

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Dear Senator/Representative:

The Jewish community has long demonstrated a commitment to advocating for energy policies that reduce our dependence on foreign sources, sustain our fragile environment and build a robust national economy. In the coming weeks, the Senate and the House of Representatives are expected to take the next steps toward the passage of an energy bill and the crafting of new energy policy to move America forward. We believe that this upcoming energy legislation, a carefully wrought bipartisan compromise, reflects those commitments and we urge you to support the energy package when it comes to a vote.

Our faith informs our tradition of sustainability, as our scriptures lay out a high standard for the treatment of the earth. The principle of “Bal Tashchit”, or prohibiting wasteful destruction, appears many times in the Torah, and the Talmud clarifies that this principle applies to wasting fuel (Shabbat 67b). Our commitment to energy security comes from more modern sources, but it is no less firm. We believe that American tax dollars should be invested in harnessing our own energy potential and fueling our economic growth, not pouring billions of dollars into the coffers of some of the world’s most despotic and anti-American regimes.

This legislation has many important components, but none is more crucial than the increase in CAFE standards. By raising our fuel economy standards to 35 mpg by 2020, the United States would save 1.2 million barrels of oil a day in 2020, save consumers \$25 billion, and reduce both greenhouse gas emissions and our dangerous dependence on foreign energy sources. A comprehensive bill must include a strong CAFE provision.

The RES (Renewable Electricity Standard) and RFS (Renewable Fuel Standard) are two additional pieces whose inclusion in this legislation is of the utmost importance. The RES provision would require that by the year 2020, 15% of our electricity production be generated from renewable resources. If enacted this would cut our carbon dioxide emissions by 222 million tons through 2020. The RFS provision would require, by 2020, the use of 36 billion gallons of home grown renewable fuels in our gas tanks and home heating systems. This provision bolsters our national security and supports our farmers, it makes America stronger.

Also included in this package is HR 1838, the United States Israel Energy Cooperation Act. The State of Israel shares our goal of energy independence and is also working to find advanced technological solutions to increase conservation and develop new sources of energy. Working with our close ally on these issues can only benefit both countries.

Passage of this energy legislation, with the aforementioned provisions included, would be an important step towards putting America on the path to greater energy security, a cleaner environment, and a stronger national economy built for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We urge you to support this crucial legislation with the highlighted provisions.

Respectfully,

Jewish Council for Public Affairs

American Conference of Cantors (ACC)  
American Jewish Committee  
American Jewish Congress  
B'nai B'rith International  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL)  
Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America  
Jewish Reconstructionist Federation  
Jewish War Veterans  
Men of Reform Judaism  
Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty  
National Council of Jewish Women  
North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY)  
Rabbinical Assembly  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Women of Reform Judaism

### **Alabama**

Birmingham Chapter of Hadassah  
Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Birmingham Jewish Federation

### **Arizona**

American Jewish Committee Arizona Chapter  
Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona

### **California**

Adat Shalom Women's League Los Angeles CA  
American Jewish Committee Los Angeles Chapter  
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the American Jewish Committee

### **Connecticut**

American Jewish Committee's Connecticut Chapter  
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater New Haven  
National Council of Jewish Women, Connecticut

### **Delaware**

Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware

### **Florida**

Bermuda Club Herzl Judea Hadassah Tamarac, Florida  
Broward Region Hadassah  
Congregation B'nai Israel St. Petersburg FL  
Congregation Beth Ahm Israel, Florida  
Florida Broward Region of Hadassah

Hadassah's Chamudot Chapter, FL  
Jacksonville Chapter of Hadassah  
Jewish Community Relations Council Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County  
Jewish Community Relations Council Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach  
County  
Jewish Federation of Collier County  
National Council of Jewish Women – Florida  
Southern Region Hadassah  
St. Petersburg Chapter of Hadassah  
Tampa Ameet Chapter of Hadassah  
Yachad Chapter Clearwater Florida

