

DRILLING IN ANWR

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, energy independence should be a goal of this Congress. Worldwide demand for petroleum has increased during the last decade, and the growth of production has been relatively flat. The inevitable result is higher prices at the gasoline pump, and the reality is that it takes time to go from the oil field to the gasoline station, and we have lost considerable time in this regard.

In 1995, in the 104th Congress, H.R. 2491, which was passed, would have allowed oil exploration in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. The Department of Energy has estimated that between 1 and 1.3 million barrels of oil a day could be derived from this source.

Unfortunately, in 1995, that legislation was vetoed by then-President Clinton.

That was nearly 10 years ago; and given a time line of 7 to 14 years for building the pipeline structure, it is time we can scarcely afford.

Mr. Speaker, I have been to ANWR. The vast coastal plain is unsuitable for habitation during the summer months because of its marshy consistency. Any caribou unlucky enough to calve in this region would likely die from exsanguination at the hands of the mosquitoes there.

The people in ANWR are counting on this Congress to do the right thing and allow them, the rightful owners of these mineral rights, to begin developing the resources that are granted to them upon statehood in 1959.

As we say in Texas, "Time's a wastin'."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

COMMUNITY BANKING MONTH

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 591) expressing the gratitude of the House of Representatives for the contributions made by America's community banks to the Nation's economic well-being and prosperity and the sense of the House of Representatives that a month should be designated as "Community Banking Month."

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 591

Whereas, since our Nation's founding, community banks have supported their commu-

nities as they prospered and grew, and today more than 8,700 community banks continue the tradition of giving back to their local communities through nearly 40,000 banking offices;

Whereas, with more than \$2,275,000,000,000 in assets, community banks know that when money stays in town it becomes a renewable resource, creating an economic cycle that constantly revitalizes and stimulates local communities;

Whereas community banks are working citizens in their communities in every sense of the word with more than 514,000 full-time and part-time employees;

Whereas these banks have made significant contributions to the economic well-being of our Nation through their financial support, their dedication as good neighbors and, above all, their service as financially sound and reliable sources of economic lifeblood in our communities;

Whereas the Nation's community banks focus on the prosperity of individuals and small businesses in their hometowns and have reinvested, on average, 95 percent of their loan portfolio in their own communities through home mortgages and small business, agricultural, and student loans;

Whereas community banks play a significant role in local economic development efforts by financing new businesses and stimulating the economy to produce jobs and new opportunities and, as a group, they contribute an important and strong part of the Nation's economic fabric;

Whereas community banks have made nearly 3,160,000 loans to small businesses, totaling over \$275,500,000,000 and nearly 720,500 loans to small farms, totaling nearly \$37,500,000,000;

Whereas community banks also enjoy the trust of their customers; indeed, community banks are just neighbors are helping neighbors build their homes, save for higher education, plan for retirement and fulfill other dreams; and

Whereas community banks have long helped in the development of our communities and the Nation as a whole, and are fully prepared to make many more contributions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the House of Representatives expresses its gratitude for the contributions made by America's community banks to the Nation's economic well-being and prosperity; and

(2) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(A) a "Community Banking Month" should be designated to raise public awareness of, and public appreciation for, the contributions of the helpful institutions that are our Nation's community banks; and

(B) the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and insert any extraneous materials on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 591 expresses the gratitude for the contributions made by America's community banks to the Nation's economic well-being and prosperity and the sense of the House of Representatives that a month should be designated as Community Banking Month. This legislation was introduced by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) to recognize community banks for their contribution to the very fabric of our community.

Community banks help to shape communities into centers of commerce and entrepreneurship and provide for community and industrial development.

Community bankers are themselves among the leading leaders of our community, engaging in civic and benevolent activities. Nationwide, there are over 8,700 community banks serving their local communities through almost 40,000 banking offices.

Community banks have reinvested on average 95 percent of their loan portfolio in their own communities through home mortgages and small businesses, agricultural, and student loans. This reinvestment plays an important role in local economic development and in efforts to finance new businesses, as well as stimulating the local economy to produce jobs and new opportunities.

Community banks are themselves small businesses, so they understand the needs of small business owners. Their core concern is lending to small businesses and farms. Studies have shown that they are the primary advisors to small businesses.

Community banks have made nearly 3,160,000 loans to small businesses, and over 720,500 loans to small farms.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the community banks and in recognition of their great contribution to our local communities and to our small businesses around the country.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 591, a resolution recognizing the contributions of community banks to the Nation's economic well-being and prosperity and expressing the sense of the House that a month should be designated as Community Banking Month.

Community banks play a vital role for our country. Of the 7,712 commercial banks in operation today, all but 419 are community banks having assets of less than \$1 billion. Community banks are known for being close to their customers and provide the leadership for many civic endeavors. These bankers are able to make loan decisions locally and reinvest local deposits into their local communities.

Community bankers also are active in helping people understand the sometimes complex nature of the banking business. Many community bankers participate in efforts to help consumers