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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord, by Your power and graceful ways that touch us humanly, create a future of promise for this country. In Congress, create new settings of hope where Your kingdom of realized truth and promised justice may become more apparent in all its saving power.

May the Members of the House of Representatives face the challenges of the present and the future with confidence in You and in the people. Help them, Lord, never to lose heart in the face of resistance, adversity, and scandal. Enable them to overcome every separation between faith and life and reject every false dichotomy of faith and expediency. Thus may they extend Your reign of peace and love and give You glory now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER). The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 6040. An act to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of the Army to provide reimbursement for travel expenses incurred by members of the Committee on Levee Safety.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NO NEED TO OPEN NEW AREAS AND NEW LEASES

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. We are going to hear a lot today about the need for new leases. There is no need to open new areas and new leases. Here is Alaska. The former Naval Petroleum Reserve leased by Bill Clinton, authorized by the Republican Congress, has more than 10 billion barrels of oil under it. It is known to exist. The oil industry has the leases; they have drilled 25 wells; they have capped them. They have no plans to connect it to the existing pipeline and bring that oil here to consumers.

But they are saying, no, we want to go over here, we want more leases over here in ANWR. We don't even know if there is any oil under ANWR. How about they deal with the known 10 billion barrels here and provide us some relief at the pump? Then we can talk about other places they might want to go in the future.

NO MORE EXCUSES ENERGY ACT

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, as we approach the Fourth of July holiday, many Americans who would use this long weekend to vacation or to perhaps spend time with their family will have to weigh their options as they struggle with gas prices that have risen to over $4 a gallon. As the worldwide demand for oil has contributed to the rise in prices that affects families all across America, we have actually restricted our supply here at home. America, unfortunately, has become more dependent than ever on more expensive foreign sources of energy, and not taking advantage of our own energy sources is economic suicide.

That is why I am cosponsoring the No More Excuses Energy Act. It would lift the moratorium on exploring for oil on the Outer Continental Shelf, open up the ANWR in Alaska for natural gas exploration and oil exploration, and it would also provide incentives to build more refineries right here at home.

This legislation would provide incentives and tax credits to assist in researching and in using alternative forms of energy like wind power and nuclear energies. This commonsense approach to energy can help our Nation meet the challenges that we face in the future and can hold down the costs to consumers.

It is time to get to work.

BUSH-CHENEY ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, Members of the House, as American families struggle with the rising cost of energy, as it makes their commute to work even more expensive, as they think about

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buying home heating oil for this winter, think how it could have been.

Think how their lives would have been different if, for the last 7 years, instead of defending the subsidies for big oil companies, the tax breaks for big oil companies and the royalty holidays for big oil companies, the Bush administration and the Cheney administration had put their heads together and had thought about the future as opposed to the past. But when you have two oil men together in the Oval Office in the White House, they think about the past, and that is protecting the oil companies; it is not about the future.

Think if President Bush had come out for any increase in the mileage standards 7 years ago where we would have been, instead of defending for 32 years the right of the automobile companies to keep us away from more efficient automobiles.

But that would have been the future. The Bush-Cheney administration has never thought about the future; they have only thought about the past, and that has turned out to be terribly, terribly costly to the American consumer.

HEALTHY HOSPITALS ACT

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I know much of our concern is on energy and gas prices, but I want to remind Members of some grim statistics on other issues.

If an airplane crashed today and 250 people died, we would send the FAA and every other Federal agency to investigate. If the same thing happened tomorrow, our concerns would escalate, too. If it happened a third day, we would shut down the airline industry. We don't seem to do that same thing, and we have that many deaths each day from infections in hospitals.

In April of 2005, when I first started talking about infections in hospitals, we have had since that time over 6 million cases, over 320,000 deaths, and have wasted $162 billion. Just in 2008 alone, 969,000 cases, 47,000 deaths, and $24 billion.

When I introduced my Healthy Hospitals Act, H.R. 1174, the aim was to have hospitals declare their infection rates so people could compare hospitals so we could do something about it.

Hospitals can clean up their act. They can reduce their infections, and Congress needs to make sure there is a law of the land requiring them. People have a right to know if they are going to leave a hospital at all.

IRAQI OIL

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

Mr. KUCINICH. In March of 2001, when the Bush administration began to have secret meetings with the oil company executives from Exxon, Shell, and BP, spreading maps of Iraqi oil fields on the desk, the price of oil was $23.96 per barrel, and then there were 63 companies in 30 countries, the U.S. not included, competing for oil contracts with Iraq. Today, the price of oil is $135.59 per barrel; the U.S. Army is occupying Iraq, and the first Iraq oil contracts will go without competitive bidding—surprise—to Exxon, Shell, and BP.

Iraq has between 200 billion and 300 billion barrels of oil with a market value in the tens of trillions, and our government is trying to force Iraq not only to privatize its oil but to accept a long-term U.S. military presence to guard the oil and to protect the profits of the oil companies while they charge Americans $4 and $5 a gallon and while our troops continue dying.

We found the weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. We found the weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and it is oil. As long as oil companies control our government, Americans will continue to pay, and they will pay with our lives, our fortune, our sacred honor.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, the House voted this week on Medicare.

First, let me make one thing clear: We need to pay our doctors. We cannot continue to make it more difficult for doctors to make the decisions to see Medicare patients. A permanent fix is absolutely necessary.

