

# POLICY vs. POLITICS



# Eternal Struggle of Policy vs. Politics

- Today, politics rules. Tomorrow, it still will. Why?
- The President needs to cement his legacy! This is a very ambitious White House...  
*“The busiest six months I’ve ever seen in Washington...”*
- One vote’s political ramifications on elections



# Ready, Aim...

- Producers of natural gas and oil continue to be a target; outstanding issues for industry:
  - Energy Taxes
  - Hedging/Commodity markets
  - Health care reform
  - Proposed royalty rate increases, and more to come...
  - Cap-and-trade
  - Hydraulic fracturing bill
  - Use-it-or-lose it



# Race Against the Clock...

- Anticipated timeline for end of 2009 and beyond  
What can they get done? And what *has* to get done?
- A spider web of issues...  
Multiple determining factors that will dictate any legislative outcomes, that are all connected.
- Over-extended? An extremely full agenda:
  - Health care reform
  - Appropriations ('bus?)
  - Transportation
  - Cap-and-trade
  - Financial regulation
  - Immigration??

# House vs. Senate

- Wild cards
  - Will Speaker Pelosi follow the script?*
  - How critical is climate to Harry Reid?*
- Waning political capital
- Increased role for moderate Democrats (Blue Dogs)
- What are the expectations?



*“You can be sure that staff members are going to be working on how we get from where we are now to where we need to be on health care, on energy, on education, on fiscal responsibility and on financial regulation and other issues of concern – including immigration.”*

- House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer  
August 11, 2009; CongressDailyPM