

(February 1, 2007) Bill shifts \$14 billion from oil companies to clean technology

Bill shifts \$14 billion from oil companies to clean technology

(<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/hinsdale/news/politics/237428,do-polscene-020107-s1.article>)

February 1, 2007

The U.S. House passed the CLEAN Energy Act Jan. 19 by a vote of 264 to 163. The legislation will shift more than \$14 billion from oil company subsidies to investments in energy-efficient technologies and renewable power.

Rep. Dan Lipinski, D-III, voted for bill.

"Over the last six years, oil and gas companies received billions of dollars in additional government subsidies despite the fact that they raked in record profits," he said. "Last year, the big five oil companies made \$97 billion while Americans faced steadily increasing gas prices. The CLEAN Energy Act not only closes loopholes and giveaways in our tax code, but it reinvests those funds into something Americans want and need: clean, renewable domestic energy."

Congressman Ted Poe, R-Texas, voted against HR 6.

"In short, this bill will decrease U.S. exploration and will increase our dependence on foreign oil," said Poe. "This bill punishes oil companies and discourages them from exploring for oil domestically. This essentially creates incentives for foreign importation and could kill manufacturing jobs in an industry that employs nearly 1.8 million Americans."

But an Apollo Alliance study states a major investment in alternative energy technologies could add more than 3.3 million jobs, \$1.4 trillion dollars in gross domestic product and pay for itself in 10 years.

* Illinois residents will not have to worry about leaving their household pets and service animals behind during rescue operations or emergency evacuations under a new law sponsored by State Sen. Kirk Dillard, R-24th.

House Bill 4804 directs the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to include household pets and service animals in their plans for evacuations resulting from natural disasters and emergency situations.

"For many people, leaving their pets during an emergency situation or a natural disaster is not an option they would ever consider. State evacuation plans should recognize and adapt to this reality," Dillard said.

* Elmhurst College will welcome Micheline Ravololonarisoa, chief of African operations for the United Nations Development Fund for Women, at 4 p.m. today, Thursday, at Illinois Hall, 125 Prospect Ave. She will deliver the college's 2007 Martin Luther King Jr. Guestship Lecture, Mobilizing for Justice and Rights in an Unequal World. Admission is free. Call (630) 617-3033.

People in politics

* U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski Jan. 17 was selected to the aviation; highways and transit; and railroads, pipelines and hazardous materials subcommittees. These three subcommittees work to decrease rail, highway and aviation congestion, and allowing the region to continue to function as a major transportation hub. He also was selected as vice chairman of the House Committee on Science and Technology, and will serve on the Energy and Environment Subcommittee and the Research and Science Education Subcommittee, which oversee issues critical to maintaining economic competitiveness, national security and the environment.

* U.S. Rep. Judy Biggert, R-13th, was named ranking member of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Community Development. Biggert hopes to modernize and reform FHA programs to improve efficiency, expand the FHA mortgage loan program to include higher-cost properties, increase access to housing for seniors and the disabled, expand FHA reverse mortgages program and advance initiatives to end homelessness.