Having said that, the bill we voted on this week took a very short-sighted approach. By cutting the successful and innovative Medicare Advantage program in order to pay for the doctors' payment fix, there will be cuts to Medicare Advantage plans that will reduce access, benefits, and choices for millions of our senior citizens, especially low income seniors and those in rural areas.

We can take care of our doctors without cutting benefits for our seniors, our Nation's senior citizens. The cuts to Medicare Advantage were $47.5 billion. This would do great damage to an effective aspect of Medicare that serves our senior citizens. We can do better than that.

OPPOSITION TO NEW OFFSHORE DRILLING

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise in response to recent calls for new offshore drilling. These arguments for new drilling hit a dry hole for several reasons.

First, we are already drilling offshore. Eighty percent of the known offshore reserves are in areas where leasing and drilling is allowed. Today, the oil companies have nearly 6,000 untapped leases in the Gulf of Mexico alone.

Second, with 3 percent of the world's resources and 25 percent of the world's demand, there is no way we are going to just drill our way out of this problem.

Third, even the Bush administration admits consumers would see little savings at the pump from new drilling.

Yesterday, Guy Caruso, head of the Energy Information Agency, said this about the impact of new drilling: ''It would be a relatively small effect, because it would take such a long time to bring those supplies on. It doesn't affect prices that much.''

Democrats have a better plan. Let's pass legislation that moves America in a new direction on energy by closing the Enron loophole on Wall Street speculators who are driving up prices. Let's reduce mass transit fares and build the infrastructure there, and let's force Big Oil to use it or lose it on drilling permits.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in bringing America to a new, more affordable energy future.

INCREASING AMERICAN JOBS AND ENERGY PRODUCTION RESPONSIBLY

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. My constituents in southwest Louisiana want solutions to the energy crisis.

On Monday, the Lake Charles American Press summed up what is needed in their editorial, something I have advocated for a long time.

They said, ''The energy campaign should include more exploration, more refining capacity, more alternative energy sources, more renewable energy, retirement of society's dependency on the internal combustion engine, and an increase in conservation.

''It should not be demagogued, for this is not a Republican or Democrat issue. It is a national issue that will require solutions, not insults hurled across the aisles of Congress and back and forth from Capitol Hill to the White House.

Those that feel the pain of higher energy prices and accompanying higher prices throughout the marketplace—the poor, those on fixed income, even the middle class—are being squeezed.''

Increasing responsible energy production is one part of the solution. We must accompany that with conservation, with greater refining capacity and, most importantly, with unleashing individual American genius.

A magic bullet will not lower the price at the pump for American families, but increasing American energy production responsibly will help, and it will create jobs here at home.

RECOGNIZING THE ARMY'S 4TH BRIGADE—2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, THE ''DRAGOON RAIDERS''

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Lewis.

By June 30 of this month, the last of the, roughly, 4,000 men and women of the 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division will have returned home to Fort Lewis after completing a 15-month deployment in Iraq. The Dragoon Raiders, as the Brigade is known, deployed in Iraq in April 2007, a month earlier than expected.

During their deployment, the 4–2 supported operations in Baghdad, Baghdad's Northern Security Belt, and the Diyala Province. The Brigade cleared 2,216 IEDs from more than 87,000 kilometers of routes, ensuring safe travel for civilians and security forces. Soldiers from the 4–2 also captured more than 1,700 detainees and 220 high-value targets during combat operations.

In tribute to their brave service, three members of the Brigade were awarded the Silver Star, the United States' third highest award for combat valor. Their valorous service was not without cost, however. In the course of their deployment, the Dragoon Raiders lost 54 of their comrades, with another 424 wounded.

I want to express my deep condolences to the 4–2 Brigade and to the families of those fallen soldiers. Their contributions and sacrifices will not be forgotten.

The men and women of the 4–2 have done everything their country has asked of them and more. We all should have the utmost respect and admiration for their service and sacrifice.

FAIR OR FREE

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the speech police are at it again. This time they want to police and control the radio airwaves. I'm not talking about the former Soviet Union that controlled what Russians listened to on the radio, I'm talking about the American speech police.

Radio shows that air conservative ideas in the free enterprise market seem to be listened to by more Americans than those that listen to liberal ideas. I don't know why that is, but it happens. So some don't like that. They say it's just not fair. So they want to force the private radio stations, with the use of the government speech police, to air ideas that are liberal as well as conservative. They call this nonsense the ''fairness doctrine.''

It is actually totalitarian state control of speech. And what does ''fair'' mean? Fair means different things to different folks. In some places in the country like Texas, fair is where you take your chickens to. That's why the word ''fair'' is not in the Constitution. The Constitution protects free speech, not fair speech. It says Congress—that's us, folks—shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech. And the Constitution applies to the thieves of free speech and the government's speech police whether they like it or not.

And that's just the way it is.

USE IT OR LOSE IT

(Mr. WALZ of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, Americans continue to suffer the pain at the pump due to 7 years of missed opportunities and outdated policies. President Bush's energy plan was literally written by the oil companies, giving more public resources and billions in subsidies to the same companies that are raking in record billions in profits while Americans are reeling. That was the plan then; that's the plan now.

