Talking Points on Energy
*Note - Gov. Perry frequently departs from prepared remarks.

Friday, August 26, 2005

Ø With gas prices at an all-time high, there is no greater time than the present to pursue policies that will lead to greater energy independence for America.

Ø Increasing dependence on foreign energy sources is not only an economic issue, it is a homeland security issue.

Ø The solution is to expand production at home, and to pursue with greater passion alternative sources of fuel.

Ø Texas is not only the home of a lot of oil and gas companies, we are now the leader in development of clean energy.

Ø In 1999 we passed a strong renewable energy requirement that 3 percent of the state’s energy capacity be derived from renewable sources by 2009. That goal will be reached four years ahead of schedule at the end of this year, almost exclusively because of advances we have made in developing wind power.

Ø So I recently signed into law a tougher standard, requiring five percent of our energy must be generated by renewable sources by 2015, and ten percent by 2025.

Ø Of great importance to Texas and I would argue the whole South is our bid to get the first nation’s first near zero emissions coal fired power plant…a concept known as FutureGen.

Ø We are in competition with Ohio and Pennsylvania for $800 million in federal funding for this first of its kind plant which will help reduce emissions. And as our friends from Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma know: air pollution respects no state or international boundaries.

Ø I have asked my fellow governors in SGA to join me in a regional partnership under the leadership of the Southern States Energy Board to secure location of FutureGen in Texas.

Ø The FutureGen project will not be dependent on foreign energy sources.

Ø Another type of energy technically does, but it will help us greatly expand our natural gas resources and help drive down prices; and that is the building of liquified natural gas terminals.

Ø Texas is taking a leading role when it comes to LNG, with eight planned projects in the works along the coast.
Ø And with the passage of the national energy bill, we are very excited about ultra-deep water and unconventional natural gas exploration.

Ø A majority of new oil and gas reserves over the last two years were found in deepwater or ultra-deepwater environments. Unconventional natural gas is also the largest identified domestic petroleum resource.

Ø There is no one solution to our energy woes…but many, that if pursued with vigilance, can make us more secure, improve our economy, and protect our environment.

Ø New exploration and the building of LNG terminals, with proper environmental safeguards, can help tremendously. So can clean coal, wind power and the development of other renewable sources.