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House Science Committee Passes Energy Bill
Proposal includes Akin-Costello clean coal initiatives

Washington, D.C.- Today, the House Science Committee passed the Comprehensive Research and Technology Act of 2001. The bill includes initiatives proposed by U.S. Congressman and Science Committee members Todd Akin and Jerry Costello that would authorize the Department of Energy to accelerate the development of clean coal technologies.

“Coal represents 85 percent of our fossil resources,” said Akin. “If new technologies are developed, we could provide for centuries of energy needs while greatly improving the environmental performance of coal burning plants.”

“The bottom line is we have no energy source that can replace coal today. Coal accounts for half of all electricity production in the U.S., and we have at least a 250-year supply of coal in the ground. New technologies allow for high-sulfur coal to be burned cleanly and efficiently, and this legislation will further reduce emissions, which is good for the environment,” said Costello.

“Our economy has been subjected to wild fluctuations in energy costs and dependence on foreign oil due to the lack of a comprehensive energy policy,” said Akin. “The Science Committee’s action is a significant step toward a greater energy independence and economic stability for all Americans.”