

I voted Yes on H.R. 5325, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for 2013.

This legislation provides funding for the Department of Energy, nuclear security programs, the Army Corps of Engineers and related agencies for Fiscal Year 2013. Within the bill, funding is responsibly reduced overall from last year's levels to help address the deficit - but priority is given to programs that support American economic competitiveness, reduce gas prices and strengthen the nation's energy security.

For example, H.R. 5325 strengthens programs that help address the causes and impacts of high gasoline prices. It helps support economic development programs and promotes American energy independence by boosting research and development of energy technologies that provide more than 83 percent of our energy today. Investing in tomorrow's energy needs, the bill funds science research to strengthen innovation and economic growth through the development of new computing systems, scientific exploration and research into clean energy.

The bill promotes public safety by funding Corps of Engineers flood risk management activities, dam safety improvements, and it puts an emphasis on flood control activities that have a real impact on job creation and retention here in Upstate New York.

As the summer travel season kicks off for New York families, it's painfully clear that we are still too reliant on unstable, foreign oil. We need a national energy policy that promotes the safe and environmentally-responsible production of energy from diverse sources such as solar, wind, oil, hydropower and nuclear power. I supported this bill because it strikes the right balance of boosting programs that improve our current energy usage while also investing in technologies that will help liberate America from dependence on hostile nations for our energy needs.

The bill was approved by a vote of 255 – 165.