

## Issues - Environment

### Environment

Louise believes that the US cannot wait any longer to address global warming. Louise is a strong supporter of H.R. 620, the Climate Stewardship Act. This legislation would limit the greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity generation, transportation, industrial, and commercial economic sectors. The affected sectors accounted for 85 percent of the overall U.S. emissions in 2000. Louise is also a cosponsor of H.R. 1506, the Fuel Economy Reform Act. This bill would help fight global warming by raising the fuel efficiency standards for cars and light trucks to 35 miles per gallon by 2018 and 4 percent a year thereafter as long as it is technologically and economically feasible to do so.

Louise is proud to co-chair the bipartisan Great Lakes Task Force. The Task Force advocates for policies and programs that restore and clean-up the Great Lakes. She is an original cosponsor of the Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act. This legislation would fully implement the 2005 clean-up blueprint that was devised by Great Lakes stakeholders. In addition, Louise strongly supports efforts to tackle invasive species and tighten regulations on ballast water.

Louise, in her capacity as co-chair of the Congressional E-waste Working Group, has continued to work toward drafting a new consensus electronics recycling bill. Rep. Slaughter successfully persuaded both the Electronic Industries Alliance and the Consumer Electronic Retailers Coalition to unveil earlier this year formal e-waste proposals, the first time either group had ever reached a public position.

### Energy

Louise believes that it is critical that the United States makes a sustained commitment to expanding renewable energy production. Our dependence on foreign sources of oil is propping up unfriendly regimes in the Middle East, degrading our environment and contributing to global warming. The new Democratic majority has made it a priority to address the serious issues of energy dependency and environmental degradation and has already passed key pieces of legislation to increase funding for alternative energy research and repeal billions of dollars in tax breaks for major oil companies.

Louise was proud to vote for H.R. 3221, the New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act, in August 2007. H.R. 3221 will move the United States toward greater energy independence by requiring utility companies to produce at least 15 percent of their electricity through the use of renewable energy resources, such as wind or solar power, by 2020. This bill also requires energy companies to begin paying royalties for offshore oil and natural gas production that is currently exempt from such royalties and sets new efficiency standards for appliances, lighting and buildings. H.R. 3221 also contains provisions of a tax bill, H.R. 2776, which authorizes new tax credit bonds to encourage energy efficiency in residential property and more production of "clean" energy. Finally, this legislation authorizes billions of dollars for research into sustainable energy sources and alternative fuels and sets a goal of eliminating greenhouse gas emissions by federal agencies by 2050.

Louise continues to fight to reduce the cost of gasoline. She has introduced H.R. 2283, the Eliminate Gas Price Discrimination Act. This bill would ban the oil industry's practice of zone-pricing - a discriminatory technique that artificially drives up the price of gasoline in Western New York. Zone-pricing is the practice by which oil companies charge different wholesale prices for the same brand and grade of gasoline in multiple zones across each state. Oil companies have the power to impose different prices across the country because they restrict their branded gasoline stations to purchasing gasoline from a single wholesaler. This means that a wholesaler can sell 10,000 gallons of gasoline to one of their brand's gas stations, and then drive down the block and sell the same amount of gasoline to a second brand station at a much lower price. H.R. 2283 simply opens up the retail gas market to real competition. Under

Louise's bill, gas station owners will still have to purchase gas from one of their brand's wholesalers - but they will be free to shop around for the cheapest wholesaler of that brand, allowing them to pass the savings on to the consumer.