

**Washington, D.C.** - Rep. David Price (D-NC) released the following statement this afternoon after voting against H.R. 2354, the Fiscal Year 2012 Energy and Water Appropriations bill. The bill rescinds high-speed rail funding already promised to states under the Recovery Act. It also undermines clean energy efforts.

"Today, I voted against H.R. 2354, the Fiscal Year 2012 Energy and Water Appropriations. This bill, which passed by a vote of 219-196, threatens to undermine common sense efforts to move us towards a clean energy economy. The bill provides \$30.6 billion for energy and water related agencies, which is \$1 billion below current levels and 16 percent less than the president requested.

"H.R. 2354 essentially eliminates the High Speed Rail program, by rescinding funds from the Recovery Act that have already been promised to states for their work on developing and improving high speed and intercity passenger rail. This is a political stunt by the majority to rob Peter to pay Paul by putting these funds toward disaster relief. In fact, members of the majority know full well that emergency disaster relief efforts have always been funded through supplemental legislation. What's worse is that this comes on top of the FY11 spending bill, which cut off future funding for the rail program.

"Planned high-speed rail investments will relieve congestion, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, make our neighborhoods more livable and environmentally sustainable, make our communities more attractive places to live and do business in the long term, and create well-paying construction and manufacturing jobs in the near term--20,000 jobs in North Carolina alone, as a matter of fact. Rescission of these funds is penny-wise and pound-foolish because it undermines an infrastructure project that would create jobs and pay dividends for years and years in the future. We should not be surprised by this, however, since we are now in the midst of a debt ceiling debate that revolves around the majority's disinterest in paying for the things already purchased by Congress' past appropriations.

"While the Republicans claim to support an 'all of the above' energy approach, it seems to me they mean 'fossil fuels above all.' While the bill sorely underfunds energy efficiency measures and clean energy research, this legislation leaves funds for fossil energy largely intact and does nothing to address substantive federal tax subsidies enjoyed by large oil companies. Eliminating these subsidies could save taxpayers more than \$40 billion over the next ten years and provide the resources needed to invest in future energy sources. The bill also provides woefully inadequate resources to the Army Corps of Engineers and prevents the Corps from engaging in

Administration-wide efforts to protect clean water.

"H.R. 2354 stands in stark contrast to the President's budget, which calls for increased investments in clean energy research, innovation, and manufacturing that will create American jobs, reduce U.S. oil dependence, and decrease pollution. While I understand the need to decrease spending in the bill overall, I could not in good conscience support a funding measure that would undermine key investments in our clean energy future, which are key to our nation's economic growth and job creation, as well as national security."

# # #