

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District For Immediate Release April 22, 2008

Contact: Andrew Whalen, Communications Director

office: (202) 225-6401 / cell: (202) 731-5116

## Rep. Shuler Celebrates Earth Day by Renewing Call for Energy Independence

*Washington, D.C.* – Representative Heath Shuler today celebrated Earth Day by renewing his call for America's energy independence through clean, renewable, and sustainable energy sources.

"We have begun taking strides to create an energy policy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century that reduces carbon dioxide emissions and increases CAFE standards for the first time in a generation," Rep. Shuler said. "Now, we must continue working to end our dependence on petroleum and replace it with renewable and sustainable energies."

Earlier this year the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress passed and had signed into law the Energy Independence and Security Act. The Energy Independence and Security Act will cut oil consumption by 2.9 million gammons per year, more than the U.S. imports daily from the Persian Gulf. This legislation also greatly expands America's biofuels production from non-food sources, like switchgrass.

The Energy Independence and Security Act also included Rep. Shuler's Small Energy Efficient Business Act, which will assist small businesses become more energy efficient.

"After years of neglect by the Bush Administration, we are finally beginning to make a positive impact through our nation's energy policy. We must continue investing in the research, development, and infrastructure necessary to truly make our nation energy independent. With a committed effort, I know we will be successful," Rep. Shuler concluded.