

National Audubon Society Honors Castle for Protecting Arctic National Wildlife Refuge -- August 16, 2006

Castle highlights his efforts to protect the environment, before embarking on canoe trip on Brandywine River

WILMINGTON, DE -- Along the banks of the Brandywine River and before embarking on a canoe trip, the National Audubon Society today honored Delaware Congressman Mike Castle for his leadership on environmental initiatives, such as protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), preserving wildlife habitats in Delaware, like Prime Hook and Redden State Forest and for his work to create a recreation area along the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

"I am pleased to receive this honor today from the Audubon Society whose work is invaluable to key environmental initiatives throughout the country. I am always happy to coordinate with them on important projects such as preserving the Wildlife Refuges here in Delaware. Protection of the Coastal Plain of the Refuge, I know, has been among the highest priorities for more than two decades, and it remains a top priority for many in Congress," Castle said.

"Mike Castle has steadfastly upheld a long tradition among Delaware's congressional delegation of protecting the Alaskan wilderness from industrialization while at the same time promoting the development of a progressive national energy policy," said Nicholas DiPasquale, Conservation Chair for Delaware Audubon. "We're here today to express our gratitude to Congressman Castle for his vigilance on this issue and his support for numerous other conservation initiatives."

Castle noted that he also opposed the Energy Policy Act, signed into law in July 2006, which largely favored coal, oil and gas over renewables and efficiency and it did not do enough to strengthen conservation or make energy practices environmentally sound. He also opposed The GAS Act because it weakened environmental laws and lined the pockets of oil companies. This measure has not yet been considered in the Senate.

Castle highlighted the following issues he has been supportive of in an effort to create an independent, clean energy strategy:

1. Investment in Research and Development to help motivate private companies 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. Curbing Global Warming - In an effort to fight global warming, Castle is a cosponsor of legislation to cap U.S. aggregate greenhouse gas emissions at the 2000 level by 2010 through the establishment of a cap and trade system.
3. Boosting Energy Efficiency - Castle is a cosponsor of legislation to enact new appliance and equipment efficiency standards for residential and commercial buildings, revise energy performance standards for new federal buildings, and enhance the energy star program.
4. Protecting Against Price Gouging - A bill has passed the House which bans price gouging at the wholesale and retail levels for gasoline, diesel fuel, crude oil, home heating oil and biofuels.

5. Increasing CAFE Standards - Castle is a cosponsor of legislation that 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.