

## *Springfield Welcome*

Hello and Welcome to this Green Energy Movement Event today, here in Greater Springfield. My name is R. Lee Cook, and I am founder and CEO of RL Cook Community Consulting, a Green as well as Clean Energy technology, public outreach and education resource, supported by the Commonwealth's Mass Energy Empower Program.

I am No Stranger to this area; and I am honored to be invited back today by my good friend Representative Carlos Gonzalez, whom I have known for more than 10 years. We are both getting old; but we both did a few good things in IT Workforce Development "Back in the Day".

I truly hope and believe today's event and agenda will prove to be of even greater value and benefit to you and the Latino and Springfield community, as any other things, achieved in the past!

We are talking about the War on Climate Change, which is Real and severely threatens our Beautiful, Bountiful Planet our God has Blessed us with All These Years!

But to save it, to wage this war successfully, we must do 2 key things. 1<sup>st</sup> we must change from Carbon-based Fuel and Energy Use to Non-Carbon-Based Fuel Products. We must make this drastic switch virtually immediately!

And in the 2<sup>nd</sup> way we must ALL BECOME ENGAGED and Involved or Invested in a MAXIMUM WAY! This is where We----You and Me, and All Peoples of Color in the USA and the whole world Over have to become involved in a BIG, BIG Way.

The traditional racial and cultural margins of non-compliance as regards employment and discrimination won't help the nation or the wealthy nations of our world succeed or survive if peoples of Color are not fully engaged in the Green Energy Movement! So peoples who look like you and I have a kind of leverage at the table we have never really had before! So it is not advantageous to anybody for US to be left out!

Many people in the media are mainly talking about Clean Energy. They are focused on Electric Cars, Batteries and Solar Panels and Wind Turbines. And all of this stuff is Good, and we are going to talk about these things in a moment. But what all this talk this truly translates into is a change in America and the modern world's technology INFRASTRUCTURE! In the USA today---just in the last couple of weeks--- President Biden has been traveling to the big industrial cities of our nation unveiling one new bridge and highway and railway project after another for 10's of billions of dollars and tens of thousands of new high paying jobs.

But my brothers and sisters, let me tell you that as big as that \$1.2 trillion Bridge and Road Bill adds up to, it is almost "peanuts" compared to the value and benefits of the transfer from a carbon based fuel economy to a Green based one!. Many, many trillions of dollars will be involved and spent in the decades immediately ahead and down the long road in front of us.

Here in this great western city of the Commonwealth you have been witnessing what big economic change looks like with the advent of the MGM Casino. And I think that due to the smarts, good leadership and hard work you are known for, you are beginning to taste some of its fruits. But the new technology and infrastructure coming from this new Green Economy will be vastly more prosperous and beneficial for you and for me than we have ever enjoyed in America's history.

Let me quickly summarize this history for you. When you have more time, do some more research on this topic yourselves---do not rely on my research alone. Plus I am here today to point out a few simple accessible routes for you to benefit from the package of grants, tax credits and other various benefits readily available to you starting now at the federal, state and local levels.

In our nation's history, America has had 2 previous major industrial infrastructure investments at the national federal level. The 1<sup>st</sup> occurred at the initiative of President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War in the 1860's. He built the first national railway system via the 186\_\_ Railway Act.

And the 2<sup>nd</sup> was the result of the creation of the national interstate highway system by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in the 1950's-1960's era, that we still have and rely on today despite its increasing need for major refurbishment.

But as great as those things were, you and I and the peoples of Color and indigenous communities were not at "the starting gate" to receive much of anything in the way of the multitude of benefits and rewards from those programs. But today the situation we are in is vastly different!!! It's a different circumstance and context and opportunity. It is one that I want you and all Americans NOT TO MISS OUT ON! I am sure your able and attentive leaders as well as your diligence will not allow you to miss out on it.

But I m here now, today to briefly also share some examples and practicable ways you each can engage the Green Energy benefits that are currently available through the \$370 billion Inflation Reduction Act and the Mass Energy Package passed last year both nationally and in the Commonwealth. Please examine the handouts I had distributed at

the start of our meeting today and let's examine just a few items briefly!

RLee Cook

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