



OFFICE OF SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI FACT SHEET

Energy and Water Appropriations: ANOTHER STEP TO PROMOTE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE & REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING

Key Points:

- **The New Direction Congress is taking action to lessen our dependence on foreign oil and cut our greenhouse gas emissions.**
- **The bipartisan Energy and Water bill invests \$3 billion -- \$1 billion more than the President's request -- to research global warming and work on new technologies and renewable energy to slow it down.**
- **As the President previously pledged to end our addiction to foreign oil, we urge him to reconsider his threat to veto this bill.**
- **This bill includes a 50 percent increase in energy efficiency and renewable energy, including solar, biofuels, hydropower, and geothermal energy, as well as new vehicle technology and energy efficient buildings and homes, over the President's request.**
- **Already, the House has passed legislation to repeal \$14 billion in taxpayer subsidies given to Big Oil companies—earning record profits—and invest in clean alternative energy technologies and energy efficiency. By July 4th, House Democrats will unveil our wide-ranging energy independence package.**

This week, the House is scheduled to take up H.R. 2641, Energy and Water Appropriations for FY 2008. This measure does not include any earmarks; those will be considered in July and added before the bill is sent to the Senate.

Reducing Our Dependence on Foreign Oil & Cutting Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

- **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency:** \$1.9 billion -- a 50 percent increase in energy efficiency and renewable energy above the President's request for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. This is on top of the additional \$300 million added in the FY 2007 joint resolution. *The FY 2008 President's request for renewable energy and energy efficiency research is the same as it was in 2001 in real terms.*
- **Biofuels:** Increases, by 40 percent above the President's request, research and development of alternative fuels such as corn based and cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel.

- **Solar Energy:** Includes a 34 percent increase above the President's request for research, development and demonstration projects to make solar energy affordable.
- **Hydropower & Geothermal:** Includes \$22 million to research new ways of generating power from water flow, and \$44.3 million for geothermal energy, neither of which were funded in the President's request. (This is on top of the \$95 million for upgrades to existing hydropower dams funded under the Army Corps.)
- **New Vehicle Technology:** Provides a 34 percent increase above the President's request to collaborate with industry on developing technologies for improved fuel efficiency such as improved batteries or engines that burn clean diesel.
- **Energy Efficient Buildings:** Contains a 70 percent increase above the President's request for research into building and industrial conservation technologies that would reduce energy demand. This includes developing affordable, net-zero energy use homes. Commercial buildings in the U.S. emit 39 percent of the nation's carbon dioxide.
- **Weatherization Grants:** Restores funding for insulation and other cost-effective energy conservation measures to its 2006 funding level.
- **Carbon Capture and Sequestration.** Redirects fossil energy funding to carbon capture and sequestration – technology to pump gaseous carbon dioxide from fossil fuels back in the ground, rather than in the atmosphere where it contributes to global warming -- so that the U.S. can tap U.S. coal while reducing greenhouse gases.
- **Climate Change Science:** Include \$150 million, \$20 million above the President's request for research into Climate Change including: modeling using state-of-the-art super computers; monitoring radiation in the atmosphere; and long-term experiments on the impact of increased carbon dioxide levels on forests and other ecosystems.

Basic Research to Spur U.S. Innovation and Competitiveness

- **Office of Science.** In another step to jumpstart U.S. innovation and technological advancement, the bill provides \$116 million more than the President's request and \$717 million more than the 2007 level for basic scientific research in the Energy Department Office of Science. Federal investment in long-term basic research is critical to developing the next generation of scientific breakthroughs. U.S. federal funding for research and development has declined steadily over the last decade, and sound science has been compromised by political interference.

Cut Spending/Strengthen Accountability & Nuclear Non-proliferation

- **Root Out Waste in Contracting.** Directs the Energy Department to develop a concrete plan to improve its contract management. The Energy Department has been on the GAO list of programs that are at high-risk for waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement for seventeen years in a row.
- **Cut Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP):** Cuts \$285 million below the President's request and \$47.5 million below 2007 for this initiative to reprocess spent nuclear fuel and burn long-lived radioactive materials. There are concerns that this project is unsafe, will cost tens of billions of dollars, and could make it far easier for terrorists to obtain plutonium to make nuclear weapons.

- **Cut Nuclear Weapons Programs:** \$5.9 billion, \$632 million below the President's request and \$396 million below 2007 with cuts to 37 specific weapons program accounts, including Reliable Replacement Warhead program. The existing stockpile will continue to provide the nation's nuclear deterrent for the next two decades, and certainly until the President has developed a strategic nuclear weapons plan to transform the nuclear weapons complex away from its expensive Cold War configuration to a more affordable, sustainable structure.
- **Nuclear Nonproliferation:** Creates a 74 percent increase in funds available for non-proliferation over last year, for securing nuclear weapons and materials in the former Soviet Republic, as well increasing efforts to prevent them from getting into the United States.

Improve U.S. Waterways and Flood Protection

- **Army Corps Of Engineers:** Includes \$713.4 million above the President's request to address a \$1 billion backlog of operations and maintenance needs to sustain the coastal and inland navigation infrastructure critical to the U.S. economy, and the gaps in flood protection highlighted in Hurricane Katrina.