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**STATE SENATOR NICK GAUTREAUX PUSHES FOR GREEN ENERGY AND
REDUCING DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL**

TAX CREDIT MAKES IT THROUGH FIRST STEP OF LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

District 26 State Senator Nick Gautreaux (D-Meaux) is pushing legislation that will provide a tax credit for the construction or installation costs of a qualified renewable energy system and reduce the state's dependence on foreign oil. Senate Bill 91 made it through the first hurdle of the legislative process on Wednesday when the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International affairs gave unanimous approval to the proposal. Testifying on behalf of the legislation was a group of fifth-graders from University Laboratory School who urged legislators to "go green".

"The testimony of these students is the most compelling reason Louisiana needs to move ahead of the game in promoting renewable energy," said Senator Gautreaux. "We need to do what we can to make sure they have a clean world in which to raise their children. This piece of legislation looks toward that future by promoting safe, clean energy and reducing our dependence on foreign hydrocarbon fuels. This tax credit, combined with the federal tax credits, will make our state a leader in incentives for the promotion of alternative energy."

Senate Bill 91 provides a transferrable tax credit against income and corporation franchise tax for the installation of certain renewable energy resources equal to 25% of the installation costs. The bill would enact the first substantial state renewable energy tax credit program in the United States. Senator Gautreaux says the tax credit will allow Louisiana to be on the forefront of investment in renewable energy. Besides promoting the adoption of resources that generate safe, efficient, and clean energy, the tax incentives will also be a boon to economic development by creating new "green jobs". Additionally, Senator Gautreaux says that homeowners and business owners will see a direct benefit through a reduction in their utility costs.

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