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Democrats Continue to Fail to Lead on Energy Another Week, Another Missed Opportunity to Lower Gas Prices

Washington, D.C. – **Congressman Shuster** released the following statement on another week full of missed opportunities for the Democrats to take action on energy:

“As another legislative week passes in Congress I am once again disappointed that the Democrats have failed to do anything constructive to fix our energy crisis.

If the Democrats were actually serious about doing something about domestic drilling they would have delivered a bill that opens new lands for exploration and cuts the red-tape that invites litigation to delay companies from drilling on the leases they already have.

Instead, the Democrats pushed a vote on a bill that would do nothing to increase the supply of American-made energy and actually increase the penalties and regulations on oil and gas leasing. In the end, 11 Democrats stood with 162 House Republicans to defeat this no-energy bill.

The Democrats continue to ignore simple economics. This week, after the President announced he would end a longstanding executive prohibition on offshore drilling, the price of oil fell about \$10. This wasn't a coincidence; it was simple supply and demand and if Congress takes immediate action to open ANWR and the OCS to production, the price of a barrel of oil will fall even further.

I remain committed to working for a comprehensive energy policy that embraces domestic oil and gas production as well as investment in the fuels of tomorrow. The American consumer deserves a dual track energy policy that will lower prices at the pump. It's time for the Democrats to listen to reason and leave their failed no-drill policies behind.”

Congressman Shuster's comprehensive energy legislation H.R. 6421, the “Energy Independence Act” could be moved from committee to a floor vote in a matter of days. The time has come to act. More information on Shuster's legislation can be found online at www.house.gov/shuster/content/energy.

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