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For Immediate Release

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WASHINGTON, DC – Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, today applauded the passage of the Energy Independence and Security Act (H.R. 6) - a historic and sweeping bill to put the United States on a path toward energy independence. This measure was approved by a vote of 285 to 131 and will strengthen our national security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil, lowering energy costs, boost our economy by creating new jobs, while also addressing global warming.

“Not only does this legislation secure the United States’ standing as a global leader in reducing energy usage and greenhouse gas, but it promotes investment in American industry,” said Rep. Slaughter. “Rather than spending hundreds of millions of dollars on foreign oil, we should focus on improving the job market and investing in the national economy.”

“Energy independence is a matter of national security,” continued Slaughter. “What's more, alternative energy industries have already created hundreds of thousands of new jobs and stimulated billions of dollars of economic growth right here at home.”

H.R. 6 has garnered bi-partisan support and has a growing range of proponents among business, labor, and environmental groups, including the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers and the Sierra Club. This broad base of allies signifies the necessity for such extensive energy legislation.

The cornerstone of the Energy Independence and Security Act increases the fuel efficiency of vehicles to 35 miles per gallon by 2020. This is the first increase in a generation and is supported by environmentalists, labor groups and the automobile industry. This provision will save American families \$700 to \$1,000 per year at the pump with \$22 billion in net annual consumer savings in 2020. Here in New York, this provision would create 8,200 jobs and save families \$894 million at the pump in 2020.

BACKGROUND

H.R. 6 signifies an historic shift in national energy policy that will usher the United States into a new era of energy efficiency and economy.

Lowers consumer energy costs. The bill requires for the first time that 15 percent of our electricity come from renewable sources saving consumers here in New York from \$1.36 billion to \$1.81 billion in 2020. It also will save consumers \$440 billion through landmark new energy efficiency standards through 2030 for a wide range of products, appliances, lighting and buildings.

Creates new jobs. The bill will create new jobs, with the investment in renewable energy through tax incentives for solar, wind, biomass, and geothermal technologies and cutting-edge energy research, creating good paying jobs in rural communities across the country through a historic commitment to biofuels, training workers for 3 million new "green" jobs over the next 10 years and making small businesses leaders in renewable energy.

Strengthens our national security by reducing oil consumption by more than 4 million barrels a day in 2030 through the increased CAFE standard, as well as the historic commitment to American-grown biofuels.

Overall, the bill will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 35 percent of what is needed by 2030 to save the planet.

The current energy bill builds on the New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 3221 and H.R. 2776), which was passed last summer and signaled a significant change in energy and climate control policy.

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