



FACT SHEET — Congressman Dan Lipinski’s support for the failed Bush Energy Policy

In 2005, Congressman Dan Lipinski signed on to legislation penned by the Bush Administration and special interests to provide big oil and other energy companies with \$8 billion in tax breaks and open up the Artic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) for drilling.

The Bush Energy Policy - or House Resolution 6 - was created out of Vice President Dick Cheney's notorious "National Energy Policy Development Group." The group — which included former Enron President and Chairman Kenneth Lay and approximately 300 oil and gas industry executives from ConocoPhillips Inc., Shell Oil Co., BP America Inc. and Exxon Mobil Corp. and industry lobbyists — crafted this legislation during a series of closed-door meetings. Environmental groups were shut out of the talks. Despite several lawsuits and pleas from federal legislators, the Bush Administration has refused to release information regarding what was discussed during those meetings.

Lipinski voted for the Bush Energy Policy not once, but twice.

The initial version provided for \$8 billion in tax breaks to energy producers and billions more in direct federal aid while giving short shrift to initiatives for energy efficiency standards and spending on renewable fuels. It also allowed drilling in ANWR and contained legal liability protection for producers of the gas additive MTBE, which has fouled drinking water sources nationwide. It also included \$2 billion in royalty relief to the oil and gas industry over 10 years for research on ways to recover more oil and has from the Gulf of Mexico. Lastly, the proposal allowed the federal government to decide where to place liquefied natural gas import terminals as opposed to state regulators. [House Vote 123, HR 6; 4/21/05. Passed 249-183]

Lipinski was one of just 41 Democrats who voted for the initial version of the bill.

The conference version, or final version, of the Bush Energy Policy provided for \$14.6 billion in tax breaks, exempted oil and gas industries from some clean water laws, streamlined permits for oil wells and power lines on public lands and helped the hydropower industry appeal environmental restrictions. One provision repealed a Depression-era law that prevented consolidation of public utilities, potentially transforming the nation’s electricity markets.

Of the \$14.6 billion in tax breaks, \$2.6 billion was designated for oil and gas production and refining. The bill included \$2 billion for “risk insurance” in case new nuclear plants ran into construction or licensing delays. It made utilities eligible for taxpayer-backed loan guarantees of as much as 80 percent of the total cost of their plants. [House Vote 445, HR 6; 7/28/05. Passed 275-156]

Lipinski was one of just 75 Democrats who voted for the final version of the bill.

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