



At a district event, Congressman Lipinski discusses energy issues and takes a test drive in a GM Hydrogen car.

Americans are being pummeled by record high gas prices and a faltering economy. And with gas costing more than \$4 a gallon, Chicago area residents are paying some of the highest prices in the nation. At the same time, oil corporations are reaping record profits.

Short Term Relief

The oil and gas industries claim that the solution to high prices is to open environmentally sensitive federal lands to drilling. However, these companies are currently not using more than 33 of the 44 million acres they are leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf and 33 of the 40 million acres they have under lease on federal lands.

Instead, to fight high prices Rep. Lipinski helped pass legislation that cracks down on gas price gougers and holds OPEC accountable for price fixing, and is working to pass a bill that imposes a windfall profits tax on the oil industry.

Rep. Lipinski is also cosponsoring the COMMUTER Act of 2008 that gives tax breaks for companies that offer their employees no-cost public transportation vouchers. This could save current Metra, CTA, and Pace commuters over \$1200 a year and encourage more people to take public transit and cut down on gasoline purchases.

Fighting High Gas Prices

Long Term Solutions

In the long term we must develop clean alternative energy sources that protect our environment and provide energy security for the country. Earlier this year, Rep. Lipinski cosponsored and helped pass the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act which cuts subsidies for big oil companies to pay for tax credits for increased production of renewable electricity from sources such as solar, wind, fuel cells, and biodiesel. The bill also creates tax incentives for energy efficient commercial buildings and improvements to existing homes such as the purchase of energy efficient dishwashers, clothes washers and refrigerators. In addition, on May 21, Rep. Lipinski helped pass the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act which provides nearly \$20 billion in tax incentives for renewable energy, carbon capture and sequestration projects, energy efficiency, and conservation.

Last year, Rep. Lipinski—as Vice-Chairman of the House Committee on Science and Technology—introduced and helped pass into law two pieces of



legislation that will reduce our dependence on oil and combat global warming. The H-Prize Act of 2007 establishes \$50 million in cash prizes for advances in the use of hydrogen as a pollution-free replacement for gasoline. The BRIGHT Energy Savings Act requires all federal buildings to transition to energy efficient light bulbs, saving energy and saving tens of millions of dollars for taxpayers.