

PRESS RELEASE

... from the Illinois House of Representatives

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

State Rep. Karen May

Phone: (847) 433-9100

Rep. May Travels to Israel with Project Interchange to Focus on Energy Issues

Rep. Karen May (D-Highland Park) will join Project Interchange, which is hosting an educational seminar in Israel for seven state senators and representatives from across the United States, and the Lieutenant Governor of New York. Participants represent Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri and New York. Project Interchange is an institute of the American Jewish Committee, (AJC), the oldest human relations agency in the United States.

This group will focus on energy policy and technology in Israel. The seminar will include the research and tech transfer, especially in the fields of solar energy and recovered energy generation (REG). The delegation will also meet with Members of Knesset (the Israeli legislature), Ministry of Infrastructure and leaders in research from the academic and business sectors. Nancy Lisker, Executive Director of the AJC St. Louis Chapter and Diane Steinman, Executive Director of the New York AJC will accompany the group.

“In Illinois we are working toward clean and renewable energy, and Israel offers an excellent model to study alternative energies in a political climate that cannot always rely on oil from their neighboring nations,” May said. “As an environmentalist and conservationist, I am hopeful that this research trip will bring to light viable options for our region.”

With limited access to energy resources, Israel has become a world leader in energy alternatives, efficiency and innovation, and thus, an excellent case study for leaders who are working on energy legislation and policy. In addition to providing an overview of contemporary Israel, national politics, history and religion, U.S.-Israel relations and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, this seminar will focus on energy policy, water and solar energy technology and international cooperation.

Now in its twenty-fifth year, Project Interchange, an educational organization, is dedicated to first-hand introductions of Israel to current and future American and international leaders. Project Interchange has brought over 4,500 prominent figures to Israel on week-long seminars, which include meetings with a variety of leaders throughout Israel. Each seminar is tailored to address the interests of its delegation (e.g., immigrant absorption, education, counter-terrorism, politics, and environment), while exposing participants to differing viewpoints on controversial issues in Israel and the Middle East, as well as the Israeli-Palestinian and Israel-Hezbollah conflicts.

For more information, please contact Laurie Wexler, Project Interchange Executive Director, at (202) 833-0025 or via e-mail at wexlerl@projectinterchange.org, or contact May at (847) 433-9100.

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