



United States Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources

Chairman Jeff Bingaman

Democrat - New Mexico

MEDIA CONTACT: Bill Wicker: 202/224-5243

The Energy Independence & Security Act

Charting a New Direction for America's Energy Policy

Last December, the Congress approved the Energy Independence & Security Act—a ground-breaking piece of legislation that marks a seismic shift in America's energy policy. Rather than continuing on a trajectory that props up polluting industries and their 19th Century technologies, the new law puts **innovation, efficiency and entrepreneurship** at the top of America's 21st Century energy agenda. Key features of this new law include:

An Historic Increase in Vehicle Fuel Efficiency: The centerpiece of the new law is a landmark requirement—three decades in the making—to increase the efficiency of cars and trucks on American roads. By raising average fuel economy standards to 35 miles per gallon, the United States will save about 2 million barrels of oil a day by 2025—more than America imported from Saudi Arabia last year. It will also cut 192 million metric tons of global warming pollution, equivalent to taking 28 million cars off U.S. roads.

A Boost for Home-Grown Biofuels: The new law invests in rural America and improves our energy security at the same time, by increasing the amount of renewable fuel in U.S. gasoline supplies to 36 billion gallons in 2022—enough to replace another million barrels a day of imported oil. It promotes advanced biofuels from non-traditional crops, which will provide more sustainable sources of ethanol and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Economy-Wide Efficiency Solutions: Experts have called the new law the most sweeping energy efficiency legislation ever enacted. Thomas Edison's 1880's-era lightbulb will be replaced with new technologies—cutting carbon emissions, equivalent to the pollution of 24 new coal plants. Common household appliances, from clothes- and dishwashers, to refrigerators and freezers, will meet new energy-saving standards; and even the federal government will cut down on its energy use—and save taxpayers \$4 billion in the process.

Greenhouse Gas Reductions through Innovation: The new law makes a bold commitment to research, development and demonstration of new technologies that will help cut greenhouse gas emissions and position the United States as a leader in global technology markets. It invests in carbon capture and sequestration, a key technology for addressing the threat of global warming. It promotes research on new vehicles, batteries, biofuels, building technologies and many other promising areas for clean energy development.

Green Collar Jobs for America's Working Families: The new law makes it a national priority to train America's workers for new jobs in emerging energy technology fields. It will provide training opportunities for our veterans, workers impacted by economic globalization, at-risk youth and low-income citizens—so that Americans of all ages, income- and education-levels have a chance to pursue opportunities in the green energy economy.

Taken together, these measures will save American consumers \$400 billion, create hundreds of thousands of new jobs, and cut global warming pollution. The Energy Independence & Security Act represents a down-payment on Congress' plan to move America forward, toward a more affordable, sustainable and secure energy future.