

## 6/15/2004 Moran Works to Bring Down Fuel Costs

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House Passes Legislation that Reduces Dependence on Foreign Oil, Lowers Costs at the Pumps

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has passed legislation to help bring down the cost of fuel and to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign energy sources. The legislation would create thousands of jobs nationwide, enhance domestic energy production and increase the production of cleaner power.

"When Americans pay more than two dollars a gallon to fill their cars and trucks, this has negative effects on our ability to do business, and it is costing our families more out of pocket," Moran said. "Many businesses are raising their prices because delivery costs are increasing, and our families are second-guessing their summer vacation plans. We must implement better energy policies that will reduce the costs that Kansans pay at the pump."

The House-passed energy legislation includes several provisions to reduce the price of fuel and also to promote renewable fuels, such as ethanol, biodiesel and wind energy. Bio-based fuels represent a growing portion of the Kansas agriculture sector and provide a boost to the state's economy. Currently, six ethanol plants in Kansas produce 122 million gallons of ethanol, creating a market for 45 million bushels of corn and sorghum each year. The legislation passed today contains a renewable fuels requirement to add five billion gallons per year of ethanol and other renewable-based fuel to the nation's gasoline. Last year, nearly three billion gallons of ethanol was produced across the country.

This legislation would also decrease the U.S. dependence on foreign energy sources. In 1973, America imported 30 percent of its oil from foreign sources. Today, the U.S. imports nearly 60 percent of its oil, sending more than \$100 billion a year to oil-producing nations. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, America loses 12,389 jobs for every billion dollars it spends on imports. At today's oil prices, that means America is sending more than 1.7 million jobs overseas for oil every year.

"As a country, we can no longer depend on foreign sources to meet our energy needs - we must become more self-reliant," Moran said. "This energy legislation will help bring good things to Kansas: more jobs, cheaper fuel, lower energy costs and additional markets for Kansas products."

The legislation now goes to the Senate for consideration.

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