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<p>Would you rather have George Bush’s energy policy? Or President Obama’s?</p>	
<p>Congressman Tim Holden voted for Bush’s energy plan that gave billions in taxpayer subsidies to big oil companies.</p>	<p>Holden supported Bush energy plans. Holden voted for both the Energy Policy Act of 2003 and the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Most House Democrats voted against both measures. The latter bill became law. [House roll call vote 145, 4/11/03; House roll call vote 630, 11/18/03; House roll call vote 445, 7/28/05]</p> <p>2003 Bush energy bill offered “smorgasbord of benefits” for oil companies. A November 21, 2003 Reuters article reported: “The energy bill includes \$23.5 billion in tax breaks, with a total cost of about \$31 billion over 10 years due to new funding, grants and production incentives. ... Republican supporters of the legislation acknowledge it offers a smorgasbord of benefits for the oil, natural gas, coal, electricity and nuclear power industries.” [Reuters, 11/23/03]</p> <p>Republican-crafted 2003 energy plan “a top priority for Bush.” A November 21, 2003 Associated Press article stated: “Opponents of the bill waged a frantic campaign for votes to derail the legislation, arguing the \$31 billion bill - crafted largely in closed-door Republican negotiations with the House - was too expensive and amounted to a collection of subsidies to special interests. ... Approval of an energy bill has been a top priority for Bush, who repeatedly called on Congress to finish the legislation this year.” Additionally, CNN reported: “The bill was born in secret energy task force meetings headed by Vice President Dick Cheney and authored by Capitol Hill Republicans with little input from Democrats.” [Associated Press, 11/23/03; CNN.com, 11/21/03]</p> <p>2005 Bush energy bill included \$14.5 million in subsidies, mostly for oil and other fossil fuels. On July 29, 2005, the Washington Post reported: “The House yesterday approved a far-ranging energy bill that provides billions in tax breaks and other incentives to encourage energy production from traditional and alternative sources. The measure -- sought by President Bush since taking office in 2001 -- was approved 275 to 156, with the support of 75 Democrats and 200 Republicans. ... The legislation includes \$14.5 billion in tax breaks over the next 10 years, with a</p>

majority going to traditional energy interests such as coal, oil, natural gas and utilities. ... [Opponents] said the measure fleeces taxpayers by providing billions in tax breaks and other subsidies to the oil and gas industry, whose profits have been soaring because of record oil prices. 'This bill is not an energy policy,' said Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.). 'It is a list of tax breaks and special interest favors that does not translate into a cohesive approach, which global realities demand for this country.'" According to Public Citizen, the bill provided \$6 billion in subsidies for oil and gas. [Washington Post, 7/29/05; [Public Citizen bill summary](#)]

2005 Bush energy bill created "Halliburton loophole" that deregulated fracking. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 exempted hydraulic fracturing, known as "fracking," from regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Section 322 of the act amended the Safe Drinking Water Act provisions regarding "underground injection" to exclude "the underground injection of fluids or propping agents (other than diesel fuels) pursuant to hydraulic fracturing operations related to oil, gas, or geothermal production activities." As Earthworks has noted: "This exemption from the SDWA has become known as the 'Halliburton loophole' because it is widely perceived to have come about as a result of the efforts of Vice President Dick Cheney's Energy Task Force. Before taking office, Cheney was CEO of Halliburton -- which patented hydraulic fracturing in the 1940s, and remains one of the three largest manufacturers of fracturing fluids." [HR6; [Earthworks summary of Halliburton Loophole](#)]

Holden also backed oil shale subsidies in 2008. Holden supported a motion by Rep. John Peterson (R-PA) to strike the renewable electricity standard and open up additional federal lands and waters to drilling. The motion would also have provided federal subsidies for the development of polluting fossil fuels such as oil shale. [[House roll call vote 598](#), 9/16/08]

<p>But Congressman Holden voted against President Obama’s plan to increase funding for clean energy.</p>	<p>Holden voted against Obama’s clean energy plan. Holden was one of 44 Democrats to vote against the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES). [House roll call vote 477, 6/26/09]</p> <p>ACES would have invested billions of dollars in clean energy and technology. According to an analysis by the Breakthrough Institute, ACES provided at least \$8.7 billion per year for investment in clean technology, including at least \$4.4 billion per year in funding for renewables, efficiency and transit. [Breakthrough Institute, 10/25/09]</p> <p>ACES would have dramatically increased clean energy use. An Environmental Defense Fund analysis of ACES noted that it “[p]romotes clean energy by requiring that 20% of electricity comes from renewable sources such as wind, solar, certain types of biofuels, and energy efficiency by 2020.” [Environmental Defense Fund, “American Clean Energy and Security Act details”]</p> <p>Obama “invested significant political capital” in passing ACES. A June 27, 2009 article in the Washington Post reported that Obama “invested significant political capital in ensuring the success” of the clean energy bill and “worked feverishly in the hours before the vote to cement enough support for passage.” The article added, “After the House vote, Obama expressed confidence that the Senate would rise to the challenge, portraying the debate as one between supporters of the status quo and those who want to position the United States as a leader in the 21st century economy.” [Washington Post, 6/27/09]</p>
<p>Congressman Holden: Taxpayer-funded subsidies for Big Oil instead of new clean energy.</p>	
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