

Paul D. Tonko
President and CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)

Paul D. Tonko was appointed President and CEO of New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) on July 1, 2007 by the NYSERDA Board of Directors. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Tonko served in the New York State Assembly, representing the 105th district - including all of Montgomery and part of Schenectady County - from April 1983 to June 2007.

At age 26, he was the youngest person in the history of Montgomery County to be elected to the county's Board of Supervisors. He served as chairman of that body in 1981. Prior to his election to the Assembly in 1983, Mr. Tonko was an engineer in the New York State Department of Transportation and also served on the staff of the Department of Public Service.

Mr. Tonko has gained a national reputation as an expert on energy and utility issues. From 1992 to June 2007, Mr. Tonko has served as chairman of the New York Assembly Standing Committee on Energy. Recently, under his capacity as Assemblymember, Mr. Tonko's expertise was called upon by the Congress of the United States, to testify before the Subcommittee on Domestic Policy, with regards to the Energy Policy Act of 2005. In 2007 he was awarded the Solar Leadership Award by the New York Solar Energy Industries Association.

Mr. Tonko graduated from Clarkson University with a degree in mechanical and industrial engineering. He is a lifelong resident of the city of Amsterdam, New York.