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### House Passes Comprehensive Energy Bill

Recently, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The legislation is a comprehensive energy bill that is designed to promote energy efficiency, increase domestic oil and gas exploration, establish new energy efficiency standards and offer incentives for developing renewable energy such as solar, wind, geothermal and biomass. H.R. 6 promotes a cleaner environment by encouraging new innovations such as clean-coal technology, as well as alternative power sources, including launching a program to enable hydrogen fuel cell cars to compete in the marketplace.

The bill effects West Michigan directly through a provision inserted by U.S. Rep. Fred Upton, R-St. Joseph, that would initiate a demonstration project on the impact of ozone transported from upwind areas such as Milwaukee and Chicago on West Michigan.

Kent, Ottawa, Allegan, Muskegon, Mason and Benzie counties were designated as non-attainment areas in 2004, which could potentially impose economically devastating requirements such as tailpipe emissions testing and stricter emissions standards on industry.

For more information on this legislation, please visit Congressman Hoekstra's Web site, as well as the Web site for the House Committee on Resources at <http://resourcecommittee.house.gov>

### Wayland Township Casino will Negatively Impact West Michigan

Congressman Hoekstra was notified on April 19 that the Gun Lake Band of Pottawatomi Indians land-in-trust application had been approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior. On May 13, 2005, a notice was published in the Federal Register that started a 30-day public comment period, after which the tribe and the Secretary of the Interior will process the documents necessary for final approval.

Hoekstra reiterated objections that he has raised in numerous letters and public statements regarding the drain on the local economy to a competitor that pays no state or local taxes and an industry that exploits social ills such as crime and gambling addictions.

"Casinos primarily benefit a few out-of-state investors who do not live with the misfortune they inflict upon a community," Hoekstra said. "The planned casino for Allegan County will only undermine the years of hard work by West Michigan to attract businesses that can offer quality jobs and tourist destinations."

"West Michigan needs to concentrate on creating an environment attractive to new and innovative industries, not creating unfair competition for existing taxpaying companies. The planned casino for Allegan County will negatively impact our local landscape, workforce and economy."

### Hoekstra Writes Op-Ed on Social Security

The Grand Rapids Press recently published an op-ed written by Congressman Hoekstra on the current state of Social Security. To read the op-ed, please visit <http://hoekstra.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=26958>

For more information on Pete's activities in Washington, D.C., please visit <http://hoekstra.house.gov>

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