



STATE OF NEW YORK

GEORGE E. PATAKI
GOVERNOR

June 22, 2006

Dear Congressman Engel:

All across America, families and business owners are paying record high gas prices. The cost of our oil addiction is taxing the nation's economy and risking our national security. Consumers are right to be alarmed by the recent spike in gasoline prices, but in the rush to deal with high gas prices we must not ignore the underlying problem of America's dependence on oil. Our nation's oil addiction is a threat to our economy, our national security, and the global environment.

New York already has the most energy efficient transportation sector in America today. Nevertheless, we continue to push to increase that efficiency and to diversify our supplies of fuel with renewable ethanol and bio-diesel, as well as compressed natural gas and hydrogen. Many of the policy initiatives that have been implemented in New York can serve as models for the nation, including the New York renewable portfolio standard which requires that 25 percent of our electricity come from renewable resources.

Thanks to the innovation of American manufacturers and farmers, we know we have the solutions to tackle the oil challenge and offer homegrown alternatives to oil. We can increase the fuel economy performance of our vehicles with technologies like plug-in hybrid vehicles, make cellulosic biofuels to diversify our fuel supply, and offer fuel saving alternatives like mass transit so commuters and families can choose to drive less.

Although I believe we must move with even greater urgency, and because of that I applaud the introduction and wish to lend my support to your legislation, the Vehicle and Fuel Choices for American Security Act of 2006 (HR4409). This bipartisan effort, backed by a diverse coalition of security hawks and environmentalists, is a good first step in the right direction and makes a national commitment to oil savings. This legislation starts with 2.5 million barrels per day within a decade (more than we currently import from the Persian Gulf), and gives our manufacturers and farmers incentives to bring efficient technologies and biofuels to market faster. I look forward to working with you to help enact this important legislation, so we can put our country on a new path to energy security and move America beyond oil.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. E. Pataki". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

The Honorable Eliot Engel
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

