

(November 2, 2005)Statement "Winning Teams & Innovative Technologies from the 2005 Soalr Decathalon"

Statement for the Record

Congressman Daniel Lipinski

"Winning Teams and Innovative Technologies from the 2005 Solar Decathlon"

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science

November 2, 2005

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Lipinski made the following statement today before the House Committee on Science hearing on Winning Teams and Innovative Technologies from the 2005 Solar Decathlon:

"I would like to congratulate all of you and your teams on successfully participating in the 2005 Solar Decathlon. This program is notable not just for the opportunities it provides to students, but also for exposing the general public to new and innovative ways to increase energy efficiency.

Solar power holds great hope as an energy source that is not only environmentally-friendly, but also helps reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources, especially oil. As we face sky-rocketing costs for natural gas to heat our homes this winter, the work done in this competition is especially relevant.

I have been interested in the potential of solar power for more than 25 years. My 8th grade science fair project examined the future role of solar energy. As an example, I built a radio powered by a photovoltaic cell.

Today we can see how far the use of solar energy has progressed in the tremendous work of these students in the Solar Decathlon. As an engineer myself, it is especially fascinating to see the design innovations that were developed and used in these solar houses that also have real world applications.

I know that this is not easy work, and I applaud everyone who has put the time and effort into these important projects. Just as my science project helped inspire me to pursue an engineering degree, I hope that the Solar Decathlon inspires more young Americans to pursue degrees in science and engineering. For the continued security and economic success of America, we must continue do all we can to maintain our technological competitive edge. This continues to be one of my highest priorities in Congress and on the Science Committee."