



# DEMOCRATS LEAD THE WAY IN MAKING AMERICA ENERGY INDEPENDENT

## *Democrats Push to Increase Alternative Fuels Use in the Military*

While Republicans trot out gimmicks such as \$100 gas rebates and renew proposals for more drilling that Americans have repeatedly rejected, Democrats have proposed innovative policies to lead America towards energy independence and to strengthen our national security. This week, leading Democrats will offer an amendment to the FY07 Department of Defense Authorization Bill to increase funding for alternative fuels in our military – the largest single buyer of fuel in America.

- This week, **Democrats will submit to the Rules Committee an amendment to the FY07 DoD Authorization bill to increase funding for DoD alternative fuels programs.**
- The amendment, offered by Democratic Whip Hoyer, Reps. Bart Gordon and Mark Udall, would shift over \$300 million in excess funds from the \$9.1 billion proposed for ballistic missile defense programs.
- The amendment would **authorize \$250 million for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E).** Located in the Department of Energy, ARPA-E would encourage and support America's best and brightest researchers and scientists to develop the cutting-edge technology necessary to make America energy independent. As embodied in a bill by Rep. Gordon [H.R. 4435] and the Democrats' Innovation Agenda, ARPA-E would reduce energy imports from foreign sources by 20% within 10 years.
- The amendment would also require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the Director of National Intelligence, **to study and to report to Congress on the strategic implications of the nation's increasing demand on foreign oil on national security.**
- Finally, the amendment would include provisions offered by Rep. Udall in committee last week, and rejected by Republicans, that **increase the funds available for the Defense Energy Support Center (DESC), which buys and manages oil and other energy supplies for the military services, and to the Advanced Power Technology Office, which promotes the increased use of fuel cells, electric hybrids, batteries, advanced engines, and hydrogen for military and homeland defense vehicles and equipment.** The DESC funding would be used to install and convert pump and tank infrastructure for alternative fuels, such as E-85 and biodiesel, at military bases around the country. The fueling infrastructure is needed to increase the actual use of alternative fuels.