

Press Release

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REP. CLARKE CELEBRATES EARTH DAY & PLEDGES TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT

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Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Yvette D. Clarke today celebrated Earth Day and pledged to continue her work in Congress to protect the environment, fight global warming and spur a cleaner, greener, and more prosperous economy for the American people.

"We have a solemn responsibility to protect our planet and ensure we all have clean air to breathe and clean water to drink," said Rep. Clarke. "Democrats have taken key steps forward, but much more work remains and I will continue to fight to end global warming and protect our environment for future generations."

Democrats have already taken several major steps forward by passing landmark legislation that addresses the global warming crisis while creating new green collar jobs, cutting energy costs and helping end our dependence on foreign oil.

"Oil prices are skyrocketing and our dependence on foreign oil threatens our environment and our national security," added Rep. Clarke. "It is time to abandon the failed energy policies of the past and invest in the future."

The historic and bipartisan Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 has been signed into law and will increase vehicle fuel efficiency standards and help save American families \$700 to \$1,000 per year at the gas pump. New building, appliance and lighting efficiency standards included in the new law will save consumers \$400 billion through 2030. Additionally, the new law will help save 5.3 billion metric tons in energy-related CO2 emissions from 2008-2030 and cut the growth in energy-related emissions of CO2 by 10 percent.

Democrats are also working to enact new legislation that will promote investments in renewable energy, create hundreds of thousands of good-paying green collar American jobs, and end multi-billion dollar subsidies to big oil companies. The Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008 would end unnecessary subsidies to Big Oil companies and invest in clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency. The bill extends and expands tax incentives for renewable electricity, energy and fuel, as well as for plug-in hybrid cars, and energy efficient homes, buildings, and appliances. The solar investment tax credit in this legislation alone will reduce carbon emissions by 240 million tons, or the equivalent of taking 52 million passenger cars off the road for one year.

While the House has passed this legislation, Republicans and President Bush oppose the Democratic effort to end subsidies for oil companies that are earning record profits.