



Rep. Wild Announces Aspen Industries In Mount Bethel Received A \$63,095 Usda Investment Grant

By Congresswoman Susan Wild

ALLENTOWN, P.A. – Congresswoman Susan Wild announced this week federal investments from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development for several projects across PA-07. USDA's Rural Energy for America (REAP) program provides support to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements, to invest in American energy independence and lower costs.

Aspen Industries in Mount Bethel, Northampton County, a wood stains and preservative small business, received a \$63,095 investment to purchase and install a 65-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system. This project will save the business approximately \$4,600 per year and replace 77,054 kilowatt hours per year – enough energy to power seven homes.

Northampton Community College received a \$100,000 investment to help rural small businesses and agricultural producers conduct renewable energy assessments. These on-site assessments will provide analysis to help reduce overall energy costs. This program strengthens American energy independence by increasing the private sector supply of renewable energy and decreasing the demand for energy through efficiency improvements.



Rep. Wild Visits New Third Street Alliance Preschool Classrooms, Discusses Work to Expand Affordable Child Care

By Rep. Susan Wild

providing care for kids.

LEHIGH VALLEY - On Wednesday, I visited Third Street Alliance in Easton to celebrate the opening of their three new preschool classrooms, converted from a decommissioned pool! This will allow forty-four additional children to attend the high-quality learning center in the upcoming school year.

I also participated in a roundtable on improving access to high-quality, affordable child care, especially as the Child Care Stabilization Program funding from the American Rescue Plan is set to expire at the end of the month. My bill, the Child Care for Working Families Act, will help address this crisis by lowering costs for parents, raising wages for staff, keeping care providers' doors open, and ensuring all families can access the child care they need.

- Third Street Alliance has added three new early childhood classrooms by converting its old swimming pool
- · Parents are struggling to afford child care
- Child care facilities are unable to attract and retain workers because of low pay

Local and federal officials gathered Wednesday at the Third Street Alliance for Women and Children in Easton to celebrate a classroom expansion project. The organization transformed an old swimming pool into three preschool classrooms.

Easton Mayor Sal Panto said early childhood education gives kids "a helping hand."

But a roundtable table discussion with leaders of Third Alliance, policy experts, parents and Congresswoman Susan Wild highlighted the struggles parents and child care facilities face in finding and