



October 17, 2007

Dear Member of Congress:

Soon, Congress will consider several energy measures that, if enacted, could dramatically impact the nation's economy, environment and national security.

Today, we are writing to express our concern that while these bills take positive action in the areas of energy efficiency and conservation, they ultimately fail to deliver a comprehensive solution to our nation's energy challenge.

Specifically, we are concerned that the bills almost completely ignore the supply side of the energy equation. While there is no doubt that energy efficiency and conservation are important priorities, America's economic growth and way of life will suffer without adequate supplies of energy.

Fortunately, there is room for consensus on this issue.

For the past year, we have served as co-chairs of The Energy Initiative, a diverse coalition of more than 24 organizations representing a cross-section of energy producers and consumers. We also had contributing participants representing all levels of government and widely diverse constituents. All of these groups are committed to educating the public about energy policies and securing our energy future.

Together, we have developed the attached package of core principles and policy recommendations for the consideration of the 110th Congress. As co-chairs we have observed several recurring principles during our group's deliberations that we think Members should bear in mind as they strive to address our country's energy needs.

First, a massive public education program is essential to ensuring that the public is aware of our energy crisis, a crisis driven by exploding demand that requires more supply. The International Energy Agency projects that global energy demand will increase by more than 50 percent between now and 2030. The need for more energy in all forms is inescapable, and Congress and the American people must recognize this.

Second, we believe Congress must agree to fully utilize, investigate and develop all existing and potential sources of energy and aggressively exercise conservation and efficiency in the use of all energy.



Third, we believe Congress must ensure that no single energy source is unfairly burdened with the cost of meeting America's future energy needs. Instead, costs should be fairly shared among the various private energy sectors, as well as the public sector.

Regarding climate change, while Energy Initiative members agree that it is a serious issue, our diverse membership precludes agreement on a substantive plan to deal with it. While voluntary, technology-based approaches have produced substantial progress towards addressing greenhouse gas emissions, all policies to address climate change should be carefully considered in a public, transparent and informed debate.

From the beginning, members of our Initiative have acknowledged that America must lead the way in developing new sources of alternative and renewable energy. But it is equally important to develop traditional energy sources like coal, nuclear and oil and natural gas. Unfortunately, the bills passed by Congress fail to strike this balance and provide Americans with the energy we need to meet the challenges of the future.

In short, when it comes to energy policy, Congress should add provisions to the legislation that provide greater supply, or start over and craft comprehensive legislation that addresses our nation's energy needs.

America can lead the world in improving energy efficiency and diversifying resources through new technology. We must, however, recognize that demand for energy will continue to grow, and so we must responsibly increase energy from all sources. Thank you for your time and consideration. For more information, please visit <http://www.theenergyinitiative.org>.

Regards,

Sen. John Breaux  
Co-Chair, The Energy Initiative

Mayor Beverly O'Neill  
Co-Chair, The Energy Initiative