



Red Cavaney
President and Chief Executive Officer

1220 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005-4070
USA
Telephone 202-682-8100
Fax 202-682-8110
Email rcavaney@api.org
www.api.org

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Dear House Member:

At the beginning of the year we shared the hope of many Americans that Congress would, at last, pass a balanced energy bill that would lead to greater energy security for our nation in this time of extraordinary global challenges. However, we have now arrived at the conclusion that the energy legislation (HR 6) you will soon be asked to vote on falls far short of that goal. For that reason, API urges you to vote "no." By doing so, we can begin a new, collaborative process to produce a truly balanced energy policy for America's future.

We are disappointed that this bill fails to recognize government projections that America's energy demand will increase 30 percent over the next 22 years and that we will need *all* sources of energy, including oil and natural gas, to meet the country's needs. An even greater disappointment is that this bill would likely lead to *less* energy production, not more. Falling short on the nation's energy needs likely would exact a heavy economic toll, cause significant job losses and foster a decline in spending power for all Americans.

The bill's tax provisions take direct aim at companies' ability to expand oil and natural gas production and refining capacity. It's bad enough that the tax provisions likely would consequently tighten supplies in a time of rising demand. But they could also damage the millions of hard-working Americans whose retirement accounts are invested in publicly traded energy companies. Taxing away the earnings of those companies would greatly harm the ability of these Americans to achieve a more financially secure future.

The renewable fuel title sets up a new crazy-quilt of boutique biofuels that could strain, indeed could break, the nation's fuel supply system. The biofuels mandate in the bill will require huge volumes of a variety of advanced biofuels, betting on yet-to-be-achieved technological breakthroughs to meet the requirements. If this bet goes wrong, America's energy consumers would bear the burden.

In short, this bill is an extreme disappointment and it does a great disservice to all those Americans who have been looking to Congress for leadership in arriving at a balanced energy policy. Please reject this bill and start over again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Red Cavaney", is written below the word "Sincerely,".