

Rothman Votes for Energy Security Bill

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Congressman Rothman Votes for Bipartisan Energy Security Bill

Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) today voted for the Energy Independence and Security Act, sweeping legislation to put America on a path toward energy independence. The energy security bill passed with support from Republicans and Democrats by a vote of 235 to 181.

"The new Democratic majority in Congress has made energy independence and tackling global warming a top priority. Today, I was proud to vote to increase vehicle fuel efficiency standards to 35 miles per gallon by 2020 for new cars and trucks. This landmark improvement will save American families an estimated \$700 to \$1,000 per year at the gas pump, with \$22 billion in net consumer savings in 2020 alone. It is supported by environmentalists, labor, and the automobile industry.

"This legislation marks the first time that Congress has increased the fuel economy standard since 1975 and it is long overdue. The bill also requires for the first time that 15% of our electricity comes from renewable sources, invests in American bio-fuels and clean renewable and alternative energy markets, and sets new energy efficiency standards for appliances such as dishwashers, clothes washers, and refrigerators. The Energy Independence and Security Act will help conserve energy, reduce our impact on the environment, reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, save consumers money in energy costs, and create jobs.

"I'm glad the New Direction Congress accomplished this bill in our first year and I hope the President will back down from his threat to veto it. If Bush does veto this bill, then it is up to Republicans in the Senate and House to listen to the wishes of the American people and join Democrats in voting to override Bush's veto. George W. Bush has become a popular boogeyman and for good reason but he would be powerless without the support of his Congress who uphold his vetoes and block progress."

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