Every day, we hear our friends on the other side of the aisle demanding that we need to drill more holes. What we don't hear is anyone demanding that they drill on the 68 million acres they have. Legislation on the floor today will force those companies to produce oil and gas diligently on the 68 million acres of the public land, your land, that they already have. Experts say there are 4.8 million barrels of oil which would nearly double total U.S. production.

Madam Speaker, drilling has been the Republican slogan for years, and it will be so today. Today is finally their chance to put that slogan to the test, to tell Big Oil to drill now and to use it, or lose it.

JOURNEY FOR 9/11

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to say ''thank you'' to the retired New York Giants' co-captain and Super Bowl champion, George Martin, for finishing his 3,200-mile trek across America to raise money and awareness for the sick men and women, heroes and heroines of 9/11 who are still suffering.

His cross-country journey started in New York just after the sixth anniversary of 9/11. It continued through Washington, DC, in early October where he met with Members of Congress about legislation that is pending here. We met, and he continued on his journey.

He finished in California last Saturday, and is now having a well-deserved rest. George is an inspiration to those of us in Congress who are working hard to pass H.R. 3543. We have over 115 cosponsors. It is the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, and it is for the heroes and heroines of 9/11. It would treat and monitor all of those who were exposed to the deadly toxins, and it would treat those who are sick. It is the least we can do for these heroes and heroines. We should pass it before the seventh anniversary of 9/11.

DOMESTIC EXPLORATION

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I got a call yesterday from a constituent in my district who said he saw me speaking on the floor about domestic energy, and he was relieved. He was relieved because someone in Congress understood the effects that high gas prices are having on real families all over this country, because he didn't think anybody was paying attention. Well, guess what? Some people are paying attention.

We need to be looking at resources here at home to solve our energy problems. The United States Minerals Management Service found out that, out of our 1.76-billion-acre Outer Continental Shelf, only 3 percent is leased to oil and gas exploration, and nearly 85 percent of the lower 48 OCS remains untapped.

Madam Speaker, we can explore our domestic resources safely and effectively so we will not harm our environment.

I and my Republican colleagues will continue to talk about domestic exploration because we do have solutions, and somebody is listening.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN VIETNAM

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss human rights in Vietnam and the Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung's visit to the United States.

I understand that, when President Bush and Prime Minister Dung met, they discussed the importance of promoting human rights in Vietnam and that Prime Minister Dung told President Bush that the Vietnamese Government has made efforts and is committed to further promoting and improving human rights in Vietnam.

Now, as a long-time advocate of human rights in Vietnam and as a representative of one of the largest Vietnamese-American communities, we know that human rights in Vietnam have only been getting worse. The Government of Vietnam has continued to harass, arrest and to sentence peaceful democracy advocates to prison—oh, and by the way, also United States citizens of Vietnamese descent.

If there is any evidence of Prime Minister Dung's claim that human

rights in Vietnam are improving, I urge him to show it to this Congress, but I doubt that he is telling the truth.

EXPANDING ENERGY HORIZON

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, recently, I took part in a House Natural Resources subcommittee hearing concerning hydropower and exploring its role as a continued source of clean, renewable energy for the future.

In Nebraska, we have benefited from clean, inexpensive and renewable hydropower. These projects in Nebraska's third district serve irrigation, flood control, and recreation activities. Demand for fuel and power continues to grow, giving all sources of domestic resources, including offshore oil fields and ANWR, solar, nuclear, wind, and hydropower, an increasingly important role for the future.

Unfortunately, so many special interest groups have said ''no'' to virtually every solution, including clean, renewable hydropower, non-emitting nuclear power, clean coal technology, wind power, and certainly responsible domestic exploration.

Madam Speaker, we can do better. We must do better.

NEW ENERGY SOLUTIONS

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, the Democratic-led Congress is working for consumers to lower gas prices and to launch a cleaner and more cost-effective energy future that creates new green jobs and that reduces global warming.

For 7 years, Washington Republicans allowed Big Oil to run our Nation's energy policy. The result, high gas prices and continued dependence on oil.

Democrats believe we must diversify our energy sources with bold investments in renewable energy and more efficient technology. Last year, for the first time in three decades, this Congress passed a landmark law that increases fuel efficiency to 35 miles per gallon and that will save American families at least $700 a year when it takes effect.

We have also passed legislation that repeals billions of dollars in corporate welfare to big oil companies that are currently seeing record profits. Instead, we invest these funds in the renewable energy solutions of the future.

Madam Speaker, the energy policies of the past are not working. It is time that we look for new solutions.

DEVELOP AMERICAN ENERGY

(Mr. AKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, America has a problem because we have not been developing our American energy. The tip of the iceberg is particularly obvious now at $4 a gallon, but there were warning signs—nuclear reactors, 1960s vintage technology, no new refineries sited in 30 years. That's going back to the Vietnam era. We have not been developing American energy. Why? It is not because we don't have American energy. We have plenty of varieties of American energy that we could be developing, and it is not because we don't have the technology or the innovation to be able to develop American energy.

No. Unfortunately, this is strictly a matter of will. It is a decision, and it is strictly a party-line decision.

Over the last 8 years, Democrats on all kinds of votes on energy have voted 90 percent of the time not to develop American energy. Republicans have voted 90 percent too. Whether it is recycling nuclear fuel, drilling in ANWR or in the Outer Continental Shelf, we need to agree that the time has come to develop American energy.

