

NEWS from the T&I DEMOCRATS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Democratic Caucus

U.S. House of Representatives, 2163 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515

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Contact: Jim Berard, 202-225-6260

Oberstar Bill Would Authorize ‘Sun Wall’ Photovoltaic system to be built at DOE HQ

WASHINGTON—The headquarters of the Department of Energy in Washington, D.C., will have a new feature, a photovoltaic array called the Sun Wall, under legislation introduced last night by Rep. James L. Oberstar (Minn.).

Oberstar is the Ranking Democrat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The bill, HR 5510, directs the General Services Administration to install the system on the DOE headquarters building.

Photovoltaic panels convert solar energy into electricity. GSA has installed photovoltaic systems in 10 Federal buildings across the country, and is installing or planning systems in eight others.

Oberstar said there is no more appropriate Federal building with which to demonstrate the power and promise of photovoltaic technology than the DOE headquarters, known as the Forrestal Building.

“Located in our Nation’s Capital, the Sun Wall project will serve as a model for the entire country,” Oberstar said. “The design for the Sun Wall project has already been selected after an open competition. It is an attractive and energy efficient design that can generate a maximum of 200kW of electricity and includes a solar thermal installation for hot water and hot air.”

Oberstar said the project was authorized in legislation passed last year, but received no appropriation in Fiscal Year 2006. The new bill, if passed, would extend the authorization into FY2007. An appropriation would still be needed for the project to go forward.

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