

September 19, 2006

****Democrats Urged to Cosponsor H.R. 5965, the PROGRESS Act****

LEAD AMERICA IN A NEW DIRECTION TOWARDS ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Dear Colleague,

The American people name national security as one of their top issues of concern, and energy independence is a critical part of our keeping our nation safe and strong. High prices at the pump made clear the Republicans' failure to address this issue, and Democrats are prepared to lead the country in a new direction towards energy independence.

As part of this effort, I introduced, along with 54 original cosponsors, (including ranking members Dingell, Oberstar, Skelton, Obey, Spratt, Gordon, Frank, and Berman) a comprehensive energy security bill, H.R. 5965, the PROGRESS Act, or Program for Real Energy Security. The central purpose of the legislation is to focus a major national effort, like the "Manhattan Project," on ending our dependence on foreign oil by making substantial gains in technology, conservation, vehicle efficiency, and alternative fuels. The PROGRESS Act is designed to complement the other Democratic energy independence initiatives, including the Innovation Agenda and the Rural Working Group's BIOFUEL Act.

Please consider becoming a cosponsor of the PROGRESS Act. As you can see from the excerpts below, the media is interested in how Democrats would tackle energy issues.

National Journal: "[Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Dingell] and Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer of Maryland have proposed a 'Manhattan Project' type of research program to develop very efficient cars. Their bill would provide incentives aimed at building a national infrastructure to distribute ethanol fuel and would promote greater reliance on public transportation." [9/9/06]

The Daily Press (WI): The House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, D-Md., has put forth a plan calling on the government to devote "Manhattan Project"-like resources into making the United States more energy independent...We need both money and some of the best minds available to work on creating new fuel technologies that reduce dependence on fossil fuels over the coming generations. The time to start the big push? Today. [8/4/06]

Wall Street Journal: "Rep. Steny H. Hoyer (D., Md.), the second-ranking Democrat in the House, unveiled a bill to spend billions of dollars in the next 10 years to develop cellulosic ethanol and a national ethanol distribution system; expand municipal rapid-transit systems; and give U.S. auto makers grants to make more fuel-efficient vehicles." [7/26/06]

If you have any questions, please contact Scott DeFife in the Whip's Office at 225 – 3130.

Sincerely yours,

STENY H. HOYER

[\(*90 CO-SPONSORS*\)](#) : Rep. John Dingell, Rep. Ike Skelton, Rep. James Oberstar, Rep. John Spratt, Rep. David Obey, Rep. Barney Frank, Rep. Bart Gordon, Rep. Howard Berman, Rep. Mark Udall, Rep. Stephanie Herseth, Rep. Earl Blumenauer, Rep. Adam Schiff, Rep. Gary Ackerman, Rep. Melissa Bean, Rep. Shelley Berkley, Rep. Tim Bishop, Rep. Rick Boucher, Rep. Corrine Brown, Rep. Ben Cardin, Rep. Ed Case, Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, Rep. Jim Costa, Rep. Elijah Cummings, Rep. Jim Davis, Rep. Rosa DeLauro, Rep. Bob Etheridge, Rep. Chaka Fattah, Rep. Rush Holt, Rep. Dale Kildee, Rep. Ron Kind, Rep. Dennis Kucinich, Rep. Barbara Lee, Rep. Doris Matsui, Rep. Betty McCollum, Rep. James McGovern, Rep. Gwen Moore, Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, Rep. David Price, Rep. Silvestre Reyes, Rep. Martin Olav Sabo, Rep. Allyson Schwartz, Rep. José Serrano, Rep. Adam Smith, Rep. Ellen Tauscher, Rep. Chris Van Hollen, Rep. Brad Miller, Rep. Mike Ross, Rep. Diana DeGette, Rep. William Lacy Clay, Rep. Charles Gonzalez, Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Rep. Danny Davis, Rep. James Moran, Rep. Rubén Hinojosa, Rep. Michael McNulty, Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, Rep. Michael Doyle, Rep. Albert Wynn, Rep. Raúl Grijalva, Rep. Maurice Hinchey, Rep. Donald Payne, Rep. Harold Ford, Rep. Brian Higgins, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Rep. John Lewis, Rep. Lynn Woolsey, Rep. John Tierney, Rep. Tim Ryan, Rep. Diane Watson, Rep. Carolyn Maloney, Rep. Bart Stupak, Rep. Sherrod Brown, Rep. Steven Rothman, Rep. Steve Israel, Rep. George Miller, Rep. Dennis Cardoza, Rep. Earl Pomeroy, Rep. Vic Snyder, Rep. Darlene Hooley, Rep. Michael Capuano, Rep. John Olver, Rep. Daniel Lipinski, Rep. Bob Filner, Rep. Madeleine Bordallo, Rep. GK Butterfield, Rep. Russ Carnahan, Rep. Eliot Engel, Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee, Rep. Rahm Emanuel, Rep. Donna Christensen.