END OIL'S MONOPOLY

(Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, if I had a monopoly on apple pies because the law said that my backyard was the only place in town where you could grow apple trees, I would charge whatever I wanted for those apple pies. I would be even more excited when I would start jacking the price way, way up for those apple pies and would make huge, record apple pie profits.

If the government decided that the way to fix that problem would be to give me, and only me, permission to grow one more apple tree in my backyard 10 years from now, well, it would sound pretty ridiculous, right?

Unfortunately, even though the analogy is a little bit simple, that is basically the Republican's plan for high gas prices. Instead of actually creating competition for the oil industry by concentrating on growing renewable energy sources, they just call for a little bit more drilling, giving their friends in the oil industry even more profit.

Well, we shouldn't fall for it. With 2 percent of the world's oil reserves here in the United States, the only way to bring gas prices down is to end oil's monopoly and to start growing apple trees in other people's backyards.

CONGRATULATING FRESNO BULLDOGS

(Mr. RADANOVICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate Fresno State University men's baseball team as the national champions of the College World Series.

This is the first college baseball national championship win for Fresno State University, and it is, indeed, a Cinderella story for the Bulldogs. Their record was 47 wins and 31 losses. No other college baseball team in the Nation has had 31 losses in the season and has still been able to overcome the odds and win the college baseball national championship.

The outstanding leadership of coach Mike Batesole and the hard work and determination of all of the players, including the College World Series' Most Outstanding Player, Tommy Mendonca, led to this unlikely but well-deserved victory.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fresno State Bulldogs who went from underdogs to wonder dogs. Go Dogs.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6052, SAVING ENERGY THROUGH PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1304 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1304

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6052) to promote increased public transportation use, to promote increased use of alternative fuels in providing public transportation, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived except

those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration in the House of H.R. 6052 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of Thursday, June 26, 2008, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules relating to:

(a) a measure concerning the Commodity Exchange Act and energy markets; and

(b) a measure concerning the issuance of oil and gas leases on Federal lands or waters.

□ 1030

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. CASTOR. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend and colleague from the Rules Committee, Mr. DIAZ-BALART of Florida. All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CASTOR. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. CASTOR. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 1304 provides a structured rule for consideration of H.R. 6052, the Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008. The resolution provides for 1 hour of general debate controlled by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and makes in order five amendments submitted for consideration.

The rule also permits the Speaker to entertain motions to suspend the rules relating to two important measures: one, a measure concerning the Commodity Exchange Act and energy markets; and two, a measure concerning the issuance of oil and gas leases on Federal lands or waters. This authority is needed because House rules allow for bills to be considered under suspension only on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. In order for the House to consider the bill today on Thursday or on any other day, the House must adopt a rule granting specific permission.

Madam Speaker, hardworking Americans all across this great country are being squeezed by this painful Bush economy that has brought on increased costs for housing and for health care. My colleague from Florida can attest to the rising costs of property insurance for Floridians and other Americans, and of course, gas prices are socking it to our neighbors back home.

Now, many of the reformers here in Congress have been standing up to the White House and have been urging them for years to change direction and to focus on long-term solutions to our energy challenges. But the oil men at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue and their Big Oil allies have had a stranglehold over our country's energy policy, and unfortunately, families and businesses across America are paying the price.

Now, some bipartisan progress has been made here in our new-direction Congress over the past year and a half. One of Speaker NANCY PELOSI's first initiatives was to establish a new bipartisan Select Committee on Energy Independence and Climate Change, which has been extremely productive. Democratic reformers also pushed through a historic increase in the required gas mileage of 35 miles per gallon for our cars. Now, better gas mileage for our cars alone should save families from $700 to $1,000 per year at the pump and should slash consumption in America by 4 million gallons per day, but it cannot happen soon enough. The sad thing is this technology has existed for years. Cars in Japan travel almost twice as far on a gallon of gas.

What has been missing here in our country is the political leadership to make these necessary changes. So many of the changes we have been fighting for have been blocked by the White House and by their Big Oil allies.

Remember, just 7 years ago, the administration's Energy Task Force met behind closed doors, and it consisted of former oil company executives and of other oil executives, like Ken Lay of Enron. The administration also fought to keep the other identities secret. Saving American families money through innovation was not a priority. Conservation was not a priority—the Vice President made that clear—and public transit and public transportation were not priorities. They were stuck in the past then, and they still are today because what has been their answer to high gas prices? Their recommendations today are the same as they were 7 years ago: More drilling; more of the same.

Now, as the reformers in this Congress continue to fight for a new direction in energy policy, inexplicably, the White House announced yesterday that it opposes today's public transit bill, the Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act. What a shame on the White House, because expanding public transportation use is one of the most promising ways to reduce energy consumption and reliance on foreign oil.

Now, with the White House's $4-per-gallon premium, even more commuters are choosing to ride the train and to bus to work rather than to ride alone in their cars. According to two recent studies, America already saves up to 1½ to 4 billion gallons of gasoline annually. That's more than 11 million gallons of gasoline per day due to public transit.

Ridership across America is way up. 2007 was the highest ridership in public transportation in 50 years. Light rail riders are way up in Denver, Seattle, Portland, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Francisco, Charlotte, and in many other communities. And my colleague from Miami will be pleased to hear that South Florida posted a 20 percent increase over last year in ridership in March and April. Transit agencies are also using more alternative fuels and clean energy technologies that improve the air we breathe and that aid America's energy independence.

