



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

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Rep. Shuler Calls for American Energy Independence Day *Joins with Local Small Businesses to Highlight New House Energy Package*

Washington, D.C. – One day after America celebrated its Independence Day, Representative Heath Shuler joined with two local small business owners to call for America's Energy Independence Day.

“Just as we declared our independence, began an experiment in self-government, and changed the course of history two-hundred and thirty one years ago, today we must stand up and declare our independence from foreign oil,” Rep. Shuler stated. “Americans are leaders, and we are ready to lead the world in clean sustainable energy creation.”

Rep. Shuler was joined at the press conference by Brian Winslett, a founder and owner of Blue Ridge Biofuels and Craig Stanley, owner of Stanley's Citgo in Woodfin, NC. Stanley's Citgo recently reached an agreement to sell biodiesel produced by Blue Ridge Biofuels, making it one of the first service stations in Buncombe County to offer biodiesel at the pump.

“The road to energy independence will require us to use the natural, renewable resources that surround us and our most limitless resources – American ingenuity and our entrepreneurial spirit. Brian and Craig have shown that small businesses can succeed and will grow with sustainable energy. Small businesses have been the backbone of our economy for years, and they will be the leaders in this field for years to come.

The House of Representatives is currently working on an energy package that will achieve energy independence for America, while strengthening national security, growing the economy and creating new jobs, lowering energy prices, and beginning to address global warming.

Rep. Shuler's Small Energy Efficient Business Act, H.R. 2389, is an important part of the House Energy Package. The Small Energy Efficient Business Act (SEEBBA) will give small firms that are acquiring or developing energy efficient technologies more flexible loan terms, requires the SBA to develop a strategy for educating small firms about energy efficiency, and establishes an energy efficiency program for the Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs). Rep. Shuler's H.R. 2389 also spurs investment in the production of alternative sources, such as biofuels, and the development of energy efficient technology by expanding the Small Business Investment Corporation (SBIC), increasing investment in small producers. Also included in SEEBBA is the creation of the Renewable Fuel Capital Investment (RFCI) program, an initiative designed to help small firms develop renewable energy sources and new technologies. These measures benefit consumer and producers, reducing costs and increasing competition in the market for energy efficient goods and services.

The House Energy Package will also make a tremendous investment in homegrown biofuels – like those produced by Blue Ridge Biofuels – to improve the growing, production, transport, and storing of biofuels. An investment of \$3.5 billion over five years to boost production and research and development of Biofuels, as well as grants and tax incentives to increase the number of service stations carrying biofuels – just like Stanley's Citgo – are also included in the package.

“America is a nation of innovation, ideas, and leaders. Yesterday we celebrated our past. Today we celebrate our future,” Rep. Shuler concluded.

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