

(Washington, DC) - Congressman Wally Herger today voted against H.R. 6, a measure that fails to increase American-made energy resources to help reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil. It would also increase taxes on American energy producers. Herger made the following statement regarding his opposition to the bill:

"When Northern Californians tell Congress to 'do something' about high gas prices, they don't mean 'make them higher'," Herger stated. "Families in our region experience pain at the pump every day. I'd hoped that near \$100 per barrel oil would lead Democrats in Congress to finally acknowledge the clear need to increase American-made energy. Unfortunately, their proposal fails miserably. This longstanding opposition to domestic energy production will further our nation's dependence on foreign oil from volatile and sometimes hostile regions in the world - such as from Venezuela and Saudi Arabia."

"A few provisions in the bill promote energy efficiency and encourage greater use of renewable sources such as forest biomass, geothermal, wind, and solar," continued Herger. "Increasing the diversity of our energy supply is important to meeting our future energy needs, and is something I've long supported. But the benefits America gain through new renewable production are effectively cancelled out by the bill's steep tax hikes on other U.S. energy companies that supply petroleum and natural gas. Congress shouldn't cherry pick winners and losers. Higher taxes on oil and gas will make the production of these energy resources more expensive, resulting in even higher gasoline, diesel, and electricity prices."

Herger concluded, "I support the provision in the bill that would extend the Secure Rural Schools forestry program to help counties maintain roads and fund public schools. It's unfortunate that the Democratic leadership has chosen to wrap this provision in such a flawed and unacceptable energy bill."