

(April 20, 2006) Congressman Lipinski Commemorates Earth Day 2006

CHICAGO, IL- Congressman Lipinski today made the following statement:

"On Saturday, April 22, the country will celebrate the 36th Earth Day. On April 22, 1970, the first Earth Day, 25 million people joined around the country to demand a safer, cleaner and healthier world. The impact of that first Earth Day was astonishing. In rapid succession, and with large, bipartisan majorities, Congress passed the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Superfund Act.

Thirty-six years later, our air is cleaner, our drinking water is safer, our rivers no longer catch fire and the bald eagle has recovered from the brink of extinction. Yet, despite our many advances, our environment is still threatened by a range of problems, including global climate change, energy dependence on unsustainable fossil fuels, and loss of biodiversity.

I strongly support a comprehensive energy policy, which would help solve many of the environmental problems that we face. By increasing our use of ethanol, solar power, and other renewable energy sources, while developing cleaner technologies to use our domestic fossil fuels, such as clean coal, we can strengthen our national security, improve our air quality, and contribute to a better environment. The hydrogen powered car, with its high fuel mileage and zero emission rate, is just one example of the products under development that will help increase our energy independence. With the American can-do spirit and technological know-how, we can revolutionize how we use and produce energy.

I am also working with others in Congress to protect our land and water resources. I have continuously supported preservation of the Arctic Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), one of our most magnificent and rare unspoiled ecosystems, from oil and gas drilling. Closer to home, I have been involved in protecting and preserving our Great Lakes. The largest freshwater system in the world, the Great Lakes are a unique and valuable resource, one that helps power our economy and sustain our environment.

Growing up in the 1970s, I learned the importance of being proactive in protecting the environment. This year, as we celebrate the 36th Earth Day, we must all rededicate ourselves to moving towards energy independence and protecting our environment for our children and grandchildren. The future is in our hands."