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## (October 12, 2005) Lipinski Works for a Comprehensive U.S. Energy Policy

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WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Representative Dan Lipinski (IL-03) continued to fight last week for a more comprehensive and secure energy policy for the United States with votes on energy legislation and a speech on the House floor on October 7th.

Rep. Lipinski joined more than 200 of his colleagues in opposing windfall tax breaks for oil companies and loosened clean air regulations in a supplemental energy bill approved by the U.S. House of Representatives.

"This bill will not improve our energy situation - it would cause harm to our environment, public health, and give huge tax breaks to an industry already raking in record surpluses," said Congressman Lipinski. "If oil producers want to finance new refining capabilities and other infrastructure, they ought to look to their profit margins, not the U.S. taxpayer."

Rep. Lipinski voted in favor of an amendment that would have helped protect consumers from current gas price gouging. It would have also helped prevent shortages caused by future disasters that close refineries. This legislation would have given the Federal Trade Commission authority to prosecute either gasoline or natural gas price gougers and created a Strategic Refinery Reserve to hold refined gasoline available to the public in times of energy crisis.

"I want energy legislation that will protect consumers and bring down energy prices, not give even more money to the already profitable energy industry," added Rep. Lipinski.

During a House floor speech that same day, Rep. Lipinski brought up another important energy issue for the United States - the oil sands in Alberta, Canada, and worrisome Chinese interest in this resource. Chinese companies have begun investing heavily in the Canadian oil sands because recent technology advancements have made the estimated 178 billion barrels of oil much easier and more affordable to extract. While noting our strong relationship with Canada, Congressman Lipinski also voiced concern that Chinese investment could harm America's future energy needs.

"As the Chinese become more involved, the U.S. needs to be more engaged with the Canadian government and the provincial government of Alberta in discussing the ramifications of this interest. Let me be clear on this: neither Congress nor the Bush Administration can tell - or should ever attempt to tell - Canada or Alberta what to do. However, our government should utilize our good relations and strong economic ties to learn more about the Chinese interest in Canadian oil and to discuss the potential shared security concerns."

"This is a critical time to be concerned about secure energy supplies for the future of the United States. We need to be more diligent about conservation and efficient energy use. We need to be working harder to develop alternative sources of energy. But no matter what we do and how successful we are in weaning ourselves from oil, gas, and other

conventional energy sources, our nation will still be in need of foreign fossil fuels for many years to come."

"In the unpredictable world we live in today, it would be best to rely on secure sources of energy close to home. That is why I urge Congress and the Administration to learn more about Alberta's oil sands and their potential to supply U.S. energy needs. We must continue to work closely with our neighbors to the North on this important security issue."

For the speech on the House Floor, click here [http://www.house.gov/apps/list/speech/il03\\_lipinski/oilsands.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/speech/il03_lipinski/oilsands.html)