



H.R. 6545 – TO REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE TO CONDUCT A NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND ENERGY SECURITY ISSUES

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6545 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Donald Cazayoux (D-LA) on July 17, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Intelligence, but was never considered.

H.R. 6545 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 22, 2008.

****Note: H.R. 6545 is identical to the Republican Motion to Recommit H.R. 5959, offered July 16, 2008, and H.R. 6510, which was introduced by Rep. Peter Hoekstra (R-MI) on July 16, 2008.*

SUMMARY

H.R. 6545 requires the Director of National Intelligence, by January 1, 2009, to submit to Congress a national intelligence assessment on national security and energy security issues related to current energy costs.

This assessment is to include:

- The short- and long-term outlook for prices, supply and demand for key forms of energy;
- The plans and intentions of key energy producing and exporting nations with respect to energy production and supply;
- The national security implications of rapidly escalating energy costs;
- The national security implications of the potential use of energy resources as leverage against potential adversaries of the U.S., such as Iran and Venezuela;
- The national security implications of increases in funding to current or potential adversaries of the United States as a result of increased energy prices;
- An assessment of the likelihood that increased energy prices will directly or indirectly increase financial support for terrorist organizations;
- The national security implications of extreme fluctuations in energy prices; and
- The national security implications of continued dependence on international energy supplies.

BACKGROUND

Approximately 80 percent of the world's oil reserves are controlled by government or national oil companies, with a number of these countries unfriendly towards the U.S. Current estimates showing a total of \$2.3 trillion being transferred to energy-consuming nations to energy-producing nations. The U.S. currently receives 60 percent of its energy from foreign producers.

According to a 2005 CRS report, the Department of Defense (DOD) used approximately 125 million barrels of oil in 2005, making the DOD the largest single consumer of fuel in the U.S. and highlighting the cost of energy as it relates to U.S. national security. According to the American Automobile Association (AAA), the national average for a barrel of crude oil on July 21, 2008, is \$130.75.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office did not have a cost estimate for H.R. 6545 available as of July 21, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

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