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Former Congressman Robert S. Walker Delivers Keynote Address to IEEE Conference on “The Hydrogen Economy: Its Impact on the Future of Electricity”

Washington D.C. – The Honorable Robert S. Walker, Chairman of Wexler & Walker Public Policy Associates, today delivered the keynote address to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers’ (IEEE) Conference on the Hydrogen Economy.

Walker has been a long-time proponent of Hydrogen Energy and is credited as one of the key sources in President Bush’s decision to adopt a large-scale Hydrogen Initiative both for the U.S. and abroad.

In his address, Walker made the case for why Hydrogen was the best choice in the search for alternative energy sources citing its unlimited supply, environmentally friendly emissions, decreased susceptibility to terrorism and its geopolitical advantages in the reduction of the U.S. reliance on foreign sources of energy. Walker also discussed the challenges facing the future Hydrogen economy including the lack of infrastructure, the high cost of manufacturing, research and development of hydrogen fuel cells, the current public perception of Hydrogen and the need for further capital investment.

Walker concluded his address comparing the current hydrogen economy to the earliest stages of the Internet saying, “The economic potential of the Hydrogen Economy is at a level which approximates the status of the Internet in the mid-1980’s with many potential pieces under development that will result in many attractive products for the consumer within a decade.”

The IEEE is a non-profit, technical professional association of more than 360,000 individual members in approximately 175 countries which, through its members, is a leading authority in computer engineering, biomedical technology and telecommunications, aerospace and consumer electronics, among others.