Our transit bill on the floor today and under this rule will lower fares and will expand routes and frequency so public transit is an even more attractive alternative during this time of high gas prices.

So I urge my colleagues to continue to stand up to the White House, to support this rule and our first bill today, the Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act.

Madam Speaker, our second bill today under this rule is entitled ''Use It or Lose It.'' In the bill, we are calling the bluff of the White House, of Big Oil, and of other prominent Republicans who claim that oil companies are being blocked from drilling for oil and gas and that that is somehow related to gas prices. Well, after the White House announced that policy last week, one commentator called it a massive fraudulent and pathetic excuse for an energy policy.

You see, 68 million acres are already leased and have the potential to produce an additional 4.8 million barrels of oil and 4.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas each day. Now, if 68 million acres are already open to drilling, please do not insult the intelligence of the American people by claiming that the oil companies need more.

The truth about America's energy policy and the White House policy is that Big Oil has stockpiled supplies and has pocketed profits. A report has been generated by the Committee on Natural Resources, entitled ''The Truth About America's Energy: Big Oil Stockpiles Supplies and Pockets Profits'' of June 2008. If American families and businesses are interested, they can obtain this report on the Internet at resourcescommittee.house.gov.

The chairman of the Natural Resources Committee is NICK RAHALL of West Virginia. It's his bill. The bill forces oil and gas companies to either produce, to use it or to release the leases, to lose them, the leases they've been stockpiling. These companies can't obtain new ones unless they can demonstrate that they are diligently using the ones that they already have.

Now, what was particularly interesting, Madam Speaker, is that, last

year, the administration's own energy department, the Energy Information Administration, issued a report that determined that opening more areas would not have a significant impact on gas prices. The 2007 report of the administration's Energy Information Administration, titled ''Annual Energy Outlook 2007, with Projections to 2030'' can be found at www.eia.doe.gov/oaif/aeo/.

In fact, Madam Speaker, just yesterday, the director of the EIA reconfirmed the 2007 report and noted that expanded offshore drilling in the U.S. will not affect oil and natural gas prices very much at all.

I would like to submit yesterday's reconfirmation by the EIA director of the 2007 report.

[From Bloomberg.com, June 25, 2008]

OFFSHORE DRILLING WON'T AFFECT PRICES MUCH, EIA SAYS

(By Tina Seeley)

Expanded offshore drilling in the U.S. won't affect oil and natural-gas prices much, the head of the Energy Information Administration said.

Guy Caruso, speaking today at a press conference in Washington, said his agency had considered the effect of more drilling in a 2007 report. Higher energy prices this year might change the results, although the time needed for resource development would damp any outcome, he said.

''It does take a long time to develop those resources,'' Caruso said. ''Therefore the price impact is muted by that.''

President George W. Bush last week proposed expanded drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf and development of energy sources in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a response to record prices. Crude-oil futures hit a record $139.89 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange on June 16.

Senator John McCain of Arizona, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, has expressed support for more drilling. His potential Democratic opponent, Senator Barack Obama of Illinois, opposes more drilling.

''The projections in the OCS access case indicate that access to the Pacific, Atlantic, and eastern Gulf regions would not have a significant impact on domestic crude oil and natural gas production or prices before 2030,'' the agency said in its 2007 report.

The Energy Information Administration is the statistical arm of the U.S. Energy Department.

Madam Speaker, this sounds all too familiar: the Bush administration ignoring information generated by its own agencies. They've been downplaying, ignoring climate change, possibly intelligence, and now it comes as no surprise that they're playing games on energy policy as well. Thanks to the administration's years of inaction and incompetence, America is left with record prices for consumers and with record profits for oil companies with disastrous national security consequences.

Now, the third bill we will consider today as part of our energy package is a direction to the administration, encouragement, as we continue to stand up to the misguided policies of this White House.

Our third bill today encourages the White House to take more aggressive action in regulating the energy futures market. This is our first step in tackling the outrageous speculation that is occurring that many experts have noted could help reduce the price of gas at the pump.

This is our package today. We look forward to the debate.

At this time, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I would like to thank my friend from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) for the time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

With gas prices averaging over $4 a gallon, more and more Americans are using public transportation for their commuting needs. Reports from Metropolitan transit systems throughout the country are showing a significant increase in ridership, in some cases as much as 15 percent—and perhaps even higher—over last year's figures. At the same time, highway vehicle miles traveled declined by 2 percent.

□ 1045

Meeting this increased demand for public transportation is causing a burden on local transit agencies which, just like commuters, must pay record fuel prices to pay for buses and subway trains and light rail.

To help meet this increased demand for public transportation, the underlying legislation, the Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act, would provide $1.7 billion in funding to increase public transportation use across the United States. Transit agencies would be able to use those funds to reduce transit fares or expand transit services.

I think this funding is important for communities throughout the country, certainly the community I'm honored to represent. Recently, Miami-Dade County, the 12th largest public transit agency in the country, announced that bus routes would be cut and others adjusted due to the rising cost of fuel. So this at a time when more and more commuters are looking to use public transportation, but public transportation systems are definitely being affected by the rise in energy costs. So it is my hope that the $36 million this legislation would provide South Florida would help reestablish some of the routes that were cut and would expand others so that commuters would have a more reliable public transportation system.

