

MTBE, which has been proven to pollute groundwater and is being phased out throughout the Nation. Of course, our legislation requires MTBE to be phased out over the next 4 years. Ethanol results in by-products of animal feed and biodegradable plastics, which certainly adds value to the agricultural community.

This legislation, H.R. 837, would replace nearly all of the oil that we currently import from Iraq by the year 2012, which is roughly 6 billion gallons per year. It would also reduce foreign oil purchases by \$34 billion a year. Currently, roughly 25 percent of the trade imbalance that we have is caused by the purchase of foreign petroleum. So this is an important thing.

Also this legislation would create 200,000 new jobs in the United States, it would increase farm income by roughly \$6 billion annually and lessen our dependence on farm program payments. Ethanol currently comprises 1 percent of U.S. fuel supply. H.R. 837 would increase the use of ethanol to at least 3 percent by the year 2012. Currently, by contrast, Brazil has 22 percent of its fuel supply from ethanol.

Most automobiles can burn ethanol fuel at an 85 percent level. Currently there are over 200 State and Federal automobile fleets that use a biodiesel blend of 20 percent. So a 3 percent usage of ethanol is just the tip of the iceberg. We certainly can go much further with this particular technology.

Ethanol production is expanding rapidly. We had 12 new plants come into production last year. We have 10 new plants under construction this year, and many plants that are expanding. Eighty percent of California's reformulated gasoline contains ethanol at the present time. Many people thought at one time that the ethanol production was not such that California could be satisfied, so supply is really not a problem at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation provides flexibility in compliance with oxygenated fuel standards at the State and local level. This is not a mandate that is going to restrict anybody unnecessarily. This should cut refinery costs when compared to current fuel regulations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 837, because it decreases dependence on foreign oil while improving air quality, lessening groundwater pollution, improving farm income and providing hundreds of thousands of jobs for American citizens.

CONCERNS ABOUT AMERICA'S GLOBAL ALLIANCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, tonight I wish to place on the record my deepening concerns about America's global alliances. A few weeks ago, it was with shock and dismay that I observed our

President purposely fail to extend congratulations to German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder on his reelection. The President's behavior was inappropriate and damaging. Germany has stood as our Nation's most cooperative ally for over 50 years as our nations rebuilt Europe, weathered the Cold War and linked our economies with shared democratic values and a rule of law.

NATO has stood as the bulwark against the most awful forms of tyranny and repression. NATO is not the "Old Europe," in Secretary Rumsfeld's poorly chosen words. It is the democratic, dependable Europe that has withstood the test of time. It is the modern Europe that has always stood at America's side.

I have been blessed to live through an era when President John F. Kennedy stood at the Brandenburg Gate, when Berlin was a divided city between the forces of freedom and repression, to proclaim for freedom-loving people everywhere, "Ich bin ein Berliner."

For the vast majority of Americans of this post-World War II period, we express to the German people and their government profound gratitude for your alliance with America, your sister Republic.

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Never before in my 20 years in Congress have I felt compelled to place a call to the German Embassy to offer my congratulations to the German Chancellor, as well as the congratulations of all Americans of goodwill to the Chancellor. Indeed, it is no secret that Germany has dispatched its own peacekeeping forces to Afghanistan to help secure the first bloody tranche of peace, a most dangerous and difficult assignment.

So, tonight, I want again to formally thank the Chancellor, the members of the Bundestag, and the German people for their resolve and enduring friendship with America. I thank the Bundestag, as well, for their ongoing exchange with our Congress.

Despite reckless White House rhetoric, Germany's ties to America are deep and growing. Then this past month, we witnessed the Bush administration publicly humiliate France. France too has suffered and suffers as a result of terrorism. They know a great deal about terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, let me remind the American people how essential France was to the establishment of our own independent Nation. During the Revolutionary War, the French forces allied with our Continental revolutionaries, and they were indispensable to our victory over the British crown. French General Marquis de Lafayette was dispatched by General George Washington to rout out the British forces. About 5,500 French soldiers, led by Lieutenant Jean Rochambeau, drove the British from New York; and ultimately, the French and American forces were victorious at Yorktown. Mr. Speaker, 5,500 French troops in those days was a

huge commitment by the nation of France. Our Republic owes much to France and the people of France, and I wish to thank them tonight in their own words.

Donc, ce soir je voudrais exprimer mon gratitude profonde envers le Président Chirac et envers le parlement français de leur alliance durable avec notre pays et avec l'OTAN. Je voudrais aussi offrir de respect au ministre de l'Etranger de la France, Dominique de Villepin—je ne veux absolument pas le châtier. Le monde civilisé ne peut pas encore savoir la meilleure méthode pour endiguer le terrorisme grandissant qui est engendré par la ferveur révolutionnaire trouvée au Moyen-Orient et à l'Asie Centrale. Mais je suis certaine d'une chose: nous ne réussissons pas sans nos alliés historiques et valables en l'Europe—ni face à leur opposition. La guerre doit être la dernière ressource, après que les inspections raisonnables exécutées par les agents de l'ONU auront épuisé.

Je veu parler des rapports entre les gouvernements de la France et des Etats-Unis et entre les citoyens de nos pays. Notre amitié est importante et historique, et date des jours où le général Lafayette nous aidait pendant notre guerre de l'indépendance. Même notre capitale, la ville de Washington, a été dessiné par un français, Pierre L'Enfant, et a pris modèle sur la ville de Paris. Les mots de la révolution française—liberté, égalité, fraternité—restent vrais aujourd'hui et dans notre congrès, ils sont vraiment gravés pour toujours.

(English translation of the above statement is as follows:)

Our friendship is important and historic, and dates from the days when General Lafayette helped us during our war for independence. Even our capital, the city of Washington, was designed by a Frenchman, Pierre L'Enfant, and was modeled after Paris. The words of the French revolution—liberty, equality, brotherhood—remain true today and in our Congress, they are truly carved for all time. U.S. President and U.S. ambassador to France, Thomas Jefferson wrote,

"I do not believe war the most certain means of enforcing principles. Those peaceable coercions which are in the power of every nation, if undertaken in concert and in time of peace, are more likely to produce the desired effect."—Thomas Jefferson to Robert Livingston, 1801.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEAUPREZ). The Chair understands the gentlewoman will supply the Clerk with the English translation for the RECORD.

Ms. KAPTUR. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

ANOTHER UNITED NATIONS WAR?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.