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PRESS RELEASE

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RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY EXPO SHOWCASES SOLUTIONS MISSING FROM PROPOSED "ENERGY WEEK" LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON, DC—On June 20, the Sustainable Energy Coalition (SEC) and the House and Senate Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucuses hosted the Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Expo and Policy Forum to demonstrate how sustainable energy technologies can meet America's energy needs now as well as in the near- and long-term future. Companies representing the biomass, combined heat and power (CHP), geothermal, hydropower, small distributed technology, solar, and wind industries revealed to visitors that their technologies are already available to free us from our dependence on foreign oil, slash greenhouse gas emissions and improve the reliability of our power grid.

The policy forum that accompanied this day-long Expo addressed how complementary renewable and energy efficient technologies can provide energy supply security to the United States, boost the U.S. economy by taking advantage of bountiful renewable resources throughout the country, create solid job opportunities in all regions and sectors including the agricultural sector, and decrease our greenhouse gas emissions.

As speakers reiterated throughout the day to a packed room of Congressional staffers, federal agency representatives, media, and industry representatives, the most important policy recommendations Congress could act upon immediately are extensions of the renewable production tax credit (PTC), the solar investment tax credit (ITC), Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBS) and efficiency tax credits for ten years to provide a stable market environment for these technologies to develop and compete on a more even playing field with petroleum, natural gas and coal. Last year's Energy Policy Act of 2005 provided only two years for these tax credits. However, it is apparent that the energy bill that Congress may vote on next week during "Energy Week" will not touch upon the promising technologies displayed at the Expo. Nor will Congress take up any aforementioned policy recommendations that can help spur renewable energy and efficiency technologies and wean the country more quickly off of its oil dependence. Instead, it appears Congress will vote on a measure to open the Outer Continental Shelf for expanded fossil fuel exploration. Meanwhile, complementary bills approved by the House Energy and Commerce Committee will make only minor dents in U.S. fuel consumption through measures like education campaigns to teach drivers about proper tire inflation (H.R. 5632) and fuel-efficient driving habits (H.R. 5611).

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The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) is a Washington, DC-based non-profit organization established in 1984 by a bipartisan, bicameral group of members of Congress to provide timely information on energy and environmental policy issues to policymakers and stakeholders and develop innovative policy solutions that set us on a cleaner, more secure and sustainable energy path. EESI carries out work in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy, global climate change, agriculture, biofuels, smart growth, and transportation technologies that is disseminated through publications, briefings, workshops, and task forces. To learn more about EESI, visit www.eesi.org.