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LARSON PARTICIPATES IN FIRST HEARING OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING

Hearing addresses national security implications of global warming, oil dependence

WASHINGTON ♦ Responding to the growing concern over the geopolitical and national security concerns from the potential severe impacts of global warming, Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01), participated in the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming first hearing today. The hearing is the beginning of a conversation to address these challenges. Below is Congressman Larson's opening statement as prepared for delivery:

I would like to thank Chairman Markey and Ranking Member Sensenbrenner for organizing today's hearing—the first hearing of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. On the inauguration of the first hearing, I also feel it is appropriate to recognize and thank Speaker Pelosi. Made possible through her leadership and vision, this Committee has been tasked with addressing one of the most, if not the most challenging issues facing our nation and the world.

How appropriate that this, the Committee's first hearing is examining how our country's addiction to oil impacts our foreign policy and national security. More than 200 years ago, President George Washington first warned the nation about the dangers of foreign entanglements. Never have the first President's words resonated so clearly then in our current dependence on foreign oil. America's addiction to oil holds us hostage to foreign countries, many of which are anti-American and anti-democracy. Moreover, our oil addiction and oil consumption have contributed to global warming—a brewing storm, that if we do not address soon will have even a greater role in our foreign policy and national security.

□ **This crisis demands a focused and comprehensive answer. Rather than looking abroad, I believe simple solutions can be found in our backyard, from South Windsor, Connecticut to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. For example, UTC Power in South Windsor is a world leader in developing and producing fuel cells, a viable alternative energy. Through this type of American innovation, we can grow the economy, protect the environment, and refocus our foreign policy and national security priorities.**

□ **I want to thank the witnesses for appearing before us today. I look forward to hearing your testimony on U.S. dependency on foreign oil and welcome working with the Committee in recommending policies that support viable energy alternatives to this Congress.**□

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Congressman Larson is also Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus. He is one of nine Democrats appointed by Speaker Pelosi after she formed the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming to increase the visibility and priority given to America's oil dependence and global warming challenges.