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**CRAIG SAYS CONSUMERS HAVE EVERY REASON  
TO BE ANGRY WITH CONGRESS OVER ENERGY**  
**-- Calls on Congress to Get Back Into Energy Production --**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Idaho Senator Larry Craig today said American consumers paying record high energy and gas prices have every reason to be angry at a Congress that has been in a state of denial for the last two decades over the need to produce more energy domestically while the U.S. prepares to bring new alternative energy technologies to the marketplace.

“There have been many of us in Congress who have said there would be a day of reckoning if we continued to consume at greater rates than we were producing and refining and bringing energy to the marketplace,” Craig said, speaking on the Senate floor. “It is very possible that that day of reckoning is at hand.”

He estimated that the U.S. consumes 25 percent of the world’s energy but isn’t producing 25 percent of the world’s energy. “We are not producing the increased volume necessary to fit the growth of the marketplace,” Craig said. “Here’s the reality in which we’ve gotten ourselves. We don’t control the marketplace anymore, and we’re competing against China and India for the 80 percent of the world’s oil supply that is controlled by other nations – not companies.”

Craig cautioned American consumers not to let their elected officials tell them there is nothing that can be done about \$4 or \$5 gas. “There is something we can do about it,” he said. “We can bring on our known reserves. We can open them up to the market. We can let the bidding process go forward, and we can tell the world market that America is going to be producing again in three to five years. As a result, the speculation now driving up the cost of oil will begin to move out of the market, and there will be a sense of reality that additional supply will bridge the transition to new alternative energy technologies.”

Craig urged all Americans to contact their elected representatives “to make sure they’ve got a Congress willing to face the reality of the moment and say, let’s get this country back into production. Let’s look at our offshore, at ANWR (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska), at where we know the oil is and where it might be.

“Let’s get us – get this great country of ours back into the business of production so that the supply and demand of the marketplace stabilizes and American consumers are comfortable with where we are headed in energy policy and the reality of their pocketbooks.”