

COLUMN BY CONGRESSMAN MIKE ROGERS

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For Release —

Americans Want and Deserve National Energy Bill

By CONGRESSMAN MIKE ROGERS

In my mind, making America more energy independent is about one thing: national security. The American people want a national energy bill and Congress should deliver a measure to the President this year.

Each day, the United States imports one million barrels of oil from Iraq and Saddam Hussein's regime. Profits from American oil dollars have been shown to fund the families of suicide bombers at \$25,000 for each successful attack. Particularly in this uncertain global political climate, we ought to strive for energy independence through increased conservation, incentives for renewable energies and increased domestic production.

Michigan is a national leader in developing new and improved technologies that increase conservation and improve energy efficiency. Just last month, Governor John Engler signed into law the NextEnergy tax-free zone in Ann Arbor which will ensure Michigan leads the way in development of fuel cell technology. The project will make zero-emission automobiles a reality within the next decade.

Last August the House of Representatives approved a balanced, comprehensive energy bill that provided more than \$33 billion in incentives for renewable sources of energy and conservation. America is the most energy efficient country in the world and this important investment will ensure we continue to lead the way in the protection of our precious environment. Each step we take toward increasing our energy independence is a step we take away from reliance on such hostile regimes as Iraq.

Adoption of a national energy policy is vital to the continued security of America. Before Congress adjourns for the year, we must work to send the President a balanced bill like the measure approved last August. America is watching.