

In Response to Heat Wave and High Gas Prices, Castle Tours DuPont's Alternative Energy Programs, Observes Solar Panel Technology in Sun -- August 2, 2006

Castle Outlines Key Energy Priorities for Congress

Wilmington, DE -- In response to the heat wave sweeping the Northeast and the increased levels of energy being used due to air conditioning, Delaware Congressman Mike Castle took a visit to DuPont on Wednesday to tour their plant and get an update on their alternative energy programs, including witnessing their solar panel technology outside in the sun. The Congressman also laid out his ideas and plans for Congress to address the issue of realistic alternative sources of energy.

"As the temperatures continue to rise, we must not only concentrate on increasing America's energy supply, but we must also focus on improving vehicle fuel efficiency and renewable energy research. I am here at DuPont today in the perfect setting to have a serious discussion about alternative sources of energy," Castle said.

The solar energy panel unit at DuPont can produce enough energy to power 8 average households. Currently, the system, which has been operating since March 2, 2006, powers approximately 10% of Chestnut Run building 702, which is used for research and offices. The building uses approximately 80 times the amount of energy needed to power an average home in the mid-Atlantic.

The Congressman laid out the following initiatives he is currently working on to improve energy policy in the United States:

1. Basic Investment in Research and Development to help motivate private companies like DuPont and Universities to focus on alternative sources of energy. Increased funding for biofuels, solar and wind energy, and nuclear energy are included in the House passed Energy and Water Appropriations Act, which awaits Senate approval.
2. Energy Efficiency Cornerstone Act (on which Rep. Castle is a cosponsor): This legislation would enact new appliance and equipment efficiency standards for residential and commercial buildings, revise energy performance standards for new federal buildings, enhance the energy star program and establish an income tax credit for hybrid and clean diesel cars and trucks.
3. The Federal Energy Price Protection Act: This bill bans price gouging at the wholesale and retail levels for gasoline, diesel fuel, crude oil, home heating oil and biofuels.
4. CAFE Standards: This would increase corporate average fuel economy standards to make cars and trucks go further on a gallon of gas. It is estimated that raising CAFE standards to 33 MPG, would save 2.6 million barrels of oil each day by 2025.

5. Nuclear Energy