

## (September 28, 2007) Lipinski Meets with European Officials to Address Climate Change

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Discusses Need for International Cooperation to Fight Global Warming

WASHINGTON, D.C. - This week, House Science and Technology Committee Vice Chairman Dan Lipinski met with three European Union Environment Ministers to discuss transatlantic cooperation on climate change. The meeting, attended by Connie Hedegaard, Sigmar Gabriel, and Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet, Environment Ministers of Denmark, Germany, and France respectively, provided lawmakers with a first-hand account of Europe's actions to curb the emissions of global warming gases and highlighted ongoing climate change talks at the United Nations.

"Our discussion emphasized the urgent need for a cooperative global effort on climate change, and comes at a time when Americans are increasingly calling for action to address the dangers posed by climate change," stated Lipinski. "American ingenuity is leading to the development of new technologies that will help us address these issues. But the Federal government needs to be doing more to encourage these efforts and to institute new, efficient methods of limiting dangerous emissions."

Vice Chairman Lipinski has championed efforts in Congress to reduce emissions of climate changing greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide. The House has already passed three Lipinski initiatives this year that will aid in the fight against global warming. The first, known as the BRIGHT Energy Savings Act, requires the use of high efficiency light bulbs whenever a new bulb is installed in a federal office building. This will significantly lower energy usage and cut emissions of global warming gases, while at the same time saving taxpayers' money. The second initiative, known as the H-Prize Act, establishes over \$50 million in competitively awarded cash prizes to spur innovation in hydrogen energy technologies and advance the use of hydrogen as a new, pollution-free alternative fuel that will replace gasoline and diesel fuel. Both of these provisions authored by Rep. Lipinski were included in the comprehensive energy bill passed by the House in August.

The third initiative establishes a new Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Air Transportation Center of Excellence focused on conducting research to find an alternative fuel for aircraft. Aviation contributes an increasing amount of global warming gases to the atmosphere and new clean fuels need to be developed. This provision was passed last week as part of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007.

"Scientists around the world have illustrated in dramatic detail the need to take action now," stated Lipinski. "I will continue to press Congress and the President to do more on the issue of climate change. The comprehensive energy package was a good start, but additional work is needed to promote energy independence at home while reducing dangerous emissions, creating jobs, and enhancing American competitiveness in the 21st century."