

Statement Submitted For The Official Record

Submitted for the Record by Congressman William Delahunt on 12/6/07:

Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today in support of HR 6, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

Energy policy impacts our nation's security, the strength of our economy, and the health of our planet. Today's high gas prices stretch family budgets. Our addiction to Middle East oil threatens our national security. And, increased consumption of fossil fuels contributes to global warming.

These issues will dominate the 21st century, our future and America's role in the world. It is time to address these challenges. It will require leadership and the resources to back it up. But now is the time to act. Now is the time to be bold. With troops on the ground in the Middle East, now is the time to end our dependency on foreign oil and begin moving toward energy independence. Make no mistake about it----this bill is good for America. It represents a real turning point in this nation's history.

I strongly support both the Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) and the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) in this bill. The RES will create new markets for renewable energy and help spur billions in private sector

investment and innovation in clean energy technology. The ambitious Federal RFS ----- of 36 billion gallons by 2022 ----- will help us develop the next generation of renewable fuels such as cellulosic ethanol and renewable diesel. I salute my colleagues in this body that have worked so hard with me to make sure that a strong RFS is included in this legislation. I know from working with entrepreneurs and start-up companies in my own district that biofuels can be produced right here in the United States and can create new jobs in every part of America.

This bill also recognizes that we can develop renewable energy from our ocean by promoting wave and tidal energy technology. It establishes new marine renewable energy centers that forge partnerships between research institutions, universities and the private sector to spur the rapid development of ocean technology. The bill is also a boost for southeastern Massachusetts – a region recognized as an international center of excellence for marine science and technology and poised for economic development in these new technologies.

This bill will boost conservation and help Americans make their homes, cars, and business far more efficient, making better use of the energy that we already consume. It moves us closer to the day when Americans can drive plug-in hybrid cars-----automobiles that can run for up to 40 miles

without even a single drop of gasoline. Many of the batteries for these plug-in hybrid cars will be designed in my home state of Massachusetts. It updates CAFE standards---created during the Presidency of Gerald Ford---for fuel economy, which in my view is the single most important measure in this bill.

Finally, this bill takes the unprecedented step of addressing the threat of global warming through initiatives that will have a significant effect on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. By passing this legislation, we will conserve energy, increase fuel economy standards, address global climate change, expand renewable power, and promote alternative transportation fuels.

In so doing, we will make Americans safer, and create clean energy jobs and economic opportunities around the nation and throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. **This is landmark legislation that the American people can be proud of.**