

Untitled document

March 7, 2012

WASHINGTON – The nonpartisan and nonprofit FactCheck.org [recently cited legislation](#) sponsored by Congressman Charles F. Bass (NH-02) as a prime example of Republicans and Democrats working together on policies to promote energy efficiency.

FactCheck.org wrote earlier this week:

"President Obama criticized "the other side" for failing to provide "a smidgen of an idea" for energy efficiency. But it turns out, there is only a smidgen of truth to the president's criticism.

The president was speaking in New York at a March 1 fundraising event when he brought up his energy policies — which have come under attack by Republicans of late because of rising gasoline prices. Obama said: "You don't hear just a smidgen of an idea from the other side about how we might want to enhance energy efficiency, how we might want to develop new sources of energy, how we might want to restore our buildings so they're energy-efficient, or create more energy-efficient cars — not even a mention of it."

That's not entirely true. There are Republicans working with Democrats on energy-efficiency legislation. Here are just two examples:

- * The Smart Energy Act was introduced in February by Republican Rep. Charlie Bass and cosponsored by a bipartisan group of five congressmen.
- * The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2011 was introduced in May 2011 by Sens. Jeanne Shaheen, a Democrat of New Hampshire, and Rob Portman, an Ohio Republican."

Bass said:

"Support for the Smart Energy Act as a bipartisan step forward in promoting innovations and advancements in energy efficiency technologies continues to build, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on this worthy goal. As energy prices continue to rise, improving energy efficiency by using the federal government as a 'first adopter' and promoting efforts such as doubling our nation's usage of combined-heat and power are good first steps in expanding the nature of the energy debate in this nation. Gains in energy efficiency allow us to decrease domestic demand at a time when much of the conversation is focused on ways to increase our domestic energy supply.

"The Smart Energy Act sets forth a bipartisan way to develop an energy policy that is secure, sustainable, and that properly considers our impact on the environment. Conserving energy in federal buildings, and thus shrinking federal agency energy bills, is a win-win for the American taxpayer."

According to its website, FactCheck.org is a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at

the University of Pennsylvania, which was established to create a community of scholars addressing public policy issues at the local, state, and federal levels.

For more information about Bass' Smart Energy Act, please visit <http://bass.house.gov> .

-- 30 --