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Natural Resources Committee

Press Release

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House Republican Leadership Introduces Legislation To Lower Gas Prices & Decrease America's Growing Dependence On Foreign Energy Supplies

“We do not lack the resources in America to become energy independent - we lack the will to produce them.” – Rep. Don Young

Washington, D.C. – The following is U.S. Rep. Don Young's (R-Alaska) statement on the introduction today of the House Republican leadership's comprehensive plan to reduce fuel costs by increasing American-made energy supplies in an environmentally-safe way, while encouraging greater energy conservation and efficiency.

Young is the Ranking Republican on the House Natural Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over most energy production issues on federal lands.

“As energy prices continue to increase daily, the Democratic Majority has still been sticking by its long-standing philosophy of saying ‘no’ to virtually all forms of domestic energy production.

“The House Republican leadership continues to believe that ‘no’ is not an energy policy, and the GOP energy plan is a comprehensive effort to address the outrageous \$4 a gallon gas and \$125 a barrel oil prices.

“We do not lack the resources in America to become energy independent - we lack the will to produce them.

“One prime example is the continued opposition to producing oil and natural gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge – America's largest untapped oil field. By producing in the most modern, environmentally-safe manner in just 2,000 acres of the 17-million acre refuge, we could produce more than 10.4 billion barrels of oil. This would provide more than one million barrels a day for the United States for over 30 years.

“If we had opened ANWR in 1995 when it was approved by Congress, we would already be producing one million barrels a day for our nation. Unfortunately, former President Clinton vetoed this effort and the Democratic leadership has fought us on every attempt to correct this major mistake.

“This comprehensive Republican energy package addresses energy production in virtually every phase of our nation's energy needs – from Outer Continental Shelf and onshore production to oil shale leasing. We need to immediately pass this all-inclusive energy bill so that we immediately begin to address America's

energy crisis. We have wasted decades by failing to deal with our dependence on foreign energy and we can't afford to waste any more time.

“Today, I will be introducing new legislation to allow for the production of oil and natural gas in ANWR as part of this energy package.

“The ANWR, Outer Continental Shelf and oil shale leasing on federal lands all fall within the jurisdiction of the Natural Resources Committee and as Ranking Member I am committed to help move this comprehensive energy package.”

(Below is more information on the House Republican plan to lower gas prices and increase America's energy independence.)

As Gas and Energy Prices Soar, House Republicans Will Deliver the Change America Deserves

Washington is broken, and the Democratic Majority's refusal to address soaring energy prices is a perfect example of why. Two years ago, then-Minority Leader Pelosi promised the American people a “commonsense plan” to lower gasoline prices, but House Democrats have not only failed to offer any meaningful solutions, they've put forward policies that will have precisely the opposite effect. As a result of their inaction, oil, gasoline, and electricity prices are as high as they have ever been. Once a nightmare scenario, \$4 gasoline has become a harsh reality – on Speaker Pelosi's watch – and now Americans are paying nearly \$1.50 more per gallon at the pump than when the Speaker took office. This **Pelosi Premium** is hitting working families hard at a time when they are confronting high costs of living, a slowing economy, and a housing crunch. This has to change.

Republicans are committed to a comprehensive energy reform policy that will boost supplies of all forms of energy right here at home to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy, protect us against blackmail by foreign dictators, create American jobs, and grow our economy. This includes increasing the supply of American-made energy, improving energy efficiency, and encouraging investment in groundbreaking research in advanced alternative and renewable energy technologies. With 21st Century technologies and the strictest environmental standards in the world, America must produce more of our own energy right here at home and protect our environment at the same time. That's the change America deserves.

To help ease the pain of the Pelosi Premium, House Republican leaders have also embraced short-term legislation that would suspend the 18.4 cents per gallon federal gas tax this summer and establish a corresponding freeze on all taxpayer-funded earmarks to ensure the Highway Trust Fund will not be impacted. Savings from the earmarks freeze also would be applied toward reducing the federal deficit.

A House Republican Majority will work to deliver the change America deserves on gas prices with meaningful solutions that make our nation more energy independent. Here is how we will do it:

- We will **increase the production of American-made energy in an environmentally-safe way**. This includes the exploration of next generation oil, natural gas, and coal and the production of advanced alternative fuels like cellulosic and clean coal-to-liquids – all while protecting our natural resources for future generations.
- We will **promote new, clean, and reliable sources of energy** like advanced nuclear and next generation coal, while promoting clean power from renewable energy such as wind and hydroelectric power. Nuclear energy has proven itself as a safe, carbon-free and environmentally friendly alternative,

with France relying on it for nearly 80 percent of its electricity needs, compared to just 19 percent in America.

- We will **cut red tape and increase the supply of American-made fuel and energy**. Limiting the construction of new oil refineries and bureaucratic regulations mandating the use of exotic fuels have decreased supply and increased the Pelosi Premium.
- We will **encourage greater energy efficiency by offering conservation tax incentives** to Americans who make their home, car, and business more energy efficient.

