GOP Leadership –
A History of Saying No to Energy Independence

	Boehner	Cantor	Pence	Sessions
Long-Term Energy Alternatives (01/2007)	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**
Long-Term Energy Alternatives (12/2007)	**No**	**No**	**No**	**Yes**
New Direction for Energy Independence	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**
Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**
NOPEC	**No (Twice)**	**Yes (Twice)**	**No (Twice)**	**No (Twice)**
Federal Price Gouging Prevention	**No (Twice)**	**No (Twice)**	**No (Twice)**	**No (Twice)**
Energy and Tax Extenders	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**
Responsible Federal Oil and Gas Lease	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**
Drill Responsibly in Leased Lands	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**
Consumer Energy Supply	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**
Commodity Markets Transparency & Accountability	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**
American Recovery & Reinvestment	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**
Clean Energy & Security	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**
Just Saying "No"	100%	87%	100%	100%

Legislation

H.R. 6 – (January 2007 Version) Creating Long-Term Energy Alternatives for the Nation Act - As part of our 6 for ’06 campaign, House Democrats promised to repeal tax breaks for Big Oil and focus investment on alternative fuels and renewable energies. This measure would repeal $6.6 billion of the tax incentives provided for oil and gas companies in the Republican Energy plan, and place that revenue into a reserve fund for alternative and renewable energies. The bill would require current offshore fuel producers who are not paying federal royalties to agree to pay royalties when fuel prices reach certain thresholds or pay fees based on how much fuel they produce. This provision is expected to raise an additional $6.2 billion. Click here for vote tally.

H.R. 6 – (December 2007 Version) Creating Long-Term Energy Alternatives for the Nation Act - This measure raises — for the first time since 1975 — the fuel efficiency standard for cars and light trucks to 35 mpg by 2020, a 40% increase over current standards. Because the new fuel efficiency standards would lower fuel consumption, federal fuel tax revenue would also fall. The Senate bill offsets the $2.1 billion revenue loss, with most of the offsets coming from an extension of the federal unemployment surtax. The measure requires that 36 billion gallons of biofuels be blended with conventional fuels by the same year, more than a five-fold increase over the current requirement. It also set new energy-efficiency standards for appliances and buildings. Click here for vote tally.

H.R. 3221 – The New Direction for Energy Independence Act - This measure passed the House, not the Senate and several pieces were rolled into HR 6 as it was signed in December. As passed by the House, the bill requires utility companies to produce at least 15% of their electricity through the use of renewable energy resources, such as wind or solar power, by 2020. It effectively requires energy companies to begin paying royalties for offshore oil and natural gas production that is currently exempt from such royalties; sets new efficiency standards for appliances, lighting and buildings; authorizes billions for research into sustainable energy sources and alternative fuels; and sets a goal of eliminating greenhouse gas emissions by federal agencies by 2050. It does not set new fuel economy standards for cars and trucks. Click here for vote tally.

H.R. 5351 –Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act - The measure extends existing tax incentives for investing in alternative energy and energy efficiency items, authorizes $5.6 billion in tax credit bonds to finance renewable energy and conservation projects, and creates a new tax credit for plug-in hybrid vehicles. The bill completely offsets the estimated $18.1 billion, 11-year cost of these tax breaks with provisions that increase federal revenue, with 97% of that new revenue coming from the elimination or reduction of certain tax benefits for oil and gas companies. The bill is very similar to measures passed by the House last year that drew veto threats, largely because of the offsetting revenue-raising provisions; Senate Democratic leaders were unable to obtain the 60 votes needed to pass those provisions, and they were dropped from the energy bill enacted in December. Click here for vote tally.

H.R. 2264 – No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels (NOPEC) Act - This bill seeks to make OPEC subject to US anti-trust laws. It prohibits foreign countries from collectively manipulating energy prices or supplies, and permits the federal government to sue foreign countries for any such actions that directly affect the United States. It says that foreign countries would not be immune to these laws under the doctrine of sovereign immunity. Click here for vote tally. We passed this same provision again this past May 20, 2008 as HR 6074. For this second vote, click here.

H.R. 1252 – Federal Price Gouging Prevention Act - This bill allows the President to designate areas of the country to be in a state of “energy emergency” for up to 30 consecutive days. During the time when a geographic area has such a designation this bill prohibits wholesale or retail vendors from selling gas or diesel fuel at an "unconscionably excessive" price, or at prices that indicate "the seller is taking unfair advantage" of an emergency situation. The bill makes violators subject to both civil and criminal penalties. [Click here for vote tally.] We passed this same provision again on June 24, 2008 as HR 6346. [For this second vote, click here.]

H.R. 6049 – Energy and Tax Extenders Act - This bill provides extensions of both personal and energy tax credits. On the energy side, it would extend the research and development credit and active financing provisions, and seek to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil by encouraging the use and production of renewable energy through: a six-year extension of the investment tax credit (ITC) for solar energy; three-year extensions of the production tax credit (PTC) for energy derived from biomass, geothermal, hydropower, landfill gas and solid waste; and a one-year extension of the PTC for energy derived from wind. It also creates tax incentives for coal electricity plants that capture and sequester carbon dioxide; incentives for the production of renewable fuels such as biodiesel and renewable diesel and cellulosic biofuels; incentives to encourage energy efficient products, such as plug-in hybrids cars; and incentives for energy conservation in both commercial buildings and residential structures. Finally, it provides tax credit bonds providing State and local government with funds to make energy conservation investments in public infrastructure and invest in research. [Click here for vote tally.]

