

*April 25, 2012*

*Washington, D.C.* – Today, Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) introduced the Solar Energy Deployment Act of 2012 to provide funding for state and local governments to install solar energy systems over rooftops and parking structures.

“Investing in clean energy at the state and local level will save money for all of California. In today’s economy, we need to do everything we can to be more efficient and cut costs,” said Rep. McNerney. “By making new solar grants available, we can meet our energy needs while putting less strain on our electrical grid.”

The Solar Energy Deployment Act, H.R. 4622, allows the U.S. Secretary of Energy to award competitive grants to state and local governments for installing solar equipment over rooftops and parking structures. Recipients of the funds could design and install solar energy systems over structures they own.

The secretary would have the authority to take into consideration several factors in deciding who would receive the grants, including:

- Speed with which solar systems can be deployed
- Total amount of solar energy deployed
- The financial need of the state or local government
- The use of best practices to ensure maximum efficiency of deployed systems
- Whether or not the materials to be used are manufactured in the U.S. and whether their components are manufactured in the U.S.

“In order to meet our economic challenges, we have always relied on American ingenuity. Solar initiatives will save California in electrical costs and put people to work building the solar systems. Putting emphasis on American-manufactured products will create good jobs and allow people to earn a real living,” said Rep. McNerney.