

WASHINGTON - Congressman Lee Terry (R-NE) today applauded the United States Senate for passing their version of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, 85-12. The House passed its version of the legislation in April, and the two versions will be reconciled by the Conference Committee who will convene in the near future. Terry issued the following statement in response to the Senate action:

"I thank the Senate for following the House's lead in passing a balanced and comprehensive energy plan for ," said Terry. "With exorbitant prices at the pump and air-conditioners running full force, we must provide relief now."

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Terry added, "This nation has waited far too long for action. Passage of this important legislation will help decrease 's dangerous dependence on foreign sources of oil, and will help grow our economy by creating jobs and providing a stable energy supply. While there are many similarities between the House and Senate bills, I look forward to the Conference Report where I am principally interested with inclusion of the Senate's enhanced provision on ethanol and the hydrogen fuel cell provisions I successfully fought for in Committee. must have an energy policy that will meet the needs of the twenty-first century and look forward to our needs in the future, and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 does just that."

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Earlier this year, the House passed its version of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 by a vote of 249-183, with 41 Democrats supporting the measure. The House plan:

- Improve 's electricity transmission capability and reliability;

- Promotes a cleaner environment by encouraging innovation and the use of alternative power sources such as hydrogen fuel cells and methane gas;

- Decreases 's dangerous dependence on foreign sources of oil; and

- Creates an estimated 500,000 jobs across a number of sectors.

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