

HOUSE TAKES ONLY SMALL STEPS TO ADDRESS ENERGY CRUNCH -- June 26, 2008

Castle Believes Urgent and Comprehensive Plan is Only Solution

Washington, DC -- Statement of Rep. Michael N. Castle (DE-R) on the energy legislation considered in the U.S. House of Representatives this week.

"This week Congress debated legislation to address energy futures markets, drilling on federal land, public transportation, price gouging, and restrictions on leases for oil and gas drilling. While all these issues are relevant pieces of the puzzle, I have concerns that the legislation this week fell short of a comprehensive energy plan to reduce our short-term dependence on foreign oil and begin to change our long-term dependency on fossil fuels. I voted this week to severely punish those guilty of price gouging at the pump, to investigate and prevent market manipulation in the energy futures market, to provide incentives for public transportation, and to require oil companies use existing leases to their fullest potential or turn them back.

"We must look beyond these measures and pass pragmatic solutions that cover a broad spectrum of energy policies, from increasing supply, intensifying development of alternatives, extending renewable and efficiency tax credits, implementing stronger efficiency standards, and ramping up conservation. We are obligated to explore any and all of these feasible solutions -- and we must do it sooner rather than later. Our delay in enacting a comprehensive energy policy has created the situation we face today. Only a bipartisan balance of smart energy policies will prevent Americans from facing this same predicament again in ten and twenty years. ###