

Greetings:

Council Member Will Campos thought the following information would prove beneficial to you and your neighbors.

## COUNCIL SUPPORTS LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX CREDIT

### Homeowners Converting to Alternative Energy Eligible for Tax Credit

The Prince George's County Council voted 8 - 0 on Wednesday, July 23, 2008, to enact CB-11-2008, a bill which establishes a tax credit for residential homeowners who utilize solar or geothermal energy conservation devices.

CB-11-2008, sponsored by Council Members Eric Olson (D) – District 3, Tom Dernoga (D) – District 1 and Will Campos (D) – District 2, received committee approval during a Public Safety and Fiscal Management (PSFM) Committee meeting in April.

"With the soaring prices of fuel oil and natural gas, we have to give serious consideration to the use of alternative energy sources," said Council Member Olson. "Our environmental health is directly impacted by our energy decisions so enactment of this bill is a positive step in the right direction."

Council Members Dernoga and Campos, co-sponsors of the bill, agreed that enactment of CB-11-2008 represents a shift in thinking as it relates to energy conservation. "This bill will make upgrades more affordable, enabling homeowners to both save money on energy costs and have a direct impact on the environment. It will also create business for local companies that provide these products," said Council Member Dernoga.

Under the bill, homeowners installing new heating, hot water, or electric generation systems using an alternative energy source such as solar or geothermal, would be eligible for a tax credit up to \$1,500 for a hot water supply system and up to \$5,000 for a heating system. The credit amount in any tax year may not exceed the amount of the County property tax imposed on the property in that tax year.

Thank you,

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