

Castle Supports House Energy Bill -- August 4, 2007

Washington, DC -- Today in a Saturday session of the House of Representatives, Congressman Mike Castle of Delaware won adoption of an amendment to HR 3221, New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act. Castle succeeded in amending the bill to require a status report on regulations for wind energy. Delaware has not only agreed to produce 20% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020, but has made a strong commitment to offshore wind resources as a component of its energy portfolio.

"Offshore wind can play an important part in diversifying the nation's energy supply and easing our demand for fossil fuels. For this reason, I proposed an amendment to require the agency charged with developing new rules for offshore wind energy production update Congress. These guidelines are long overdue and have been delayed at a time when additional clean energy could curb air pollution and climate change, Castle said."

The amendment was included as part of a larger energy package, HR 3221, which the Congressman supported. This bill takes steps toward a more secure, diverse, and domestic energy portfolio that will help spur investment in new technology:

- Ends "royalty relief" for oil and natural gas producers currently not required to pay royalties;

- Sets new energy-efficiency standards for appliances, lighting, and buildings;

- Creates new programs to encourage modernization of the electricity grid;

- Authorizes new federal dollars for research programs into sustainable energy sources and alternative fuels;

- Authorizes foreign aid to promote international energy-efficiency standards; and

- Authorizes other programs designed to spur new jobs and promote growth in alternative energy fields.

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