



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

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Rep. Shuler Helps Pass Landmark Energy Legislation Fuel Mileage Standards Raised for First time in a Generation

Washington, D.C. – Rep. Shuler Helps Pass Landmark Energy Legislation
Fuel Mileage Standards Raised for First time in a Generation

Washington, D.C. – Representative Heath Shuler today supported legislation that takes a large step forward in ending America's dependence on fossil fuels and creating an energy policy for the 21st Century. The bill, the Energy Independence and Security Act, provides a comprehensive approach to meet our nation's energy needs in the years ahead including: vehicle fuel economy, renewable energy production, energy conservation, and research and development.

“America has a proud and great history of ingenuity and innovation. This legislation continues that legacy and gives our nation an energy policy that will sustain us for the years ahead,” Rep. Shuler said. “I am especially proud that the New Direction Congress has raised vehicle fuel efficiency standards for the first time since 1975. We brought together conservationists and the auto industry and came up with a commonsense solution.”

The current Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) standard is approximately 27.5 miles per gallon for cars and just over 22 miles per gallon for light trucks. With the energy legislation passed today cars, light trucks, and Sport Utility Vehicles will be required to have a minimum feet-wide average of 35 miles per gallon by 2020.

The Energy Bill also took important steps to address America's growing energy production needs through renewable energy and biofuels. The legislation will require electric utilities to produce at least 15% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2020. Additionally, it sets annual requirements for the amount of renewable biofuels produced and used in vehicles, such as ethanol and biodiesel.

“The production of biofuels provides Western North Carolina with one of our strongest opportunities for economic development and expansion. We already have several businesses producing and selling biofuels in our area, and they are growing quickly growing. This legislation will provide the tools and resources those businesses need to continue expanding and new businesses need to open,” Rep. Shuler observed. “We will also be able to do the research on new farm products, from switchgrass to woodchips to algae, for biofuels production.”

The bill also contained important provision from Rep. Shuler’s Small Energy Efficient Business, H.R. 2389, that increase loan limits to assist small businesses in developing and purchasing energy efficient technologies.

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