



For Immediate Release
October 17, 2007

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Energy Initiative Co-Chairs John Breaux and Beverly O'Neill Call on Congress to Increase Supply or Start Over on Energy Legislation

WASHINGTON—Former U.S. Senator John Breaux and former Long Beach, Calif., Mayor Beverly O'Neill, co-chairs of The Energy Initiative, today sent a letter to Congress urging members to act immediately to correct serious flaws in the energy legislation they are currently considering. The Energy Initiative is a broad coalition of energy consumers, producers and organizations of elected officials.

Senator Breaux and Mayor O'Neill told Congress "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, they say, "these bills almost completely ignore the supply side of the energy equation." They conclude by stating, "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."

This call to action comes after a year of deliberation with a diverse range of energy consumers, producers and organizations of elected officials. The coalition agreed on a set of core principles which include a massive public education program encouraging aggressive conservation and efficiency, the full use and development of all existing potential energy sources, and the recommendation that no single energy source be burdened unfairly with the cost of meeting America's future energy needs.

The authors stressed the need for balance between new and traditional sources of energy, writing "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."

To build supply, The Energy Initiative urged Congress to:

- Streamline the federal permitting process for energy exploration, production and refinement and delivery infrastructure on federal lands, including offshore;
- Conduct a study to measure the impact of offshore drilling on the world's oceans and coastal areas over the past 40 years, accounting for technological improvements; and
- Approve a balanced offshore leasing program that promotes exploration and ensures that the producing states receive a share of the federal resources from the activity.

For a complete copy of the letter and The Energy Initiative's final policy recommendations, please visit http://www.theenergyinitiative.org/core_principles.php.

To speak with the co-chairs or for questions about The Energy Initiative, call Reid Porter at (202) 336-7965.

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About The Energy Initiative

The Energy Initiative comprises groups that represent energy producers and consumers, natural gas utilities, motorists, electricity companies, and manufacturers. Members include the Agricultural Energy Alliance, Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, American Exploration and Production Council, American Forest and Paper Association, American Gas Association, American Iron and Steel Institute, American Petroleum Institute, American Public Transportation Association, Association of Oil Pipe Lines, Edison Electric Institute, Independent Petroleum Association of America, Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, National Automobile Dealers Association, National Mining Association, National



Ocean Industries Association, Nuclear Energy Institute, Real Estate Roundtable, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Oil and Gas Association. You can learn more by visiting www.theenergyinitiative.org.