implementation Plan.
- ❖ Funds pilot programs at USACE and BOR to build floating solar panels on appropriate reservoirs.

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