

of foreign fuel supplies, there is a relatively high cost of diesel-generated electricity. OTEC can be a cost effective source for the Pacific islands.

In addition to hydroelectricity, geothermal and the other renewable resources listed in H.R. 4, Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) must also be considered as a renewable energy source.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE  
ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2001*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Securing America's Future Energy Act of 2001 (H.R. 4). H.R. 4 represents the first comprehensive national energy policy considered by this House in more than a decade. The President's energy policy will put in place a long-term plan that will provide power to America for generations to come.

In my district in California, my family and my constituents are suffering from the dramatic rise in electricity prices. Sadly, we have learned the consequences of not having a long-term plan to produce energy. The failure of the last decade by the Clinton administration, combined with the failure of the Davis administration in California to develop a reasonable long-term energy plan, created this disaster.

The failed policy they embraced is the policy of the radical environmentalists. These groups promote an energy plan based on fantasy. They oppose nuclear power, hydropower, oil, gas, coal, natural gas, and in some cases even wind power. They cling to the failed belief that we can magically make energy without action. There should be no question that this is a strategy of failure, of skyrocketing costs and blackouts.

I support solar power. I believe that solar power research can and will help us address our future energy needs. Nevertheless, commercial solar power is not available today.

I also believe that fusion power will help us meet our energy needs of the future. I am working closely with the gentlelady from California, Ms. LOFGREN, in pushing a fusion energy research bill, which the Science Committee included in H.R. 4, that will set us on the course to commercial development of fusion power. But fusion power is not available today.

I believe that conservation will help us solve our energy problems. Which is why I am the sponsor, with the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. MARKEY, of the Energy Efficient Buildings Incentives Act (H.R. 778). This commonsense bipartisan bill provides incentives for conservation and energy efficiency. I am proud that portions of my bill are included in H.R. 4. I am also proud that the President's

plan promotes responsible conservation methods.

Yes, as we in California have learned, we must increase the supply of safe, reliable domestic energy while promoting a clean, safe and healthy environment. Our Nation's energy problems must be addressed by increasing supplies of traditional fossil fuels, developing alternative sources of energy, and improving conservation. It will not be easy and it will not be quick. However, we have the technology and the resources to meet our energy needs for decades, even centuries to come. At the same time, we can ensure a clean environment as a legacy for our children. The President's balanced, comprehensive national energy policy will strengthen our economy, lower consumer prices, create jobs and protect the environment. We should pass H.R. 4 today.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE  
ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2001*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that the House is considering H.R. 4 today. This legislation is the first step in the development of a comprehensive national energy strategy.

Included in H.R. 4 is an amendment I offered at the full committee markup to have the Department of Energy conduct a study and review of the Federal Energy Savings Performance Contract Program. This program is an existing and innovative program that provides Federal agencies the opportunity to fund the installation of necessary energy efficiency measures. As the single largest consumer of energy, our Federal government facilities offer a significant opportunity to help us meet one of our national energy goals—increased efficiency. Our experience has shown that many of these government facilities have aging and energy inefficient equipment that require modernization in order to allow them to operate at peak efficiency.

We have learned over the past 10 years in the implementation of this program, like so many other government programs, that "one size does not fit all." I believe that there are barriers and obstacles in current law and regulations, including some unnecessary red tape that prevents some Federal agencies from participating in the program. If flexibility is increased, this program could be used more effectively by Federal agencies. It is important that we take a look at the program, determine what barriers or obstacles exist, and implement appropriate changes. This provision provides for a 6-month review, report to Congress, and requires the Department to implement appropriate changes to increase program flexibility and effectiveness. As part of this report and review, it is our intention that the Department of Energy will consult with out-

side parties that have experience participating and working within the program as well as other Federal agencies.

I am hopeful that the end result of this effort will keep us on the road to increasing our nation's energy efficiency, and that the Federal government will indeed be a large contributor to this effort.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE  
ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2001*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Chairman, I am in support of this important legislation. I want to thank Chairman THOMAS of the Ways and Means Committee, along with Chairman TAUZIN, Chairman HANSEN, and Chairman BOEHLERT for their efforts in getting this legislation to the floor today.

I would like to speak in support of two specific provisions included in H.R. 4. I am pleased that this legislation includes the provisions of a bill I introduced on June 13, 2001, the Save America's Valuable Resources Act (H.R. 2147). These provisions create a \$2,000 tax credit for individuals and businesses to encourage homeowners, builders and contractors to make energy efficiency improvements to homes.

In order to qualify for the credit, homes must be made 30% more energy efficient according to the International Energy Conservation Code, a private sector energy code used in the United States. Except for the first \$1,000 in expenditures which are exempt from certification requirements, energy efficiency improvements must be certified by a utility company, a local building regulatory authority, a manufactured home production inspection primary inspection agency or other specified entity to ensure that real and significant efficiency improvements are made.

In 1998, homes accounted for nearly 20% of all of the energy consumed in the United States. Today, it costs the average American \$1500 to heat and cool their homes every year, which amounts to a cost of \$150 billion nationwide annually. By simply making changes in energy efficiency to their homes, consumers can save real money. Consumers can save 10% or more on energy bills by simply reducing the number of air leaks in their home. Double pane windows with low emissivity coating can reduce heating bills by 34% in cold climates like Chicago. If all households upgraded their insulation to meet the International Energy Conservation Code level, the nation would experience a permanent reduction of annual electric consumption totaling 7% of the total consumed.

I would also like to offer my support for the extension of the tax credit for wind energy. Currently, the wind energy tax credit expires on January 1, 2002. H.R. 4 extends the availability of this credit through January 1, 2007.