To further promote the use of public transportation, the legislation establishes a nationwide Federal transit pass benefits program and requires all Federal agencies to offer transit passes to Federal employees working in urbanized areas with fixed route transit systems.

To help alleviate the reliance on gasoline to power our transit systems, the bill will increase the Federal share for clean and alternative fuel transit projects. This will also have the beneficial effect of reducing transportation-related emissions.

I would like to congratulate Chairman OBERSTAR and Ranking Member MICA for working together to draft a bipartisan bill that both sides of the aisle can support. This legislation, the underlying legislation, will be a great benefit to transit systems throughout the country at a time when they are needing additional funding.

Madam Speaker, once again, the bipartisan spirit of the bill, the underlying legislation, never made it past the doors of the Rules Committee. Yesterday, the majority in the Rules Committee only allowed one minority amendment to be debated today, while allowing three amendments from the majority.

Before the new majority took control of the House in January of 2007, they published a document called ''A New Direction for America,'' which set out their promises to the American people. Page 24 of that document says, ''Bills should generally come to the floor under a procedure that allows open, full and fair debate consisting of a full amendment process that grants the minority the right to offer its alternative, including a substitute.''

Yet here we are today with a process that, contrary to their promise to the American people, blocks a full and fair debate and allows only one minority amendment. Actually, this one minority amendment is the only one the majority has allowed the minority to offer all week. Four bills, one amendment.

Actually, it is more like six bills, one amendment, because this rule will allow the House to debate two additional bills under suspension of the rules, one against speculation in the oil market, and we have to speculate on what it says because we haven't seen it. And the majority's bringing those bills to floor without allowing the minority to offer any amendments or a motion to recommit.

So, at a time when gas prices are hitting almost daily records, the majority should be offering a ''full and fair debate'' on this critical issue, a debate that considers ideas from both sides of the aisle, of all Members of this House, to help reduce gasoline prices.

Polls across the country are consistent with a recent poll that I saw that said 71 percent want their elected leaders in Washington to focus on ''increasing the energy supplies of the United States and lowering the cost of gasoline and electricity.'' But instead, the majority is offering no-new-energy legislation, obstructing debate, and impeding solutions to the energy crisis, contrary to what the American people wish.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote against this unfair rule, which continues to block the minority from offering more than one amendment and blocks a thorough debate on the critical energy situation facing the Nation.

At this time, I reserve.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, at this time, I'm very happy to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman's courtesy in permitting me to speak on this rule as I rise in support of this integral part of a comprehensive approach that has been offered by the majority party to deal with the energy challenges we face today.

It is important that we think of this in a comprehensive fashion because there isn't one silver bullet that's going to solve America's energy challenges, especially when it has taken years to paint us into this corner.

It should be made clear that, first and foremost, this is not just more about increasing supply, not just more drilling. Some of my Republican friends are talking about draining America dry and turning the rest of our energy future over to large oil companies who already, as the gentlewoman from Florida points out, control 68 million acres of land that is available for exploitation. Just ExxonMobil alone had $40 billion of profit. Were they spending it on existing leases to increase supply? They spent $36 billion buying back their stock and found, what was it, $10 million to invest in alternative energy. Significant irony here, I think.

One of the items that we've been involved with in the last 18 months is to work to give Americans more choices for their energy, to beef up opportunities for wind, solar, and tidal, in addition to those 68 million acres already available.

We're working on new technology. Three times the House has passed legislation, I'm pleased to say, that has included my provision to close the Hummer loophole that actually subsidizes the purchase of the largest, most energy inefficient, expensive vehicles like the Hummer and, instead, would spend that money to encourage alternatives like hybrid technology.

We need to be serious about not wasting more oil than any country in the world. You know, it's ironic, after the Democrats seized control of Congress we had to fight with this administration and our friends on the other side of the aisle to just increase fuel efficiency standards to 35 miles a gallon, that basically remained unchanged for 35 years. Our Republican friends, when they were in control, actually made it illegal to even study increasing fuel efficiency standards. It is stunning when we think today of the price Americans are paying at $4 a gallon that they refused to allow us to even study making cars more gasoline efficient.

Well, we broke through that. The irony is now George Bush is claiming credit for something that he resisted, but even if we give George Bush credit for what we forced him to do, it took George Bush longer to get to 35 miles to a gallon than it took Jack Kennedy to get Americans to the moon.

We hear about now, all of the sudden, they're flip-flopping and interested in more offshore drilling. This is interesting. George Bush, the first, put in place an executive order that prohibited it. George Bush, the second, reaffirmed it at the insistence of his brother, Jeb Bush, as my friend from Florida well knows. The President could now overturn that executive order if he wished. The Governor of Florida, since Florida controls the first three miles of State land, could start drilling 3 miles off the Florida coast if they were really excited about doing it.

Well, it's important that we've got this legislation today about using or losing oil leases. I strongly support the part of the puzzle that deals with conservation, because with less than 3 percent of the world's oil reserves we'll never be able to drill our way out of this. The irony is that even if we started drilling more today, every expert, every expert agrees that it will take 7 to 10 years for any of this oil to trickle into the system.

In this legislation, we are putting more resources to help mass transit, putting more resources to give consumers choices.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Ms. CASTOR. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. This is part of a comprehensive approach. Democrats have been working since we returned to power to increase fuel efficiency and with other alternatives for energy.

