



Leo W. Gerard
International President

December 4, 2007

VIA FAX

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

This week the House is expected to consider the “Energy Independence and Security Act”. On behalf of the 850,000 members of the United Steelworkers (USW), I write to urge your support for this important energy compromise that will not only make our nation more energy efficient, but spur economic growth and create good-paying jobs as well.

As U.S. consumers and businesses continue to experience escalating energy costs, we commend Congress for taking action through this critical piece of legislation. While each of the provisions in the bill is significant, the USW particularly commends Congress for including a Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) provision. The RES would require large electric utilities to generate 15 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2020 and allows utilities to achieve up to four percent of this target through energy efficiency.

We strongly believe that investing in our nation’s renewable energy resources is a meaningful way of addressing our commitment to solving the global warming crisis, responding to our country’s national security concerns and creating U.S. jobs.

A recent study completed by the Renewable Energy Policy Project indicates that an RES in the 15-20% range has the potential of creating 850,000 new jobs in component part manufacturing, and would therefore serve to revitalize many of our devastated heartland communities.

Again, we commend Congress for taking this important first step in placing our nation on the road to energy independence and we urge you to vote “YES” on the “Energy Independence and Security Act” when it comes to the floor.

Sincerely,

Leo W. Gerard
International President

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