



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Mark Schuermann
(202) 354-8285

Former Sen. John Breaux and past U.S. Conference of Mayors President Beverly O'Neill Announce the *Energy Initiative*

First of its kind coalition of energy consumers, corporations and major energy producers that will develop recommendations for America's energy challenges and educate the public about energy policies

Former U.S. Senator John Breaux of Louisiana and former Long Beach, California Mayor and U.S. Conference of Mayors President Beverly O'Neill today announced the formation of the Energy Initiative, an unprecedented partnership of energy consumers and producers committed to finding new solutions to America's energy challenges.

Breaux and O'Neill, two of the nation's most respected retired public officials, will serve as co-chairs of the Energy Initiative and work with the initiative's members to undertake a broad based educational effort and formulate a set of recommendations that will serve as the basis for future energy policies.

"This is the first time such a far reaching group of energy consumers and producers have come together to work on the very important issue of energy policy," said Sen. Breaux. "The recent elections show the American public demands common sense solutions to challenges such as America's energy policy, and we intend to fulfill that desire."

"To meet the challenge of an ever increasing demand for energy, we have to come to a consensus on the most appropriate energy policies and better educate people about the country's energy challenges," said Mayor O'Neill. "Sen. Breaux and I spent our public careers building consensus among different groups and proposing meaningful solutions to difficult public policy challenges. That is the approach the Energy Initiative will take in its work."

Immediately after today's announcement, members of the Energy Initiative, representing trade associations from nine energy producing trade associations and 22 energy consuming associations, met in break out sessions led by Breaux and O'Neill to begin what will be a six month process of deliberations, educational outreach and public meetings culminating in a final report to Congress and the Bush Administration.

For additional information, please go to www.theenergyinitiative.org. A list of Energy Initiative members follow.

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The Energy Initiative Coalition Members

As of 12/14/06

U.S. Conference of Mayors - representing 1,200 cities with populations more than 30,000

American Petroleum Institute - 400 corporate members representing oil and gas producers, refiners & suppliers

The Apollo Alliance - Clean Energy Good Jobs non-profit endorsed by 35 labor unions, 20 environmental organizations and 12 economic, faith based & local organizations.

Interstate Natural Gas Association of America - representing the natural gas pipeline industry responsible for delivering over 90 % of the nation's natural gas through a network of 212,000 miles of pipelines.

Edison Electric Institute - representing U.S. shareholder owned electric companies, international affiliates and industry associates serving 97% of ultimate customers.

American Automobile Association - representing 50 million consumer members.

AFL-CIO Building Trades Division - 13 affiliated trade unions in the construction industry with 386 state, local and provincial counsels.

Agriculture Energy Alliance - representing a broad-based coalition of 112 farm organizations and agribusinesses that face a crisis because of public policies that have created a demand for natural gas while at the same time restricted access to supply sources.

Air Transport Association - representing 23 airline member companies and 25 associated airline industry members.

Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers - representing 9 car and light truck manufacturers

American Chemistry Council - representing the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry.

American Forest and Paper Association - representing forest, pulp, paper, paperboard and wood products industry. Members produce 75 percent of the paper, wood and forest products in the U.S.

American Institute of Architects - representing 77,000 licensed architects, emerging professionals and allied partners.

American Iron & Steel Institute - representing 32 member companies and 125 associate members in the steel industry

American Public Transportation Association - representing public transit authorities, management, metropolitan planning organizations, railroads and state associations.

Association of Oil Pipe Lines - representing the nation's oil pipeline industry operating the nation's 200,000 miles of oil pipelines.

Consumer Energy Alliance - representing energy consumers interested in energy reform.

Domestic Petroleum Council - representing large U.S. independent natural gas and crude oil exploration and production companies.

Federation of American Consumers & Travelers - representing more than 1 million consumers in America.

Independent Petroleum Association of America - representing thousands of independent oil and gas producers responsible for 68% of domestic oil and 82% of domestic natural gas.

Minority Business Roundtable - representing top tier minority owned businesses in America.

National Association of Counties - representing 2,000 counties and 80% of the nation's population.

National Automobile Dealers Association - representing 19,700 new car and truck dealers, domestic and international.

National Conference of State Legislatures - representing the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, commonwealths and territories.

National Governors Association - representing Governors of the 50 states and five territories.

National League of Cities - representing more than 18,000 cities, villages and towns, more than 1,600 municipalities of all sizes.

National Mining Association - representing 325 corporations involved in all aspects of the mining industry.

National Ocean Industries Association - representing 300 member companies engaged in all facets of the domestic offshore energy and related industries.

Nuclear Energy Institute - representing 280 corporate members in 15 countries in the nuclear power and associated industries.

Small Business Entrepreneurship Council - representing 50,000 small businesses and entrepreneurs.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce - representing the largest business federation representing more than 3 million businesses of all sizes sectors and regions. It includes hundreds of local chambers, and more than 100 American Chambers of Commerce in 91 countries.

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