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LARSON SECURES FUNDING FOR ENERGY AND SCIENCE PRIORITIES IN CONNECTICUT

Washington, DC – Congressman John B. Larson (*CT-01*), Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus praised the House of Representatives today for passing legislation that will make important investments in Connecticut's energy and science industries. The Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, which will now go on to the Senate and then be signed into law by President Obama, increases funding for hydrogen energy technologies, provides \$2.5 million for the University of Connecticut's Global Fuel Center and invests in key science education programs.

“Research into alternative energies will lay the foundation for economic growth and prosperity in Connecticut for years to come. I am thrilled that Congress has approved this funding to help us make Connecticut more competitive in a global economy,” said Larson

Specifically, the legislation increased funding for hydrogen energy technologies, one of Connecticut’s fastest growing industries, to \$174,000,000. It also invests in these key Connecticut priorities:

- \$2.5 million for the Global Fuel Center at the University of Connecticut to accelerate its research and development of fuel cell technology – one of the fastest growing industries in Connecticut.
- \$750,000 for the State University System’s Nanotechnology Initiative to build an advanced nanotechnology program for education and research.
- \$500,000 for the Smart Energy Program at the Connecticut Science Center to teach Connecticut’s students about the potential of energy efficient technologies.

“These projects are an important step in growing Connecticut’s energy technologies industry to create jobs and grow our economy for the long-term. The investments in education will ensure that our students are at the forefront of this burgeoning industry,” said Larson.

The Energy and Water Appropriations Bill is another important step towards fulfilling President Obama’s long term economic plan to boost funding for the development of alternative energy technology, grow our economy and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

Larson said, **“Until we stop exporting our dollars overseas to feed our addiction to foreign oil, our national security and economy will be at the mercy of other countries. This bill helps us end that addiction and become energy independent by investing in alternative energy innovation and technologies. It will provide short term help by boosting the economy and creating jobs, and long-term solutions to our energy needs. It takes key steps to develop the next generation of “smart grid” technology and vehicles fueled by alternative energies. And, it helps American families weatherize their homes and lower their energy bills to get through these difficult times.”**

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