Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Energy Bill that will finally take our energy policy in a new direction. I urge the President to sign it into law. This bill makes a big step toward greater energy independence and energy security.

This bill includes an historic increase in fuel economy standards, the first increase since 1975. This increase will save American families an estimated $700- $1,000 a year at the pump and significantly reduces our dependence on foreign oil.

We must pursue an energy policy that moves the U.S. towards energy independence, reduces the cost of gasoline to consumers, enhances the development of alternative energy, and substantively reduces the threats of global warming. This bill also sends a clear signal to the rest of the world that the U.S. is finally serious about getting our energy and environmental policies in order.

However, we still have more work to do on these issues. This New Congress is committed to get the job done.