

June 28, 2001

**Akin/Costello Sponsor Clean Coal Bill**  
**Act is step toward cleaner air and energy security**

Washington, D.C.- Today, Congressman Todd Akin (R-Mo.) and Congressman Jerry Costello (D-Ill.) introduced the National Electricity and Environmental Technology Research and Development Act. The bill promotes research and development of advanced clean coal technologies for use in coal-based electricity generating facilities.

“Just last week, EPA Secretary Whitman announced in St. Louis that the region would not be bumped to serious non-attainment, and that Missouri has until November 15, 2004 to achieve cleaner air standards,” said Akin. “As a member of the House Science Committee, I am convinced that investment in clean coal technologies is a key step in achieving such environmental standards while helping us to achieve energy security.”

“Clean coal technologies offer great promise in allowing the U.S. to meet its future energy needs while protecting the environment,” said Costello. “We rely heavily on coal for energy production and given its abundance it makes sense that we continue to make burning it cleanly a national priority.”

The bill authorizes funding through fiscal year 2012 for clean coal research and development and a power plant improvement initiative program to improve efficiency and environmental performance.

“Coal is our most abundant source of energy, representing more than 85 percent of our fossil resources in the United States,” said Akin. “With new technologies, coal could safely accommodate our energy needs for centuries to come.”