

SENATOR NORM COLEMAN'S DECLARATION OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Recognizing the threat to America's national and economic security, Senator Norm Coleman has made a declaration to reduce our nation's addiction to foreign sources of energy. Representing a state that is leading the way for the rest of the nation in renewable energy like ethanol, biodiesel, wind and even energy derived from livestock waste, he has witnessed the impact of renewable energy on farmers, local economies, and consumers and believes that effort should be expanded and replicated on a national level. To that end, Senator Coleman successfully worked with his colleagues to pass the 2005 Energy Policy Act that mandated the production of 7.5 billion gallons of ethanol and biodiesel by 2012 and led to the development of dozens of new ethanol plants, as well as the installation of more than 400 new E-85 pumps.

To continue Minnesota's momentum as one of the nation's largest wind energy producing states in the nation, Senator Coleman was not only instrumental in passing tax credits for wind energy production in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, but he recently protected the ability of three Minnesota wind energy development projects to utilize this incentive by preventing them from being held up by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Another top Coleman priority is to maximize our nation's 250-year supply of coal in an environmentally sensitive manner. He secured key federal resources for the design and construction of the Excelsior Energy clean coal power plant located on the Iron Range, benefiting the environment and economy of northeastern Minnesota.

In keeping with his declaration, Senator Coleman is pursuing the following legislative agenda aimed at strengthening America's ability to produce clean, reliable energy here at home:

VEHICLE AND FUEL CHOICES FOR AMERICAN SECURITY ACT: Directs the federal government to save 2.5 million barrels of oil a day in 10 years, at least 7 million barrels per day in 2026 and 10 million barrels per day in 2031 from projected levels in those years and outlines a plan to meet that goal. Through the use of existing technology and renewable fuels, the Act puts America on the path towards energy independence. The 10 year goal of saving 2.5 million barrels of oil per day is equal to the current amount of oil imported from the Persian Gulf region.

TRANSFORMING ENERGY NOW ACT (TEN): Aims to accelerate the nation's use of renewable fuels. The TEN Act would require 10 percent of our nation's fuel to be blended with renewable fuels in 10 years, and provide a strong E-85 infrastructure investment by increasing the E-85 infrastructure tax credit, using CAFE penalties for an alternative fuel infrastructure program at DOE, and creating a low interest loan and grant program at USDA for E-85 fueling stations.

HOME ENERGY SAVING INCENTIVES ACT: Provides tax credits to homeowners for making energy saving upgrades such as weather stripping and energy efficient furnaces.

BIOFUELS SECURITY ACT: Sets a strong long-term renewable fuels standard of 60 billion gallons in 2030 and boosts production of flex fuel vehicles and E-85 fueling stations. Requires all U.S. marketed vehicles to be flex fuel in 10 years.

FUEL EMERGENCY RELIEF ACT: Repeals oil company tax breaks and puts that money back in the pockets of everyday Americans struggling to fill up their cars each week. The bill would provide states with annual grants to operate a needs-based fuel cost assistance programs for lower and middle-class families struggling to afford the costs of high gasoline.

THE FUEL ECONOMY REFORM ACT OF 2006: Improves fuel economy by having a target of a 4% annual increase in Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards, which will be mandated through the NHTSA and supported with manufacturer tax incentives. The National Academy of Sciences has determined the 4% rate can be reached each year. If the annual target is met for ten years, this bill will save 1.3 million barrels of oil per day and 20 billion gallons of gasoline per year. By 2028, Americans will have saved 549 billion gallons of gasoline.

For more details on Senator Coleman's energy initiatives please visit: www.coleman.senate.gov