

ACTION ALERT **Call Congress NOW to Protect the new** **MO PACE LAW**

On July 12, Missouri scored a huge clean energy victory when Gov. Nixon signed PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) into law. PACE allows homeowners to avoid upfront costs of energy efficiency and renewable energy by financing the improvements with a lien on their home. PACE creates jobs, helps Missouri become more energy efficient, and saves participants money on electric bills.

Unfortunately, Federal regulatory authorities have effectively halted PACE programs nationwide by asserting that PACE assessments violate securities agreements by imposing a first lien, ahead of the lenders, on participating properties. In response, legislation has been filed in the U.S. House and Senate that would require lenders to adopt new, sound underwriting standards that support PACE financing programs, rather than stymie them. This legislation would treat PACE assessments the same as other property tax assessments and respect states' authority to secure such assessments with a first lien.

This program is consistent with the energy and environmental policies of the Coalition on the Environment in Jewish Life (COEJL) and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), of which JEI is an affiliate, which encourage efficiency, conservation, and green jobs programs. As part of the Jewish Energy Covenant Campaign, COEJL has supported a parallel initiative on the Federal level called the Home Star program.

HOW TO SAVE PACE:

Contact your members of Congress and Senators Bond and McCaskill. Urge your representative in the House to support H.R. 5766, "The PACE Assessment Protection Act of 2010," legislation introduced on July 15 by Rep. Mike Thompson along with 29 co-sponsors. Urge Senators Bond and McCaskill to support S. 761, "The PACE Energy Act," introduced by Senators Boxer, Gillibrand, Begich and Merkley on July 22, and urge them to support inclusion of this bill as a component of the new Senate Energy Bill expected to be introduced very shortly.

Both H.R. 5766 and S. 761 will provide a means for PACE programs in Missouri and other states to move forward and provide the benefits of green jobs creation and energy efficiency. Please call TODAY.

Here is the contact information for the St. Louis area members of Congress. Please try the DC office first:

Congressman William Lacey Clay (District 1):
202-225-2406 (DC office)
314-383-5240 (St. Louis office)

Congressman Todd Akin (District 2):
202-225-2561 (DC office)
314-590-0029 (St. Louis office)

Congressman Russ Carnahan (District 3):
202-225-7452 (DC office)
314-962-1523 (St. Louis office)

Senator Kit Bond
202-224-5721 (DC office)
314-725-4484 (St. Louis office)


Senator Claire McCaskill
202-224-6154 (DC office)
314-367-1364 (St. Louis office)

Please let Gail know you called by contacting her at 314-442-3894 or gwechsler@jcrctl.org.

Susan Mlynarczyk, JEI Chair

Gail Wechsler, Director of Domestic Issues/Social Justice

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