I welcome a broad, far-ranging debate about what Republicans did when they were in control for a dozen years in the House, especially the 6 years of the Bush administration, they were in complete control, their energy bill of 2005 when they were running the show, in contrast with what we've already been able to accomplish with just the last 18 months and what we propose to do in the future.

Support the rule. Support the underlying bill. I look forward to that debate.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my good friend from California (Mr. NUNES).

Mr. NUNES. I thank the gentleman from Florida.

CONGRATULATING THE FRESNO STATE BULLDOGS

I'd like to rise in opposition to this rule, but before I do that, I'd like to take just a moment to recognize the accomplishments of the Diamond Dogs of Fresno State. The Central Valley's own Fresno State Bulldogs entered the College World Series and left as world champions.

The Bulldogs, who barreled into the College World Series with nothing more than the burden of proof on their side, showed not only that they belonged in the series but that they were nothing less than the best team in the Nation.

The Fresno State Bulldogs have triumphed in the face of adversity and have achieved the greatest victory in College World Series history. Their achievement has spoken louder than words and will become a testament to all those who seek to be better, to reach further, and to soar higher than ever before.

I share this, not only because of the great sense of pride I feel from the Fresno State Bulldogs' outstanding accomplishment, but because I believe their story is truly an inspiration for all. Our Fresno State Bulldogs' story is not one of miracles. It is a testimony of the strength of the human spirit. It is a force that can overcome any obstacle, even when faced with seemingly insurmountable odds.

Congratulations to the Fresno State Bulldogs.

Now, Madam Speaker, I was sitting here, waiting to congratulate the Fresno State Bulldogs, and unfortunately, we ran out of time on that. But I had the opportunity to be able to listen to the other side of the aisle's arguments, and I can't help but think back to 2006, because there's a lot of hot air here in Washington, as we know, but in 2006 the Democrats said, if you put us in power, we're going to get our troops out of Iraq, we're going to surrender in Iraq, and we're going to just turn it over to the terrorists in Iraq.

Two years later, we're still in Iraq, Madam Speaker, because the Republicans stood up to the Democrat majority and said we're going to try to win and achieve victory in Iraq. We're still trying to do that, and it's very difficult.

The other thing that the Democrats also promised in 2006 is that they had a real plan to lower gas prices. Well, in 2 years, we have managed to double the price of gasoline, and in California, we're getting close to paying $5 a gallon. So I'm assuming that today's rule is the unveiling of this plan to lower gas prices.

However, the plan that you have before us and all that we continue to hear is that we blame the Texas oil men in the White House. Give me a break. You must have better legislation than that today. If this is your plan, to blame the White House, to blame oil speculators, to blame oil companies, American oil companies don't control the world's oil supply. The world's oil supply is controlled by foreign governments that, for the most part, are hostile towards us.

□ 1100

So if you have a plan to deal with these foreign governments, hopefully, we can see it today. If you have a plan that's going to somehow miraculously lower oil prices, maybe we're going to see that today because, right now, your plan is not working real well.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

The time of the gentleman from California has expired.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I yield the gentleman 2 additional minutes.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, today, the price of gas is $5 a gallon, and we would like to see the plan today, Madam Speaker. I hope that this rule will unveil this plan, but unfortunately, the legislation that's before us today is a scam. It's a complete and total scam.

The longer that we continue to blame the White House, the longer that we continue to blame the oil companies, the longer that we continue to blame everyone else but ourselves—we ourselves are to blame; we should look in the mirror. This Congress should take dramatic steps to open up supply that would bridge ourselves to the next generation of energy, Madam Speaker. That's what we should be doing here today.

The American people aren't going to buy these arguments, but they are going to continue to be buying $5 gas until we decide, as a Congress, to do something about it.

With that, I would like to thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding me the time.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland, a leader on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Mr. CUMMINGS.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

I just want to take a moment to make it clear that I support H. Res. 1304. It provides for a structured rule, and I fully support the rule.

As I was sitting here, I had to change my remarks in my head because, as I was listening to Mr. NUNES, I could not help but think about the people in my district of Baltimore, only 40 miles away from here, who aren't worried about whose fault it is. What they are concerned about are solutions to their problems so they can get back and forth to work, so that they can go shopping, so that they can do the things that they would normally do. I think that this rule and then this bill are a major step in the right direction in trying to help them.

In a sense, I kind of agree with Mr. NUNES. I'm not anxious to do a lot of blaming because the people I represent get tired of watching C–SPAN; they get tired of the back and forth, and they simply want the Congress to come together to find solutions to their problems.

Yes, it is true that gas prices have risen to more than $4 per gallon. The Joint Economic Committee, on which I also serve, has reported that households can expect to spend as much as 25 percent more on gasoline this year than last year. This is a tremendous burden for the many households that I represent, and they simply cannot bear it. If, as I fear, these prices represent a new paradigm, we, as a nation, must urgently assess how we can adjust to ensure our economy can continue to grow while we conserve energy.

I believe that one of the best adjustments we can make is to support the increased use of public transit, which already saves the United States the equivalent of 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline per year. Unfortunately, in many areas, such as my hometown of Baltimore where public transportation already provides more than 93 million annual trips, transit agencies face budget constraints that are limiting their ability to grow to meet the new demand.

