

How to Lobby

For more detailed information and for links to resources, please refer to the website:

<http://www.globalsolutions.org/lobby>

STEP ONE >>> Find Your Issue & Your Elected Official

Pick ONE or TWO (at most!) issues.

Be sure to note whether the issue is moving through the House or Senate right now.

- Curbing Climate Change (House AND Senate bills exist)
- Ending "Oil Aid" Abroad (House bill)
- Supporting Global Peacekeeping (Senate bill)
- Establishing an "Emergency Peacekeeping Service" at the UN (House bill)
- Passing the 'Law of the Sea' Treaty (Senate issue)

Who's Your Leader?

- Determine the name, phone number and address of the official you'll meet with.
<http://www.congressmerge.com/onlinedb/index.htm>

STEP TWO >>> Gather Your Group & Form Your Plan

Form a small group to help you conduct your lobby visit.

- Shoot for at least five people per visit. More is better.
- Need help? Contact us at [outreach\[at\]globalsolutions.org](mailto:outreach@globalsolutions.org) and we will help you organize your lobby group
- Plan to meet (see the example meeting agenda found in the lobby packet)

Share the work.

- Assign a *scheduler*: The scheduler lands the meeting.
- Assign a *coordinator*: The coordinator should arrange a pre-lobby meeting with the group. The coordinator should lead the meeting, and bring packet materials that the group will use to lobby to with.
- Assign a *strategist*: The strategist should arrive at the pre-lobby meeting with a pretty good idea of how your leader generally votes on global issues and what he or she might think about the issue that you are planning to lobby on.

STEP THREE >>> The Dress Rehearsal

Practice Makes Perfect!

- Prepare for your lobby visit. Make sure that you have all the materials that you need. Walk through the lobby visit with other group members

STEP FOUR >>> The Real Deal

Arrive Early.

- The larger the group, the earlier you should arrive in order to ensure readiness. However, don't expect the leader or staffer to arrive on time.

A little small talk is good.

- Allow time for small talk at the outset, but not too much. Remember, it's your visit.

Don't burn bridges!

- Remember, you are there to build a relationship. If your leader has supported your issue in the past, commend them for their help. Even if they don't agree, remember, "No permanent friends, no permanent enemies." Some day, s/he may come through.

Listen well.

- Much of lobbying is listening, looking for indications of the leader's views, and finding opportunities to provide good information.

STEP FIVE >>> Follow-Up! (And Let Us Know How It Went)

Send a "Thank You".

- Elected officials and staffers are busy people—thank them for their time and attention to your concerns. If commitments were made in the meeting, repeat your understanding of them. If staff members were present, write to them too. Every person in that office can be an important ally

Are promises being kept?

- Your job isn't done, your mission isn't accomplished until you get a definitive response from your representative. Be persistent and ensure that your concerns are recognized and listened too.

Don't forget about us!

- Remember to tell us how it went! Please, please, please keep us in the loop! Email us: outreach@globalsolutions.org or call: Jessica Brown: 202-330-4121 to tell us how your visit went!

[Today's Date], 2007

The Honorable [First and Last Name]
[Address]
[City, State, Zip]

Dear [title] [last name]:

As a constituent, I am writing to request the opportunity to meet with you to discuss [your issue] and a related piece of legislation that concerns me greatly – [Enter bill name and number].

During the meeting, I will be asking that [Representative/Senator Last Name] support positive U.S. global engagement by supporting [bill number]. As a member of Citizens for Global Solutions and a voter in [State (for Senator) or District (for Representative)], I believe that we have a responsibility to make the world a safe, just and equitable place. This will require teamwork and a common set of rules we can all live by. No one country can solve global problems alone, and the U.S. should be a leader in this collective effort.

I am available during the next congressional recess in August, but can work around your schedule. I will contact your office in a few days to be sure that you have received this request and to discuss the best time for a meeting. If helpful, I will gladly submit a list of names of others involved in the visit to you before the meeting. Thank you, in advance, for your time and willingness to communicate with your constituents.

