

## (May 17, 2007) Rep. Lipinski's Bright Idea

Rep. Lipinski's Bright Idea

Jim Tankersley

Chicago Tribune Blog

May 17, 2007

The House wants the Pentagon to glow a little greener. Er &hellip; brighter. Er &hellip; compact fluorescent-ier.

By unanimous vote last night, representatives approved a defense-bill amendment - offered by Rep. Dan Lipinski (D.-Ill.) - that requires the Department of Defense to start installing energy-efficient light bulbs.

Lipinski's office says the efficient bulbs, such as compact fluorescents, use about 75 percent less energy than normal bulbs and last eight to 10 times longer. Estimated savings over the life of one bulb: \$74.

The amendment instructs the department to switch to energy-efficient bulbs in the course of routine maintenance or whenever a building is remodeled or built. For the sake of national security, it exempts instances where the Pentagon deems energy-efficient bulbs infeasible.

"When you consider that the DOD has over 240,000 buildings in the U.S. alone," Lipinski said during floor debate, "it is clear that this amendment is a practical way to make significant progress in lowering energy consumption, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and promoting energy independence, while at the same time saving millions of American taxpayer dollars."

Lipinski has a bill pending that would require the same bulb-switching behavior from every branch of the federal government.