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Meeting the Energy Challenge: Improving Communication Among Consumers, Academia, NGOs, Oil Companies, and Government

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Preface

This manuscript is intended to set the stage for a panel discussion, “Meeting the Energy Challenge: Improving Communication among Consumers, Academia, NGOs, Oil Companies, and Government”, scheduled for Monday, May 4th, 2009. The panel will be composed of representative from each one of these entities, namely Consumers, Academia, NGOs, Oil Companies and Government to discuss how to meet the energy challenge. The panelists are as follows:

- Marvin Odum, President of Shell Oil Company and Executive Vice President for the Americas for Shell Exploration & Production (Confirmed)
- The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senate (invited)
- The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee, U.S. House of Representatives (invited)
- John Holdren, Presidential Science Advisor (invited)
- Governor John Engler, President of National Association of Manufacturers (invited)
- Governor Bill Graves, President of American Trucking Associations (invited)
- Dr. Henry Lee, Harvard Kennedy School (invited)
- Phil Sharp, President, Resources for the Future (invited)

And the moderators:

- David Holt, Executive Director, Consumer Energy Alliance
- Sandeep Khurana, Advisor, Devon Energy Corporation

Theme

The worldwide quest to define future energy needs has brought the issue of partnership among consumers, academia, NGOs, oil companies and the government to the forefront. World energy supply is predicted to rely heavily on fossil fuel resources for the foreseeable future. However, short-term vision has sometimes discouraged, even shut-off, expanded exploration by oil companies, further weakening our supply lines. Some oil companies are investing in alternative sources, but these resources can merely keep pace with demand. Meanwhile, consumers are struggling with price fluctuations and political leaders are overwhelmed with rhetoric and the constant struggle to develop a comprehensive, balanced national energy policy.

This panel will discuss the plight of cost of energy, fluctuations in demand and supply, and discussion on how an effective partnership among these entities is the way forward. Some issues covered will be:

- Tackling demand through collaboration among government, consumers and industry;
- Improving consumer awareness of oil and gas as energy sources;
- Role of government as watchdog and its need to actively participate in understanding energy sources and the future of these sources;
- Economic and employment impact & opportunities created by comprehensive policy;
- Expanding access for offshore drilling;