

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sheldon Schafer, candidate for US Congress in the 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, compared his stated energy policy today with his Democratic and Republican opponents, pointing out similarities and differences regarding nuclear power, energy conservation and greenhouse gas reduction.

Schafer stated, “While I am pleased that we verbally agree on increased biofuels research and development and talk enthusiastically about promoting alternative energy, I am very disappointed that neither of my opponents offers even a basic National Energy plan to achieve their often stated goals of American independence from foreign oil. While all of us agree on that goal, we are very different in how we articulate the vision of how to get there.

### NUCLEAR POWER AND ENERGY CONSERVATION

My Democratic opponent has no public written position on nuclear power, and fails to specify energy conservation goals to achieve independence from foreign oil. Her energy plan primarily calls for renewable energy production to achieve 25% of America’s needs by 2025, from the current 10%. According to the Democratic campaign website this will result in a 10% reduction of US oil consumption by 2025. How America will realistically achieve the goal of complete energy independence is not specified.

My Republican opponent has failed to provide a written energy policy on either nuclear power or energy conservation, although his television commercials seem to call for doing everything at once that will somehow achieve 100% energy independence. His opinion on the proper role of Federal legislation to achieve this challenging goal, if any, is not known. Although there are wind turbines in his television ads, without documentation it is impossible to know what the Republican candidate’s particular energy priorities, if elected, will be. His support for drilling as a quick fix to rising fuel prices ignores the fact that drilling requires a large capital investment, plus 5 – 10 years of site development before the oil starts flowing.

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My campaign believes that nuclear power has no place in America's energy future, unless research develops a practical, fusion power that eliminates dangerous nuclear waste. Energy efficiency should be among our most immediate priorities because it is easily implemented with a low capital cost. Energy efficiency will quickly pay for itself, directly reduce foreign oil demand and generate local, sustainable employment. Energy conservation programs will also have the most immediate positive impact on reducing greenhouse gases.

I believe we must do the math and support only those energy programs that make sense instead of the Republican candidate's suggestion of throwing Federal tax dollars in all directions and hoping for the best result. My approach will be to support Federal programs that quickly pay for themselves or promote private market creativity to develop sustainable energy sources such as wind and biofuels that are locally owned, locally produced and locally used to maximize efficiency. I believe that to achieve the dream of American energy independence, our energy policy needs to acknowledge the reality that fossil fuels are a depleting resource and our fossil fueled nation will need to transition into a diverse and sustainable fueled economy.

## GLOBAL WARMING

“While my Democratic opponent at least acknowledges the existence of global warming and the need for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction to minimize its harmful impact, the Republican candidate does not mention or perhaps has not yet accepted the existence of human caused global warming. His call for coastal drilling development will certainly increase American production of greenhouse gases. He has also called for increasing ethanol blends mixing into gasoline from the current 10%, to 15%, to eventually 20%, but has not suggested a timeline or any legislative mechanism.

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The Democratic candidate's global warming strategy, per her website, calls for a reduction in 2/3 of greenhouse gas emissions growth by 2025, which is a NET INCREASE of 33% from current levels. Under her program, coal fired power plants with their large greenhouse gas emissions will continue to be constructed but will also receive Federal research funding to someday capture and provide geologic storage of carbon dioxide.

My global warming priorities are more specific, driven by the facts and the fiscal realities in this time of global economic crisis. I believe energy efficiency and conservation should be our immediate priority along with promoting alternative energy to reduce green house gas emissions 2% per year, to a goal of 80% of 1990 levels by the year 2050. I support the League of Women Voters ten year moratorium on construction of coal-fired power plants. I support extended temporary tax incentives to promote large and small scale investment in conservation, solar, wind, biomass and geothermal energy solutions.

The contrast between myself and my two opponents roadmap for energy independence and global warming proposals is very clear. I believe American energy independence can be achieved with an environmentally safe and sustainable infrastructure. We should begin with energy efficiency programs and avoid large capitol projects. If elected I will work on specific energy goals and avoid taxpayer waste. I will create Green Jobs in central Illinois through increased tax credit programs for alternative energy systems and energy conservation. I will work to release the creative American spirit as we build a new American energy future".

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