

WASHINGTON - Congressman Lee Terry (R-NE) and Congressman Baron Hill (D-IN) today urged the Bush Administration to support the Hill-Terry CAFÉ bill, H.R. 2927. Congressman Terry sent the White House a letter to support the bill signed by over 60 Members of the House from both parties.

The letter argues that the Hill-Terry CAFÉ bill possesses the widest possible bipartisan support in the House with 172 co-sponsors. The bill is much more realistic than the Senate alternative, as it will protect good-paying American manufacturing jobs, preserve consumer choice in auto vehicles, and set achievable timetables for compliance.

"I want the President to know that this bill is a win-win for America," said Congressman Terry. "I strongly urge the Administration to support this bill that would help reduce our reliance on foreign oil without sacrificing vehicle utility and affordability. We must act now to get this bill included in any energy package that Congress votes on. If we don't, we all lose," said Congressman Terry.

Congressman Terry was motivated to draft the letter with Congressman Hill because Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid have decided to bypass the normal procedure of convening a House-Senate Conference Committee composed of members from both parties. Instead they are negotiating an energy bill package between themselves behind closed doors with input from the White House.

The Hill-Terry CAFÉ bill requires the Secretary of Transportation to mandate separate CAFÉ standards for Model Year 2022 such that car standards and pickup truck standards will be no less than a combined 32 miles per gallon and no more than 35 mpg. H.R. 2927 keeps in place the current separation of standards for regular cars and light trucks, which includes sport utility vehicles. Alternative CAFÉ legislation largely calls for all automobiles to be grouped into one category.

