

(Washington, D.C.) – Over 10,700 constituents from Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District participated in Congressman Jason Altmire's telephone town hall tonight to discuss what Congress should do to address America's energy crisis. Congressman Altmire answered questions from his constituents and laid out both short and long term solutions to America's energy crisis.

“The fact that nearly 11,000 people participated in tonight's town hall shows that high gas prices is the number one issue facing Pennsylvanians,” Altmire said. “I want to end America's costly dependence on foreign oil by encouraging more domestic drilling and increasing our investment in alternative sources of energy, such as nuclear and coal. There is no time to lose in taking America's energy policy in a new direction that can deliver real relief to consumers.”

To spur increased domestic drilling, last week Congressman Altmire voted for the Drill Responsibly in Leased Lands (DRILL) Act (H.R. 6515), which would encourage companies to produce oil and gas on 91 million acres that they are currently leasing for drilling. The House Natural Resources Committee estimates this land could produce more than 4.8 million barrels of oil a day, nearly double current U.S. oil production.

Additionally, Congressman Altmire is working to lower gas prices by stopping OPEC nations from colluding to drive up the price of oil and preventing the manipulation and excessive speculation of oil futures. Altmire is also pushing for the construction of new nuclear reactors and additional funding for clean coal technologies, such as carbon capture and sequestration, to make America more energy independent and boost western Pennsylvania's economy.