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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

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June 13, 2002

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### MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT REFORM SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY POLICY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

FROM: Doug Ose 

SUBJECT: Briefing Memorandum for June 17, 2002 Hearing, "Energy: Maximizing Resources, Meeting Needs, Retaining Jobs."

On Monday, June 17, 2002, the Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs will hold a field hearing to review aspects of the energy policy for the U.S., with a special focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. The hearing will be at 11 AM in Wiggins Auditorium, Peabody City Hall, Peabody, Massachusetts.

In May 2001, the Bush Administration unveiled its National Energy Policy, a comprehensive plan to address the nation's energy needs. The President's plan highlights the energy challenges the U.S. will face in the future and seeks to address them in a thorough, balanced fashion. The President's plan recommends policies that increase energy supply, improve energy infrastructure, encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, and protect our environment.

On August 1, 2001, the House passed H.R. 4, "Securing America's Future Energy Act of 2001." The House legislation contains most of the provisions recommended in the President's National Energy Policy. The House bill:

- Increases funding for weatherization programs to meet the needs of low-income Americans
- Increases funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to meet the needs of low-income Americans
- Provides a tax credit for energy efficiency improvements to existing homes
- Provides a tax credit for residential solar energy
- Provides a tax credit for combined heat and power system property
- Provides tax incentives for fuel cells
- Provides a tax credit for energy efficient appliances

- Expenses capital costs incurred and provides credit for production in complying with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) sulfur regulations
- Establishes an alternative demonstration fuel vehicle and commercial application grant program
- Authorizes the Department of Energy (DOE) to develop accelerated programs for the use of advanced clean coal methods and equipment
- Directs DOE to develop a comprehensive and cooperative research, development, and demonstration, and commercial application program to ensure the reliability, efficiency and environmental responsibility of distributed energy resources
- Provides new authorization for hydrogen, biomass, and renewable energy research and development
- Provides research, development, demonstration and commercial application of clean coal technology
- Instructs our national labs to join in the process of creating clean energy
- Requires DOE and EPA to conduct a joint study of all Federal, State and local fuel requirements
- Expands the Energy Star program and directs EPA and DOE to determine whether the Energy Star label should extend to additional products and buildings
- Directs DOE to set standards for appliance "standby mode" energy consumption
- Reduces light truck fuel consumption by 5 billion gallons over six years
- Modifies and extends provisions relating to electric vehicles, clean-fuel vehicles, and clean-fuel vehicles refueling property
- Directs the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to update and improve its regulations governing the construction of energy-efficient housing
- Studies existing rights-of-ways on Federal lands and makes an inventory of wind, solar, coal and geothermal production on Federal lands
- Provides investment and production credits for clean coal technology
- Provides incentives for additional geothermal production
- Allows for limited oil and gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)

The invited witnesses for the hearing include: David Fairman, Vice President of International Dispute Resolution, The Consensus Building Institute; Steve Bernow, Energy Group Director, Tellus Institute; George Sterzinger, Executive Director, Renewable Energy Policy Project; Roger Little, CEO, Spire Corporation; and Byron Swift, Director, Energy and Innovation Center, Environmental Law Institute.