SCHAUMBURG, IL – Today Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-08) announced the *Energy Star Home Act of 2006*
, a new bill she will introduce that is designed to encourage responsible energy use and greater home efficiency.

The Energy Star Home Act of 2006 will reward homeowners who purchase an Energy Star home or who upgrade to Energy Star compliance with a $10,000 tax credit.

Energy Star, a national, voluntary program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, promotes the use of energy-efficient products and homes. Under the Energy Star program, homes are independently verified to achieve greater energy efficiency in such areas as heating, cooling, and hot water use. These savings are typically achieved through the use of high performance windows, controlled air infiltration, and modern heating, air-conditioning, and water-heating systems.

Bean was joined by a group of experts on energy-conservation technologies, including Howard Learner, Director of the Environment Law and Policy Center, who expressed support for the bill and highlighted recent developments in the field of energy conservation. Bean was also joined by representatives from the Center for Neighborhood Technology, Sustain, the Chicago Department of Environment's Chicago Center for Green Technology, the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation, and the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance.

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