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Congress Plans Action on Clean Air Legislation

After months of delay, debate and introduction of comprehensive proposals, Congress is expected to begin serious consideration of clean air issues when it returns to Washington after Labor Day. Competing proposals vary significantly in degrees of control that would be required on stationary and mobile sources, as well as the level of stringency that would be required on emissions of toxic chemicals.

On the House side, Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) has scheduled a markup on clean air legislation to begin September 13. At this time the markup vehicle is undecided; it could be President Bush's comprehensive clean air package, HR 3030, or a combination of bills address-

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SPI Submits Comments on Indoor Air Quality Act of 1989

SPI submitted comments on HR 1530, the Indoor Air Quality Act of 1989 for the July 20 Natural Resources, Agriculture Research and Environment Subcommittee hearing record. As written, the bill could be interpreted to require a zero exposure/zero risk standard which SPI thinks is a near impossibility to achieve, both scientifically and from a policy perspective. SPI opposes language in the bill that would establish a chemical-by-chemical approach for indoor air regulation. SPI also thinks the language broadens EPA's authority beyond existing statutes, thus violating the stated purpose of the bill. Specifically, SPI recommends that the bill: (1) focus on a technology-

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Administration to Develop National Energy Strategy

The Department of Energy has begun a series of hearings to develop a National Energy Strategy with the goal of producing an interim draft by April 1, 1990 and getting a final strategy on President Bush's desk by December 1990, according to Energy Secretary James Watkins. Watkins announced the strategy plan July 26, stating that the strategy will be flexible, ready to respond to changes in the marketplace as well as technological advances or environmental developments.

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