Congress has a vital part to play in providing the long-term investment necessary to research, develop, and commercialize hydrogen and fuel cell technology.

I offered an amendment to the 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, H.R. 2641 ,to ensure that $213 million within the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy programs would be for hydrogen research and development. The amendment increased funding for the hydrogen technologies program by $18.4 million.

This year Congress also extended tax credits for renewable energy, including fuel cells until 2016, in H .R. 1424, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 . I co-sponsored this legislation.

I've also introduced legislation that will help fuel cells go from the lab to the real world. The Hydrogen Tax Incentive Act of 2008, H.R. 5746
, will strengthen the existing tax credit for hydrogen fuel cell infrastructure.