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A: All Those who Supported the Rothman Amendment

Washington, DC -- At a time of national concern over energy, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) today helped make the House of Representatives a leader in energy efficiency. The Rothman-authored amendment allows House offices to use energy-efficient light bulbs which consume four times less energy than regular light bulbs.

"This amendment will shed some energy-efficient light on the House of Representatives," Rothman said. "We must lead by example as we encourage a more energy-efficient nation."

The Rothman amendment was included as part of the House Legislative Branch Appropriations bill which passed the House of Representatives today by a vote of 380-38. The amendment designates \$75,000 from existing funds for the purchase of energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs, which cost approximately \$10 each for House Office Buildings, and the retrofitting of existing table, floor, and desk lamps to accommodate these light bulbs.

Rothman's amendment will yield significant cost-savings for taxpayers over the 10-year life of these energy-efficient bulbs. While a compact fluorescent light bulb costs only \$1.20 to operate for one year, conventional incandescent light bulbs that are now in use throughout the House of Representatives cost approximately \$4.80 to operate for the same period. This is savings of \$3.60 per bulb for the approximately 4,000 light bulbs in offices of the House of Representatives' 435 members and staff.

Further, Rothman added there will be additional saving by not having to replace those thousands of light bulbs every six months, because an energy-efficient bulb lasts 20 times longer (10 years) than a traditional light bulb that lasts only six months. A recent Environmental Protection Agency analysis noted that an energy-efficient bulb can save up to \$67 in costs over its 10-year life.

"Energy-efficient light bulbs will save thousands of taxpayer dollars," Rothman added.

Rothman also noted that if all Americans used energy-efficient light bulbs, not only would this save millions of dollars, but the decrease in power usage would be equivalent to the energy produced by 90 average sized power plants.

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