



## Press Information – For Immediate Release

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Date: Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008

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### Zaccaria Pleased by Drilling Ban Expiration, Criticizes Langevin's 'Lack of Leadership'

**North Kingstown:** Mark Zaccaria today described the expiration of the Congressional Drilling Ban as “better late than never.” Yesterday, the House Democratic hierarchy announced that next week they will allow the quarter-century ban to expire, thus conceding defeat after the Summer-long national outcry. The push for more American oil production was led by those interested in helping the American people by lowering their energy costs through increased domestic offshore drilling. Zaccaria said, “Rather than speaking out on behalf of his constituents and calling for the repeal of this ban, my opponent chose the safer but weaker way out by remaining silent on the issue. That ignored the real needs and concerns of the people of Rhode Island.”

After President Bush lifted the executive ban on offshore drilling in July, the speculative pressure that had driven prices to nearly \$150 per barrel began to crack. Just the belief that lifting the Executive Order might lead to increased supply some day caused the price to break by 15% the next day. Then the public pressure on Congress to repeal its own, stronger ban steadily increased. However, House Democrats refused to allow a vote on the ban before adjourning for August recess. “While the people of Rhode Island were wondering how they’d pay for \$4 a gallon for home heating oil this winter, my opponent chose to take a trip to Greece during his August recess,” said Zaccaria. “Mr. Langevin’s lack of leadership and understanding on the issue of domestic drilling is a clear sign that he has lost touch with his constituents and is no longer the best fit to represent the people of Rhode Island.”

Zaccaria has continuously called for more domestic offshore drilling as part of his comprehensive alternative energy plan to eliminate the United States’ current dependence on foreign oil. “We absolutely need to transition our country off of

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fossil fuels and on to renewable sources of energy, such as wind, solar, nuclear, and hydrogen,” said Zaccaria. “But, our oil-based infrastructure has to carry us for at least a few years while we work to make these new technologies competitive. So our economy cannot survive without lowering the price of oil right now. Allowing increased domestic drilling will help drive the speculators out of the oil market and immediately lower the prices, not just in Cranston and Warwick but everywhere in America and beyond.”

Mark Zaccaria is a resident of North Kingstown, RI, where he runs a small business. He and his wife, Ruth, have been married for 33 years. They have three grown children who are all residents of the state. Learn more about Mark’s candidacy for congress at the web site: [www.markz4ri.org](http://www.markz4ri.org)

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