H.R. 6251 – Responsible Federal Oil and Gas Lease Act - This is the Rahall-Markey-Emanuel "Use it or Lose It" bill. According to the staff of the Committee on Natural Resources, if we extrapolate from today's production rates on federal land and waters, we can estimate that the 68 million acres of leased but currently inactive federal land and waters could produce an additional 4.8 million barrels of oil and 44.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas each day. That would nearly double total U.S. oil production, and increase natural gas production by 75%. It would also cut U.S. oil imports by more than a third, and be more than six times the estimated peak production from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The Rahall bill would force oil and gas companies to either produce or give up federal onshore and offshore leases they are stockpiling by barring the companies from obtaining any more leases unless they can demonstrate that they are producing oil and gas, or are diligently developing the leases they already hold, during the initial term of the leases. Democrats claim they are sitting on the land to drive up prices. Oil companies claim they lease the land on the hope that there is oil there, then do geologic studies and much of that 68 million acres does not have a commercial quantity of oil. This bill failed on the suspension calendar. [Click here for vote tally.]

HR 6377 -- Energy Markets Emergency Act of 2008 - This Peterson-Van Hollen measure directs the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to utilize all its authority, including its emergency powers, to immediately curb the role of excessive speculation in any contract market within its jurisdiction and control on or through which energy futures or swaps are traded. The CFTC is also instructed to use its authority to eliminate excessive speculation, price distortion, sudden or unreasonable fluctuations or unwarranted changes in prices, or other unlawful activity that is causing major market disturbances that prevent the market from accurately reflecting the forces of supply and demand for energy commodities. [Click here for vote tally.]

HR 6515 - Drill Responsibly in Leased Lands Act of 2008 - The DRILL Act increases domestic energy production, speeds supply to market, and creates jobs. H.R. 6515 requires the President to conduct an annual lease sale of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) for the next five years. This would be the first ever mandate of federal lease sale of lands for domestic drilling. NPR-A has been open for drilling for 26 years, but only 14% of the land is leased. NPR-A contains 10.6 billion barrels of oil, compared to an estimate 10.4 billion in ANWR. The DRILL Act also ensures American oil is used to increase supply at home by banning the sale of Alaskan oil abroad and speeds oil and gas to market through the development of new pipelines. This bill failed on the suspension calendar. [Click here for vote tally.]

HR 6578 – Consumer Energy Supply Act of 2008 - The bill directs the Energy Department to release 70 million barrels of "light, sweet" crude oil, the type of oil that is the easiest and cheapest to refine into petroleum fuel products, and replace that with an equal amount of "heavy, sour" crude that is more expensive to refine. The bill is intended to temporarily increase the supply of oil that can be readily refined into gasoline and other fuels. Click here for vote tally.

HR 6604 - Commodity Markets Transparency and Accountability Act of 2008 - The bill will bring greater transparency and accountability to the commodity market and will address excessive market speculation at a time when economists are telling us that speculation is artificially inflating the price of commodities, like oil, well beyond the context of supply and demand. The Commodity Markets Transparency and Accountability Act of 2008 responds to the problem of high gas and food prices by focusing on the real problem of energy market speculation by establishing position limits, better defining differences between real commercial oil users and speculators and closing loopholes, including the so-called “London” and “Enron” loopholes that were created in the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000. These loopholes allow trades in energy commodities that are beyond regulatory oversight. These adjustments would curtail speculation but still allow commercial users of oil to hedge on their purchases to manage their risk and save money. This bill failed on the suspension calendar. Click here for vote tally.

HR 1 – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - This measure would provide an estimated $787.2 billion in tax cuts and spending increases to stimulate the economy, plus provisions to prevent the alternative minimum tax from applying to millions of additional taxpayers in 2009 and to increase the ceiling on federal borrowing by $789 billion to $12.104 trillion. The tax provisions, which are estimated to reduce revenue by $211.8 billion over 10 years would increase depreciation allowances for businesses, suspend taxes on the first $2,400 of unemployment benefits per recipient for 2009, grant a credit for the first $400 in Social Security taxes for most taxpayers, expand other individual tax credits, including the first-time homebuyer tax credit to $8,000. Mandatory spending increases total an estimated $267 billion over 10 years and include an extension of unemployment and welfare benefits, Medicaid payments to states, health insurance assistance for individuals and grants for health information technology. Discretionary spending increases total an estimated $308.3 billion over 10 years and include grants to state and local schools, grants for public housing, transportation projects and nutrition assistance. Click here for vote tally.

HR 2454 – American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 - The bill establishes a "cap and trade" system in which emissions of greenhouse gasses would be capped overall and allowances for such emissions either given away to polluters or sold. Initially, more than three-quarters of the allowances would be distributed free of charge, but by 2030 most of the allowances would have to be purchased — leading Republican critics to label it the "cap and tax" program. Polluters could buy additional allowances from other companies, or buy "offsets" through programs that reduce greenhouse gasses through reforestation or other means. House Republicans have claimed that the cap and trade program would cost the average household about $3,000 a year in higher energy and product prices, but the Congressional Budget Office projects that the bill would cost the average U.S. household $175 a year by 2020. The measure requires electric utilities to produce 6% of their power from renewable sources by 2012, and 20% by 2020. It sets new energy efficiency and water use standards for buildings and consumer products, and doubles the current loan guarantee program to help American carmakers develop better batteries and plug-in electric cars. Click here for vote tally.