

BILL SUMMARY

August 7, 2007

U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation

The House approved provisions funding joint ventures between American and Israeli businesses aimed at developing alternative sources of energy. The provisions, passed August 4 as part of larger energy legislation (H.R. 3221), authorize \$20 million in grants each year through 2012 to U.S. and Israeli academics and businesses working on the development and commercialization of alternative and renewable energy sources. The provisions were spearheaded by Reps. Brad Sherman (D-CA), John Shadegg (R-AZ) and Eliot Engel (D-NY). A corresponding bill in the Senate remains pending.

KEY PROVISIONS:

- The bill appropriates \$20 million annually for seven years to Israeli and American academics and businesses working on the development and commercialization of alternative and renewable energy sources.
- The bill establishes an International Energy Advisory Board within the Department of Energy to oversee grant applications and recipients. The Board will consist of both Americans and Israelis.
- In administering the grants, the Advisory Board will consult with the Israel-United States Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund (BARD) and the Israeli-United States Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) – organizations which have discovered numerous scientific breakthroughs in various fields to the benefit of both countries.