The Change America Deserves: Lower Energy Prices

When it comes to energy production, while our global competitors are pursuing 21st Century technologies, America is stuck in the 1970s. On electricity production alone, for example, just to keep up with new demand, by 2030, the United States must build 747 NEW coal plants, 52 NEW nuclear plants, 2,000 NEW hydroelectric generators, and add 13,000 NEW megawatts of renewable power. The dire need to increase domestic oil and gas production is no different. Yet, the Democratic Majority refuses to lead.

Republicans are committed to a comprehensive energy reform policy that will increase the supply of American-made energy, improve energy efficiency, and encourage investment in groundbreaking research in advanced alternative and renewable energy technologies. With 21st Century technologies and the strictest standards in the world, America can and must produce more of our own energy right here at home and protect our environment at the same time. That's the change America deserves.

How Washington is Broken:

- The Democratic Majority's "**Just Say No**" Energy Policy Darkens America's Energy Future:
 - No production of American energy resources, which increases reliance on unstable foreign sources such as Venezuela, Iran, and Saudi Arabia.
 - No new oil refineries built, which increases gas prices and reliance on imported fuel.
 - No new transmission lines, which hinders renewable electricity getting to consumers and reduces reliability.
 - No new coal power plants, which increases electricity prices and stifles the economy.
 - No new advanced zero-emission nuclear plants, which blocks one of the cleanest, most reliable energy sources available.
 - No new zero-emission hydro-electric plants, which blocks reliable clean energy.
 - No liquefied natural gas terminals, which increases prices and ships jobs overseas.
- Democrats' prohibitions on producing American energy resources have made the U.S. more reliant on imported oil and natural gas.
- Democrats' roadblocks on the utilization of energy from our North American neighbors have made the U.S. more reliant on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
- Democrats' unfavorable tax rules have sent energy investment and production abroad.
- Democrats' unnecessary red-tape and bureaucracy have made it nearly impossible to move forward on new clean power generation.
- Democrats' 1970s-era energy policies have canceled dozens of power plants, reducing electricity supplies and increasing electricity costs to consumers.
- Democrats' refusal to provide incentives for individuals and businesses has made it difficult to invest in efficient technologies.

How Republican Solutions Will Fix It:

The Change America Deserves: Meeting Our Energy Needs with American Made Energy.

- The comprehensive House Republican plan will fund research and development of technologies and innovations which advance the use of renewable and domestically available energy sources, increase energy efficiency, and ease the environmental impacts of energy use.
- 1) **Increasing the Production of American-Made Energy in an Environmentally-Safe Way**
 - a. Support actions that reduce America’s dependence on energy from unstable foreign governments and dictatorships by increasing environmentally-safe production of oil and natural gas in areas such as the arctic coastal plain and in deep ocean energy resources; and
 - b. Promote unconventional fuels such as coal-to-liquids technology and recovering our vast oil shale reserves by:
 - Increasing access for environmentally responsible development of conventional and unconventional domestic oil and natural gas production;
 - Providing coal-to-liquids financing and tax incentives;
 - Advancing the commercialization of the nation’s **two trillion barrel** shale oil resource, 80 percent of which occurs on government-owned land in the West. This is enough to supply all of America’s needs for over two centuries.
 - 2) **Promoting New, Clean, and Reliable Sources of Energy**
 - a. Encourage more production of environmentally-safe energy to increase the use of our vast domestic supply, reduce emissions, and keep coal-dependent communities strong; and
 - b. Expand emissions-free nuclear power, including long term nuclear waste storage solutions and recycling spent fuel by:
 - Providing production and investment tax credits for all new base-load electricity projects such as advanced nuclear power and clean coal; and
 - Allowing immediate expensing for new renewable or zero emission power.
 - 3) **Cutting Red Tape and Increase the Supply of American-Made Fuel and Energy**
 - a. Expedite permitting for enhanced oil recovery projects, including CO₂ delivery and injection, as well as permitting for new refining capacity;
 - b. Improve environmental review and permitting to encourage the deployment of technologies which increase the efficiency of existing power plants; and
 - c. End ill-advised policies that have led to the proliferation of unique gasoline and diesel fuel formulations known as “boutique fuels,” which have fragmented our motor fuels distribution system, choked off supply, and exacerbated the already-painful Pelosi Premium.
 - 4) **Encouraging Greater Energy Efficiency by Offering Conservation Tax Incentives**
 - a. Support technologies to help increase energy efficiency in all sectors of the American economy, including removing bureaucratic regulatory barriers that prevent businesses from upgrading their facilities with newer, more efficient energy technologies, by:
 - Making home energy efficiency upgrades tax deductible;
 - Providing incentives for home builders and homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient;
 - Offering investment expensing for industrial and commercial building efficiency upgrades;
 - Extending the residential and business solar and fuel cell investment tax credits, with enhancements to the residential solar credit (\$2,000 per ½ kw installed);
 - Extending the fiber-optic distributed sunlight investment tax credit; and
 - Increasing the energy efficiency of government-owned buildings.

For more information, access the Committee on Natural Resources’ Minority website at:

<http://republicans.resourcescommittee.house.gov/default.aspx>

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