

## Murphy Praises Historic Compromise Energy Bill

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - After exerting pressure on the leadership of the House of Representatives to bring up a compromise energy bill, Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) praised passage of a sweeping, bipartisan energy bill that aims to lower prices for consumers, expands domestic oil production, and invests in renewable energy.

"This energy bill is an example of what government can do when faced with a choice between two very different paths - a choice between helping American consumers, or once again, helping the oil industry. In the spirit of compromise, we were able to pass real, meaningful legislation here in the House that takes a sober, multi-faceted approach to our American energy crisis to help Connecticut families struggling with high energy costs," said Murphy.

The bill, HR 6899, the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act aims to lower prices for consumers, expand domestic oil production, increase investment in renewable sources of energy, require the oil industry to pay what it owes taxpayers, end subsidies to the Big Oil companies, and create good-paying jobs.

In July, the House of Representatives voted on several energy measures, including legislation to expand production and supply, a bill to authorize increased development in Alaska, legislation to release oil from our Strategic Petroleum Reserves to put more oil on the market, and a measure to reform commodities market trading to rein in rampant oil speculation. All of these measures failed because of Republican opposition.

To move forward and end the partisan stalemate on energy policy, Murphy sent a letter to the House leadership in August to urge them to work with Republicans to reach a compromise on increased offshore drilling in order to pass a comprehensive energy bill. When Congress reconvened in September, it moved quickly to craft a compromise that opens up 85% of the available oil offshore, and includes most of the measures that Republicans blocked in July.

The compromise bill Murphy supported included:

- oil production between 50 and 100 miles offshore if a state "opts-in" to allow leasing off its coastline by enacting a state law while allowing areas outside 100 miles open to oil and gas leasing;
- an extension and expansion of tax incentives for renewable energy;
- a requirement of utilities to generate 15% of their energy from renewable sources by 2020;
- \$1.7 billion in new transportation grants to help states lower rail and bus fares and broadly invest in expanded transit service. Connecticut is slated to receive nearly \$19 million;
- a special fund to expand aid from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and provide weatherization assistance;
- expansion of production and supply by requiring oil companies to drill on their currently leased holdings;
- authorization for increased development of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A);
- a release of ten percent of the oil from our Strategic Petroleum Reserves to put more oil on the market.

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