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## AIPAC APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF ENERGY BILL *Provisions expand cooperation and reduce U.S. dependence on oil*

AIPAC applauds today's congressional passage of important legislation that will expand renewable energy cooperation between the United States and Israel, and takes important steps toward achieving energy security for the United States and the world.

Included as part of a larger energy package approved earlier today by the House and last week by the Senate, the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation Act establishes a grant program for joint research and development projects between the two allies in the fields of alternative energy, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. The bill now awaits the president's signature.

Cooperation between the U.S. and Israel has led to many scientific, technological and commercial breakthroughs. With Israeli scientists and engineers at the forefront of renewable energy research and development, enhanced cooperation between the United States and Israel could significantly benefit both countries.

AIPAC also supports the inclusion of fuel efficiency standards and the renewable fuel provisions in the larger bill. These programs advance efforts toward achieving greater energy security and independence for the United States, and can deprive unsavory regimes of the funds they need to pursue their destabilizing agendas.

Today, Middle East oil producers supply 30 percent of the world's oil. By 2030, it is projected that they will supply more than half of the world's oil. This would be an inherently unstable situation that would create significant vulnerabilities for our country and could have significant negative repercussions for overall U.S. policy in the Middle East.

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