

## Senator Specter meets with ERG, Energy executives



*ERG partners, John Nikoloff and Tracy Wingenroth stand with U.S. Senator Arlen Specter (center). ERG hosted a meeting between the Senator and a dozen executives of Pennsylvania-based energy and rail companies to discuss the needs of alternative energy industries.*

US Senator Arlen Specter met this week in Harrisburg with ERG and a dozen executives of Pennsylvania-based energy and rail companies. The meeting, hosted by ERG, focused on the needs of alternative energy industries as well as the role Pennsylvania's world class short line rail freight system can play in developing those industries.

Specter talked about the recently passed Energy Act of 2007, and the impact it could have on promoting growth in the industry. He urged the participants to continue exploring ways to expand, recognizing the impact alternative energy can have on job creation and the state's economy.

"I have worked for a well-balanced energy policy that encourages clean, safe, reliable and affordable forms of energy, and to appropriately weigh environmental protection with our need for economic expansion. Pennsylvania's strong agricultural, manufacturing and other industrial sectors rely heavily on energy production, and Pennsylvania consumers deserve reliable, affordable energy. One of my top energy priorities is reducing U.S. reliance on foreign oil, particularly from OPEC. Adequate domestic supplies of fuel and incentives for conservation, efficiency and use of alternative energy sources are all critical to a secure energy future," he said.

The Senator said that to increase the nation's energy security, he also supports limited use of the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) for oil exploration. He noted that Congress has limited any future development footprint size to 2000 acres in ANWR's huge 19.6 million acre reserve.

Specter told the executives, "We also need to maintain a diverse energy supply in electricity production. This should include a major increase in the use of renewable resources, including wind, solar, hydroelectric, biomass, and geothermal energy." He said the US needs to recognize and support additional nuclear generation in moving toward a more secure energy future.

The Senator praised the companies for their commitment to our nation's energy security, and said that his office would continue to work to secure federal support for renewable energy projects which expand the state's economy and create jobs.

The companies which participated in the meeting came from all regions of the Commonwealth, and included biodiesel, biomass to energy, municipal waste to synfuel, cogeneration, rail and consulting companies.