

(Princeton, N.J.) – U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) today offered the following comments after attending President Obama's energy security initiative event at Georgetown University in Washington:

“The president is absolutely correct that we must end our dependence on oil and other fossil fuels by harnessing a uniquely American resource: our immense capacity for innovation. The deep well of American ingenuity will not be tapped in the Gulf of Mexico but in our universities, labs, and creative businesses. Only robust, sustained investments in our scientists and entrepreneurs will unleash American talent to develop new sources of clean energy and build new energy industries. To secure affordable energy in the long run, it is critical that we recapture American leadership in the renewable energy industry now.

“The President proposed several steps to begin an immediate transition from our fossil fuel dependence. I support his call reduce imports of foreign oil by one-third. I was pleased to hear his direction that all federal agencies purchase only alternative fuel, hybrid, or electric vehicles by 2015, and I will work to hasten the day that all new vehicles sold in America are equipped to give consumers the option to purchase the most affordable fuel available to them at any given time. Similarly, the ongoing nuclear crisis in Japan and the continued cleanup from the tragic oil spill in the Gulf last year should make our enormous offshore wind resources even more attractive. Federal agencies are working to streamline offshore wind development, and Congress must fully support that effort.

“I applaud the President's leadership on these issues, and I look forward to working with him to help secure America's energy future.”