



THE
AMERICAN
CONSERVATIVE
UNION

The “Making Energy Less Affordable” Act

On July 30, 2007 the organizations listed below wrote a letter to every member of the U.S. House of Representatives to express their grave concerns with a variety of legislative proposals dealing with the nation’s energy future. In their words “If truth in advertising applied to legislation, these proposals would be called the “Making Energy Less Affordable Act.” Among their chief concerns:

On the Senate-passed 36 billion gallon renewable fuels mandate:

“This is corporate welfare joined to a Soviet-style production quota system...‘advanced’ bio-fuels are not commercially viable today even with the 51 cents per gallon subsidy...Consumers would likely end up taking a triple hit—once at the gas pump, again at the grocery store, and a third time when they pay income taxes.... Diverting ever larger amounts of U.S. grain from food to fuel would... threaten millions of hungry people [worldwide] who depend on imports of American grain for their survival.”

On household appliance efficiency standards:

“Consumer Reports recently studied washing machines that meet current federal...standards...and found that unless you can pay \$900 or more for a washing machine, you can no longer buy one that will get your clothes clean in just one wash.”

On raising the CAFÉ standard to 35 miles per gallon by 2020:

“...the current (27.5 mpg) fuel economy standard already contributes to thousands of deaths each year due to vehicle downsizing, according to a 2002 study by the National Research Council.”

On a renewable portfolio standard for electricity:

“This provision would force up electricity rates in America’s industrial heartland, pushing manufacturing jobs overseas.”

On the need to develop more domestic energy:

“H.R. 2337 [Rahall (D-WV)] would gut provisions in the 2005 Energy Policy Act intended to expedite energy development on U.S. public lands. Its penalty structure...would likely scare off most potential energy producers...”

On permitting “the public” to sue federal agencies over greenhouse gas emissions:

“H.R. 2635 [Waxman (D-CA)]...would allow “the public to sue [federal] agencies for failure to [achieve net zero emissions by 2050]...transferring millions of dollars annually from taxpayers to anti-growth, anti-energy...groups.”

We hope you will keep these concerns in mind as you deliberate on anti-energy legislation.

Sincerely,

J. William Lauderback
Executive Vice President
American Conservative Union

John Berthoud
President
National Taxpayers Union

Gregory Cohen
President and CEO
American Highway Users Alliance

Paula Easley
Chairman
Alaska Land Rights Coalition

Ryan Ellis
Executive Director
American Shareholders Association

George Landrith
President
Frontiers of Freedom

Marlo Lewis, Senior Fellow
Myron Ebell, Director of Energy Policy
Competitive Enterprise Institute

Paul M. Weyrich
National Chairman
Coalitions for America

H. Sterling Burnett
Senior Fellow
National Center for Policy Analysis

Richard O. Rowland
President
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Chuck Muth
President
Citizen Outreach Project

Amy Ridenour
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Americans for the Preservation of
Liberty

Grover G. Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

David Ridenour
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National Center for Public Policy Research

C. Preston Noell, III
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Tradition, Family, Property, Inc.

Jeffrey Mazzella
President
Center for Individual Freedom

Fred Grau
Executive Director
Take Back Pennsylvania

Roy Cordato
Vice President for Research
John Locke Foundation, Raleigh, NC

Matt Kibbe
President
Freedom Works

Jim Martin
President
60 Plus Association

Richard Falknor
Executive Vice-President
Maryland Taxpayers Association

Christopher Butler
Executive Director
Property Rights Alliance

Michael Coffman
President
Environmental Perspectives, Inc.

Thomas A. Schatz
President
Council for Citizens Against
Government Waste