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SCHAKOWSKY WELCOMES "AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE TOUR" TO WINDY CITY

CHICAGO, IL - Standing before the latest energy efficient innovations and renewable technologies, U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today welcomed "America's Energy Future Tour" to the Windy City. The tour, sponsored by the National Environmental Trust and organized by Citizen Action/Illinois, showcases hybrid fuel vehicles, solar power and energy efficient appliances, hydrogen fuel cell and wind power. The tour will travel to 30 cities in ten weeks.

"The promise that clean, efficient, and renewable energy holds is immeasurable. With new technologies, our nation will lessen its dependence on foreign oil, people will breathe cleaner air, and consumers will send less money to the electric company at the end of the month," Schakowsky said.

"The future is here today and it's not Exxon/Mobil or Shell. It's time for Congress to recognize this reality and invest in 21st Century technology," Schakowsky added.

The tour featured the Toyota Prius, a hybrid electric gasoline car, capable of getting 50 or more miles to the gallon. In addition, the tour included a solar powered energy trailer that creates enough energy to power the vehicle, the Energy Star air-conditioner, computer, and refrigerator. Other products will also be highlighted on the tour.

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Schakowsky said that she was not surprised that Republicans passed an energy bill, H.R. 4, that provides no real relief to consumers, fails to adequately invest in conservation and alternative energy, and threatens the environment.□ □

"The cornerstone of the Republican plan is to drill in ANWR, permanently destroying a natural treasure, for just six months of oil. This is unnecessary. If we increase our fuel efficiency by only 1.7 miles per gallon, we will save more oil than what is expected to be recovered from ANWR," Schakowsky said.

She also pointed to a report which found the same energy companies that gave millions in campaign contributions last election would receive billions of dollars in tax breaks and subsidies in H.R. 4. Included in the bill is a total of \$36.4 billion in tax breaks and subsidies for oil, gas, nuclear and electric utility industries. During the 2000 election cycle, these industries donated or "invested" \$69.5 million. The rate of return on this investment is 52,200%.

"If you're looking to deliver to consumers innovative new technologies, you're going to find a dry well in this energy plan. But if you're big oil and gas, you bought yourself a gusher," Schakowsky said.□

"It's time to cap that money well.□ This shameless pandering to the Republican Party's major investors in the oil, gas, nuclear and electric utility companies must come to an end," Schakowsky concluded.