

# Powering our Nation's Reservoirs



118<sup>th</sup> Congress

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

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Angus King (I-ME)

## 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 and more than 100 in Maine.
- Deploying FPVs on just 27% of suitable water bodies could **produce almost 10% of current national electricity generation.**

## Promising investments are underway

- The Water Resources Development Act of 2022 authorized \$10 million for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assess the potential for installing floating solar projects on Corps' assets.
- 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.
- These investments show 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:

- ❖ *The Protect our Waters and Expand Renewables on our Reservoirs Act of 2023*
- ❖ Requires 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.