

## **The DRIVE Act**

### **BIPARTISAN OIL SECURITY LEGISLATION: REDUCING DEPENDENCE THROUGH VEHICLE AND FUEL CHOICE**

Oil dependence is a threat to our national security, our economy and our environment. With a 21-million-barrel-per-day oil habit, the United States consumes a quarter of the world's oil – exporting billions of dollars to often unstable and hostile regimes – and remains critically vulnerable to a volatile and costly source of energy. Our transportation, 97% reliant on oil, is the driving force behind our rapidly growing oil demand. If we continue with business as usual, the transportation sector as a whole will be responsible for 80% of our oil demand growth over the next 20 years – making us 70% dependent on foreign oil!

But trends aren't destiny. The technologies to drastically reduce U.S. oil dependence are available today. We've already weaned the power sector from oil – today only 2% of U.S. electricity is petroleum based - now we must do the same in the transportation sector, which accounts for two thirds of U.S. oil consumption.

The bipartisan **DRIVE Act**, titled the **Vehicle and Fuel Choices for American Security Act** in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, was re-introduced in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress by Senators Bayh (D-IN), Brownback (R-KS), Coleman (R-MN) and Lieberman (I-CT) and 21 other Senators, and companion legislation in the House re-introduced by Engel (D-NY), Kingston (R-GA) and 77 other Representatives. The bill makes a national commitment to break our oil habit through clean alternative fuels, advanced vehicle technology, and transportation options. The bill, based on the Set America Free Coalition's Blueprint for Energy Security, strives for the radical center and outlines a comprehensive roadmap toward greater energy security. Supported by a broad coalition, from national security experts to religious leaders, environmentalists and entrepreneurs, the bill would provide consumers with the means to respond to higher prices through more choice of vehicles and fuels and enhance economic opportunities for America's farmers and manufacturers. The bill offers a meaningful and achievable national oil savings strategy, including:

- **Oil savings** starting with **2.5 million barrels of oil per day by 2016** – more than we currently import from the Persian Gulf and 10% of projected demand, increasing to over 20% of projected demand by 2025.
- **Fuel choice** measures to get alternative fuels into drivers' tanks faster, including standards and incentives for installation of biofuels infrastructure at gas stations, production of next-generation cellulosic biofuels, standardization of flexible fuel vehicles, and incentives to speed the deployment of plug-in hybrids and the use of electricity in many modes of transportation.
- **Transportation efficiency** provisions to encourage oil savings by heavy trucks and tires.
- **Auto retooling incentives** for domestic automakers and suppliers to regain competitiveness and job potential by investing in production of hybrids, plug-ins, and advanced clean diesel vehicles.
- **Transit** incentives that speed the deployment of alternatives to driving.