

December 19, 2007 - Slaughter Applauds Passage of Comprehensive Energy Bill

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For Immediate Release

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“This historic legislation will help secure the United States’ standing as a global leader in the fight to combat global warming, increase energy efficiency, secure energy independence, and promote American investment and jobs,” said Rep. Slaughter. “The legislation is an important first step in creating a new U.S. energy policy that is not dependent on spending hundreds of millions of dollars on foreign oil. Improving the job market, investing in our national economy, and increasing energy efficiency is the energy policy of the future.”

“Energy independence is a matter of national and economic security,” continued Slaughter. “However, above all, it is a moral issue. Our children will inherit our planet, and we have a moral imperative to protect it. This legislation takes a significant step forward to living up to that responsibility.”

The cornerstone of the Energy Independence and Security Act is the increase in 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 will create 8,200 jobs and save

families \$894 million at the pump in 2020.

H.R. 6 garnered wide bi-partisan support with a wide 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.

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 economic growth. Specifically, this bill:

Creates new jobs by establishing energy efficiency and renewable energy worker training programs to train a quality workforce for "green" collar jobs — such as solar panel manufacturers and workers who specify in green building construction.

Establishes U.S. leadership in global energy efficiency by directing the US government to promote American energy exports of clean, efficient technologies to India, China and other developing nations.

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

Establishes incentives for using and/or producing renewable energy by creating tax credits for electric vehicles, homes, commercial buildings and appliances that are energy efficient and authorizing \$2 billion in new clean renewable energy bonds for all levels of government, public power providers, and electric cooperatives.

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

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