Sincerely,

Name
Address
Phone

Background: Ending "Oil Aid" Abroad

Bill: House Resolution 1886 (shortened to: H.Res.1886)

What is Oil Aid?:

“Oil Aid” is the government’s practice of diverting taxpayer money, intended for poverty alleviation, to instead subsidize the international oil industry

Taxpayer support for oil aid is a slap in the face to the world’s poor people. Along with other industrialized countries, we have made a solemn commitment to do our part to fight global poverty. Every year, we set aside money to meet this commitment, but we’re giving oil companies a larger and larger piece of this pie. These accounts should be used as they were intended: to free people around the world from the shackles of poverty – not as a slush fund for oil companies.

In 2005, President Bush proclaimed ‘America is addicted to oil.’ We can’t end this addiction by continuing to feed it. The world’s reliance on oil – a single, dirty source of energy – is causing global warming, keeping millions of people in poverty and making the U.S. and the world less safe. Oil aid merely feeds our oil addiction by giving us a quick fix to ease the pain. That’s not what we need; what we need is the will to change.

More About Oil Aid:

- World Bank Group lending for oil projects increased more than 75 percent over the past year
- Each year, billions and billions of dollars that should be spent on ending poverty around the world and improving the environment are being used to subsidize oil and gas projects in developing countries that lead to debt traps for those countries and an increase in greenhouse gas production
- Instead of alleviating poverty, most oil and gas projects have exacerbated corruption, worsened economic inequality, increased local conflict, and intensified global climate change.
- An oil-based infrastructure in developing countries producing harmful greenhouse gases will certainly continue to have a negative impact on our global environment. Establishing a renewable energy infrastructure that will help make these countries clean energy leaders. It is absolutely critical that we choose the latter and create a renewable energy infrastructure in these developing countries so that we can shift the world away from oil consumption and towards alternative, clean energy solutions.

Ending Oil Aid on the Hill (H.Res.1886):

Oil Aid flows through a number of channels, including both bilateral assistance and multilateral institutions. Now there is a bill that seeks to end bilateral oil aid, and to use the voice, vote and influence of the United States to stem oil aid flowing from multilateral institutions. On April 17, 2007, Congressman Maurice Hinchey, (D-NY), introduced the End Oil Aid Act (House Resolution 1886), which would end subsidies to oil companies as part of U.S. foreign assistance initiatives.

Hinchey's bill would specifically direct the U.S. Treasury Secretary to instruct the U.S. Executive Director of the World Bank to use the United States' voice and vote to prohibit additional spending on international oil development.

Towards a New Energy Future

Introduction

Fossil fuel dependence is one of the greatest challenges facing the U.S. and the world today, negatively affecting global stability, the environment and economic development. Constrained U.S. foreign policy, climate change, loss of economic productivity and persistent underdevelopment are only a few of the byproducts of the world's current energy choices.

Building a sustainable energy future requires crafting a comprehensive energy policy. Implementing an energy policy, for instance, that makes sense only from an immediate security standpoint, without considering its environmental and development impacts could jeopardize our future security, health and prosperity.

As the United States reduces domestic dependence on fossil fuels, we must also look beyond our borders, recognizing the global scope of today's energy challenges. Because the energy choices of each nation affect all nations, the U.S. needs to work with other nations to develop shared solutions to common energy challenges.