### **Georgia**

Augusta Jewish Federation

### **Illinois**

Chicago Jewish Community Relations Council  
National Council of Jewish Women – Illinois

### **Indianapolis**

Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council

### **Kentucky**

National Council of Jewish Women – Kentucky

### **Louisiana**

New Orleans Chapter of Hadassah

### **Maryland**

Baltimore Jewish Council, MD  
Hadassah of Greater Baltimore  
Sisterhood of Congregation Har Shalom, Potomac, MD

### **Massachusetts**

Jewish Community Relations council of Greater Boston  
Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, Berkshire County, Massachusetts  
Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts  
Northern New England Region of Hadassah  
Western New England Region Hadassah

### **Michigan**

Metropolitan Detroit Chapter, American Jewish Committee  
Michigan Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life  
National Council of Jewish Women –Greater Detroit Section  
Temple Beth El of Flint Michigan  
Temple Kol Ami, West Bloomfield, MI

**Minnesota**

Congregation Adath Jeshurun, Minnetonka MN  
Congregation Bet Shalom- Minnetonka MN  
Etz Chayim - Adath Jeshurun's Environmental Initiative Committee  
Hillel at the University of Minnesota  
Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas  
Justice Squared (MN)  
Keneseth Israel Congregation Minneapolis, MN  
National Council of Jewish Women Minnesota  
Talmud Torah of Minneapolis  
Temple Israel, Duluth, MN  
United Jewish Fund and Council of St. Paul Minneapolis Jewish Federation

**Missouri**

National Council of Jewish Women – Missouri  
St. Louis Jewish Community Relations Council

**New Jersey**

Adath Israel Congregation, Lawrenceville, NJ  
Adath Israel Women's League Lawrenceville, NJ  
Community Relations Committee, Jewish Federation of Monmouth County  
Congregation Agudath Israel Sisterhood, New Jersey  
Hillside-Union Chapter of Hadassah, New Jersey  
Jewish Community Relations Council of Southern New Jersey  
Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey  
Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County, NJ  
Maplewood Newark Aviva chapter of Hadassah  
New Jersey-West Hudson Valley Council of the Union for Reform Judaism  
Northern New Jersey Region of Hadassah  
Northern New Jersey region of Hadassah  
Roselle-Cranford Chapter of Hadassah  
Sisterhood Congregation Beth El, South Orange, NJ  
Temple Emanu-El, Westfield NJ

**New York**

American Jewish Committee, New York Chapter  
Greater New York Council of the Union for Reform Judaism  
Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo  
National Council of Jewish Women--New York State  
Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore Plandome, NY  
Sisterhood of Temple Beth Sholom of Smithtown, NY  
Staten Island chapter of Hadassah

## Upper Mid-Atlantic Region of Hadassah

### **Ohio**

Cincinnati Chapter of the American Jewish Committee  
Cleveland Chapter of the American Jewish Committee  
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Toledo, Ohio

### **Oregon**

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Community Relations Committee

### **Pennsylvania**

Congregation Dor Hadash, Pittsburgh PA  
National Council of Jewish Women, PA  
Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley Community Relations Council  
United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh's Environmental Committee

### **Tennessee**

Memphis Chapter of Hadassah  
Nashville Chapter of Hadassah

### **Texas**

Dallas Chapter of Hadassah  
Fort Worth Chapter of Hadassah  
Greater Southwest Region of Hadassah  
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Dallas  
Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Community Association of Austin  
Jewish Federation of El Paso  
National Council of Jewish Women – Texas  
The Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio

### **Virginia**

National Council of Jewish Women – Virginia

### **Washington**

National Council of Jewish Women – Seattle Section

### **Washington, DC**

Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington DC  
Washington DC Chapter, American Jewish Committee

### **Wisconsin**

American Association of Jews from the Former Soviet Union - Milwaukee Chapter  
Congregation Shalom Milwaukee, WI  
Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations

