

Congressman Travis Childers Supports Comprehensive Energy Legislation to Resolve Current Crisis

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Washington, DC - Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) will vote in support of comprehensive energy legislation to address the nation's current crisis and help combat out-of-control fuel costs. The Comprehensive American Energy Security & Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 6899) will increase national security and energy independence by expanding domestic drilling offshore and on land, temporarily releasing nearly ten percent of the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) oil stockpile, promoting renewable energy sources that create jobs, and encouraging conservation.

"Mississippians need relief now from high fuel costs and the resulting elevated prices of groceries and other necessities," said Congressman Childers. "I am pleased that Congress has finally brought comprehensive energy legislation to the House floor, and am proud to support this important measure to increase American energy independence and lower gas prices.

"While H.R. 6899 is not perfect, it is encouraging that House leadership has presented legislation providing a multifaceted approach to solving our nation's energy crisis that includes expanded domestic drilling. We still need to do much more in regard to oil production and exploration, but this bill is a step in the right direction, and indicates that leadership is acting on calls from me and my fellow members of the centrist Blue Dog Coalition to legislate new oil drilling.

"I am also very happy to back legislation that calls for the release of 70 million barrels of oil from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve to help expand our national oil supply. I was dismayed that more of my colleagues did not vote for this measure this summer, as this is the only initiative that would immediately lower gas prices, within one month."

H.R. 6899 provisions include:

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The largest opening of land offshore for oil and gas development in our nation's history.

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The temporary release of 70 million barrels of oil (nearly 10 percent) from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), replacing it later with heavier, cheaper crude oil.

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Extension and expansion of tax incentives for renewable electricity, energy (such as solar and wind) and fuel from America's heartland, as well as for plug-in hybrid cars, and energy efficient homes, buildings, and appliances. These incentives would help spur job growth in the "green collar" energy sector and the oil and gas industry.

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Incentives for conservation, including energy-efficient buildings and homes, and a reduction in public transportation fares.

Support for H.R. 6899 has been urged by American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), as well as American farmers and producers who encourage tax incentives for renewable fuels, such as those included in this legislation. AFBF touts these incentives as a means to help America transition to a nation fueled by clean renewable energy, achieve long-term economic growth, create a cleaner environment, and shield our economy from unreliable foreign energy sources.

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