The Energy Challenge – Why A Comprehensive Global Approach Is Necessary

- **Even if the U.S. resolved its fossil fuel dependence tomorrow, it would still suffer as a result of the world's continued dependence.** The U.S. economy will remain vulnerable to the volatility of a tightening global oil market. America will still be affected by climate change unless we help other nations overcome their dependence on fossil fuels. Increased competition over scarce oil resources will trigger worsening conflicts, both within and between states, contributing to global instability and making America less safe. And other nations' dependence on fossil fuels will continue to undermine the effectiveness of U.S. foreign policy.
- **Reliance on fossil fuels acts as a check on U.S. foreign policy, limits the international community's ability to respond to global crises and will continue to cause problems long after we kick the habit.** Oil importing countries have made securing access to oil supplies a primary goal of their foreign policy for decades, while oil exporting countries have been able to leverage their oil reserves as a source of geopolitical power. This dynamic has stymied the world's response to humanitarian crises, such as the genocide in Darfur. For some countries, oil revenues have also acted as an "oil curse," becoming a source of conflict, delaying economic and political reforms and helping authoritarian regimes to remain in power.
- **Reliance on fossil fuels is causing global warming, rapidly changing the earth's climate with devastating consequences.** According to the recently released Stern report, "there is still time to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, if we act now and act internationally." As the world's leading consumer of energy, the U.S. must exercise its leadership to facilitate a global shift away from fossil fuels. Unless the U.S. acts, international gridlock on climate change will continue, with massive human and economic costs.
- **Lack of access to modern energy resources and the rising cost of oil are hindering development and keeping hundreds of millions of people in poverty.** More than 2.5 billion people, a third of the world's population, currently lack access to the modern energy resources that could help them lift themselves out of poverty. At the same time, high oil prices are erasing gains from debt relief. The U.S. has both a moral and a security imperative to respond to the threats to development posed by spiraling oil prices and lack

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of modern energy services. In the words of Kofi Annan, “a world where many millions of people endure brutal oppression and extreme misery will never be fully secure, not even for its most privileged inhabitants.”

Energy Solutions

As the world’s leading consumer of energy, the U.S. has both a unique power and a unique responsibility to guide the course of global energy policy.

The American public is concerned about energy and about global warming and supports innovative solutions. According to the Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA), eighty-six percent of Americans favor a raise in CAFÉ standards. And in a poll by the Civil Society Institute, eighty-two percent believe the government is not doing enough to conserve energy. Climate change is clearly on the minds of American voters.

Moving away from fossil fuels and towards new, clean energy technologies has economic benefits not only for developing countries but for the U.S. as well. A 2004 study by the Union of Concerned Scientists found that increasing the share of renewable energy in the U.S. to 20% by 2020 would create more than 355,000 new U.S. jobs.

The U.S. should provide the vision and leadership necessary to:

- Achieve a global transition away from old fossil fuel technologies and towards new, clean sources of energy
- Help poor countries gain access to the clean and safe energy tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty without destroying the ecosystems upon which we all depend for our livelihoods
- Prevent the world’s energy resources from being used as political bargaining tools

Congress should take action to support energy policy solutions that are good for environment, good for development and good for security. It should also urge the President to work with other nations to develop shared energy solutions that address the common energy challenges facing all of us.

By investing in a new energy future we can curb global warming, while helping to end poverty and enhance our national security and the security of the world. The U.S. needs to work with other nations to develop energy solutions that will minimize the effects of fossil fuel dependence in the short term, while achieving a global shift away from fossil fuels towards new, clean sources of energy.

For more information on this paper, contact Rebecca Brown at rbrown@globalsolutions.org, or 202-546-3950 ext. 105, or Simon Weber at sweber@globalsolutions.org or 202-546-3950 ext. 104.



H.R. 1886: Ending Oil Aid

Summary

H.R. 1886, introduced by Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) on April 17, 2007 and referred to the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs, would end the use of foreign assistance funds to subsidize the overseas operations of oil and gas companies.

Background Information on Oil Aid:

Despite recording record profits of over \$140 billion last year, the oil and gas industry continues to receive billions of dollars in support from the federal government. In 2005, multilateral development institutions including the World Bank Group, and U.S. agencies such as the Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im) and the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) provided more than \$3 billion in financing to the international oil and gas industry.

Tax dollars intended to help the poor are instead going to support the oil and gas industry: A large portion of federal subsidies for the oil and gas industry come from funds and institutions whose purpose is to alleviate poverty:

Rather than alleviating poverty, oil and gas production in developing countries is associated with a number of negative effects. These include higher levels of poverty and economic inequality; poor governance; corruption; conflict; and higher levels of debt [Oxfam America's 2006 Report, *Extractive Sectors and the Poor*]. These negative development consequences are one of the reasons the World Bank's Extractive Industries Review recommended ending financing of oil projects by 2008. Despite this recommendation, the bank's lending to the fossil fuel industry rose by 93 per cent in 2006. [Bank Information Center]

H.R. 1886 sponsor, Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), said "Each year, billions and billions of dollars that should be spent on ending poverty around the world and improving the environment are being used to subsidize oil and gas projects in developing countries that lead to debt traps for those countries and an increase in greenhouse gas production."

