

WASHINGTON - The House Committee on Energy and Commerce completed a debate on its energy bill this week which Speaker Pelosi announced will be incorporated with other energy legislation she will bring to the full House of Representatives in July.

Congressman Terry, a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee (E&C), said that there were several positive outcomes of the debate, including passage of the Stupak-Terry amendment, and pledges of support from E&C Chairman John Dingell (D-Mich.) and Energy Subcommittee Chairman Rich Boucher (D-Va.) for Terry initiatives. However, Terry said he was disappointed that increasing energy supplies was not a goal of the committee, and that Speaker Pelosi limited the range of debate so that Democrat and Republican initiatives alike were deemed "out of order."

"You would think the Energy and Commerce Committee would take a lead role in crafting a bill that will advance our nation's goal of energy independence and security, which began with the 2005 energy law, but we are sitting backseat to the new committee Speaker Pelosi created to combat global warming," Terry said.

Congressman Terry noted two encouraging offers of support from key Democrat members for energy initiatives Terry proposed before the committee: sweet sorghum and closed-loop ethanol plants.

The committee ruled the Terry amendment on sweet sorghum "not germane" to the legislation and therefore "out of order," but Chairman Boucher pledged support for the Terry proposal to develop a viable use of sweet sorghum, which can supplement corn in the production of ethanol.

"At the direction of Speaker Pelosi, the Energy and Commerce debate was limited so most of the amendments we wanted to offer were ruled 'out of order.' I think all Members - Democrat and Republican - were frustrated with the process and our role in crafting this year's energy legislation," Terry said. "Our corn crop will reach its peak

point and the United States needs other sources of energy, such as sweet sorghum. Sweet sorghum is making its way through the research and development phase and key leadership agrees."

Terry also offered an amendment to include "closed-loop" ethanol plants in existing Department of Energy loan guarantees. Closed-loop ethanol plants, like the one in Mead, use less fossil fuels to run the plant. Chairman Dingell offered his support for the Terry initiative but at the same time ruled the Terry amendment "out of order."

Terry noted a successful amendment to the bill. The Stupak-Terry amendment requires each federal agency to ensure alternative fuel pumps are available for its fleets of vehicles, which include flexible fuel vehicles. Similar to a requirement in the State of Nebraska that State vehicles use alternative fuels, Terry noted the problem with a lack of E-85 fuel pumps.

By requiring the federal government to install alternative fuel fueling stations, the Stupak-Terry amendment ensures that the federal government is working to match private sector initiatives to increase the use of alternative fuels.

"It's commonsense that the flexible fuel vehicles used by government agencies should be fueled by alternative fuels like biodiesel and E-85, but since there are few places to refuel with alternative fuels, it is not uncommon that flexible fuel vehicles are filling up with regular gasoline. Commonsense says that the federal government should work with the private sector to make sure that alternative fuel pumps are available to fuel the fleets of vehicles used on behalf of taxpayers," Terry said.