Why End Oil Aid?

The U.S. must keep its promises to the poor. The U.S. has committed to doing its part to fight global poverty, yet every year it spends limited development assistance resources on oil and gas subsidies instead of poverty alleviation. This is a misuse of funds that needs to stop.

It's fiscally irresponsible to spend billions of dollars to subsidize the oil and gas industry while spending billions more to fight oil addiction. Continuing to subsidize the fossil fuel industry undermines investments in new, clean energy technologies, and increases the risk of dangerous climate change. Public funds should not be used to support an industry reporting record profits when dependence on its products is harmful to national security and the environment.

Helping developing countries invest in a clean energy future is the key to curbing climate change: "We have an important choice as we help to establish an energy infrastructure in developing countries around the world. Either we follow the current policy and create an oil-based infrastructure that will result in these developing countries producing harmful greenhouse gases, or we establish a renewable energy infrastructure that will make these countries clean energy leaders," *Representative Hinchey said.*

H.R. 1886

Oil Aid flows through a number of channels, including both bilateral loans and assistance and multilateral institutions. H.R. 1886 seeks to end bilateral oil aid, and to use the voice, vote and influence of the United States to stem oil aid flowing from multilateral institutions.

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Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im):

- Ex-Im provides financing to support the export of U.S. goods and services. It supplies hundreds of millions of dollars every year to the international oil and gas sector. In 2005, Ex-Im financed \$1.5 billion in oil and gas projects overseas.
- H.R. 1886 prohibits Ex-Im from financing any oil and gas development project, processing facility, pipeline, terminal or other oil and gas production and distribution operation or facility. The bill also prohibits such financing through financial intermediaries such as private banks that Ex-Im frequently uses to indirectly finance projects. [H.R. 1886, Section 2]

Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC):

- OPIC was established in 1971 to foster economic development in developing countries through U.S. investment overseas.
- OPIC is already prohibited from providing financing for oil and gas extraction or surveying for oil and gas. Yet, in 2005 OPIC financed \$580 million in oil and gas projects, including oil and gas pipelines.
- H.R. 1886 would strengthen this prohibition and close loopholes to exclude financing through financial intermediaries and financing of any oil and gas development project, processing facility, pipeline, terminal or other oil and gas production and distribution operation or facility. [H.R. 1886, Section 3]

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs):

- In 2006, the U.S. provided more than \$1 billion to MDBs such as the World Bank Group and the Inter-American Development Bank to fight poverty in developing countries.
- In reality, the World Bank and other MDBs are channeling hundreds of millions of dollars in financing to the international oil and gas sector every year. In FY 2006, the World Bank Group provided more than \$1 billion in financing to oil and gas projects.
- H.R. 1886 makes it U.S. policy to oppose using MDB resources to support oil and gas projects, requiring the U.S. to use its voice and vote in each MDB to oppose the use of MDB funds to provide assistance to projects that would support oil and gas sector expansion.
- The bill requires the Secretary of the Treasury to submit an annual report to Congress describing any MDB assistance to the oil and gas sector over the course of the year. [H.R. 1886, Section 4]

United States Agency for International Development (USAID): Less is known about the scope of USAID assistance for oil and gas projects than is the case with OPIC, Ex-Im Bank and MDBs. Yet, USAID has been actively involved in efforts to restructure oil and gas legal and regulatory frameworks in a number of countries and has financed the production of feasibility studies for specific oil and gas projects. By requiring USAID to submit a report to Congress on the current level of USAID assistance to the oil and gas sector, H.R. 1886 will cast light on the nature of USAID support of the oil and gas industry and provide the basis for future action.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD):

- Many of the world's wealthiest nations have an Export Credit Agency (ECA), their equivalent of Ex-Im and OPIC.
- The OECD, a meeting ground for 30 of the world's wealthiest countries, provides a forum for discussing issues and reaching agreements. Its Export Credit and Guarantees Group (ECG) sets standards for Export Credit Agencies, holds regular meetings to oversee their policies, and measures their compliance with the organization's environmental policies.
- H.R. 1886 requires the President of the United States to inform the OECD that the U.S. expects the Organization to take measures to prevent the ECA's of OECD member countries from assisting oil and gas projects.

For more information, contact Rebecca Brown at rbrown@globalsolutions.org, or 202-546-3950 ext. 105, or Scott Paul at spaul@globalsolutions.org or 202-546-3950 ext. 116.

Building Peace, Justice and Freedom in a Democratically Governed World

www.globalsolutions.org

Last updated May 11, 2007



June 5, 2007

Re: Cosponsor H.R. 1886, the End Oil Aid Act

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the thousands of members of our organizations, we urge you to cosponsor H.R. 1886, the End Oil Aid Act. This bill, introduced by Rep. Hinchey (D-NY), would limit U.S.-funded international financial institutions and export development agencies from subsidizing the oil and gas industry's overseas operations.

Each year, financial institutions including the World Bank, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and the Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im) provide billions of dollars to the oil sector. This "oil aid" subsidizes an already-profitable industry, including companies such as ExxonMobil, Halliburton, and Chevron, which have recently reported record profits.

Moreover, these subsidies contribute to significant social and environmental problems and can undermine the core purposes of development assistance. Oil projects have been shown to increase conflict and instability, exacerbate corruption and threaten the land and livelihoods of local and indigenous communities in many developing countries. Oil aid fuels global warming, creating impacts that will disproportionately harm impoverished countries which lack the systems and infrastructure to adequately adapt to droughts, severe weather events, and agricultural disruption. In addition, soaring oil prices undercut the benefits of debt cancellation by draining far more money out of impoverished countries than cancelled debts are able to contribute. Every country can choose to develop its own resources. However, scarce foreign assistance dollars should be used to fight poverty and help developing countries pursue clean energy pathways instead of promoting oil and gas projects.

H.R. 1886 would help meet these goals. This bill would limit U.S. support for the international oil industry by prohibiting OPIC and Ex-Im from financing oil and gas projects. Since 1995, these agencies combined have provided more than \$20 billion in financing to oil and gas companies. The bill would also make it U.S. policy to oppose oil and gas projects financed by multilateral development banks such as the World Bank. While the World Bank's own panel of experts concluded in 2003 that it should phase out its support for oil, the Bank provided over \$800 million in financing for fossil fuel projects in fiscal year 2006 alone.

The U.S. can play a critical role in fighting our addiction to oil, alleviating global poverty and combating climate change as we move toward a clean energy future. Using taxpayer dollars to support the oil industry undermines these goals, and Congress should end this international "oil aid." We urge you to cosponsor H.R. 1886, the End Oil Aid Act.

This letter is endorsed by the following organizations and communities:

Africa Action
Bay Area Jubilee Debt Cancellation Coalition
Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel, Oregon
Church World Service
Citizens for Global Solutions
Columban Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Office
Congregation of Divine Providence of Kentucky
Corporate Accountability International
Crude Accountability
EcoEquity
Ecumenical Program on Central America (EPICA)
Environmental Defense
Friends of the Earth U.S.
Gender Action
Global Response
Globalization Challenge Initiative
Institute for Policy Studies
Jubilee USA Network
The Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Marianists International
Maryknoll
Medical Mission Sisters' Alliance for Justice
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Office of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation
Oil Change International
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters of Huntington, Indiana, Leadership Team
Priority Africa Network (PAN)
Quixote Center/Haiti Reborn
Rainforest Action Network
Sierra Club
Sisters of the Holy Cross, Congregation Justice Committee of Notre Dame, Indiana
Sisters of Mercy Detroit, Leadership Team
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
Wheaton Franciscans of Wheaton, Illinois, Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Office