According to the Congressional Research Service, the Federal contribution to public transit services totals less than 20 percent of all revenue accruing to these services. Local governments contribute nearly half of the revenue needed to provide public transit, but these governments are facing funding constraints.

H.R. 6052 would provide an additional $1.7 billion in Federal funding for public transportation in fiscal years 2008 and 2009, funding that is essential to ensure that we can keep our Nation moving while conserving fuel.

I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying bill that increases Federal investments in public transit.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. It is my privilege to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished lady from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE).

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, today, the national average for a gallon of gas has reached $4.07. With your average vehicle tank holding 18 gallons, that translates to $75 to fill your tank. This is on top of skyrocketing food costs and, now, increases in both our natural gas and electricity bills at home.

Many American families simply cannot afford these prices. Yet we stand on this floor without allowing debate on a comprehensive solution for the American people. This country is tired of partisan maneuvering and is tired of Congress just saying ''no.''

Madam Speaker, Americans are downright mad. Some may argue that high gas prices are an incentive to make Americans drive less or that high energy costs are an incentive for businesses and homeowners to utilize more green practices. High energy and gas prices also cause businesses and jobs to move offshore where natural gas is cheaper.

I firmly believe in investing in technology that will move us away from our Nation's dependence on petroleum, but during this transitional period, we must also increase our domestic supply and fuel our economy. No one can deny that energy is something that we all use and need. Americans expect this Congress to do everything within our power to address these high gas and energy prices.

Madam Speaker, we should not leave here for the Fourth of July recess without increasing our own natural resources. Bring relief to the American people. Keep our Nation competitive and open for business.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from Vermont, a member of the powerful Rules Committee, Mr. WELCH.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. I thank my colleague from Florida, and I admire her leadership on energy issues, among many other issues.

Madam Speaker, I would like to speak about two things. One is an amendment that I offered to this bill that's been incorporated into the manager's amendment.

This bill recognizes that one of the steps that we have to take, long overdue, is to build up our public transportation system. It's going to provide relief to commuters; it's going to help our environment; it's going to create jobs.

The amendment that I offered and that Mr. OBERSTAR incorporated into the manager's amendment would allow funds to be used by local transportation authorities, like the Chittenden County Transportation Authority, to retrofit their equipment and facilities in order to improve energy efficiency and to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Those would be specific purposes for which authorized funds may be used.

Specifically, it means that an organization like the Chittenden County Transit Authority in the Burlington area could retrofit their buses and be more fuel efficient. They've been trying to do that. A shortage of funds has kept them from achieving all of their goals. It would also allow the transportation authority in that State and in other States to build a natural gas pump station locally. This, we believe, is a very important part of the legislation presented to you.

Second, we're having, in the process of this debate, an ongoing discussion about energy. The fact is—and I think we all know this—in the past when we've had crises around energy, it has never produced a lasting and durable response. There has been an immediate response but nothing lasting, whether it was after the OPEC organization in the early '70s, after the Gulf war or after Katrina. Usually, a crisis does produce a response. It hasn't. We know the time has passed as to when we can look the other way.

What accounts for the high cost of energy? The reality is there are a number of factors. The weak dollar is one, because of our current account deficit. Speculation is another. There has been a massive increase in speculation in the commodities markets in general, in oil in particular, where it's gone from folks who are delivering the product or who are receiving the product, to financial speculators who see that there is money in playing that game.

There has also been an increased demand with globalization. China and India are building their economies. They're using more energy. But there has also been a significant failure of leadership to move us away from an oil-dependent economy. The reality is, what we need to be doing here in Congress is addressing both the short-term

steps that we can take as well as the long-term need for a new energy policy.

So what are the specific things that we can do in the short term? One, we can stop filling up the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and diminish demand. We've done that. That will have a positive impact in reducing demand. Second, we can limit speculation. We should be putting limits on how much the speculative players can influence price, not only because there is significant expert testimony that that is adding a premium to the cost of a gallon of gas or to a gallon of home heating fuel, but that it also is creating a potential bubble where innocent participants and pension funds may see the value of their assets suddenly diminish when the market goes south. So we will be considering later anti-speculation legislation that will be helpful as well.

Third, the ''Use It or Lose It'' legislation. Our friends on the other side have been making a big argument about the need to increase production. You know, there is not any disagreement here that part of our transition from an oil-based economy to a carbon-free economy has to include the continued production and use of carbon-based fuels, including oil. No question about it. The issue here is whether or not we need to increase lands that are available when we have 68 million acres already under lease, permitted, where all the oil companies need to do in order to produce more oil is to put metal to the Earth. This is 68 million acres, Madam Speaker, as you know, that is both onshore and offshore.

So the argument is that we need to be opening up a national park and starting to drill there or into other coastal areas when we have 68 million acres already available, but for reasons that only the oil companies—the leaseholders—are aware, those are not producing needed oil and natural gas for our citizens. It's estimated that the amount of oil that's available under those 68 million acres is 4.8 million barrels.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. CASTOR. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. So what we need to do that also is a long-term energy policy is to increase mileage standards and take away the tax breaks that are going to the oil companies and steer them to alternative agency. Incidentally, ExxonMobil, which made $40 billion this year, spent $32 billion buying its stock back rather than producing oil on these leaseholds.

We also have to have a new energy policy so we can keep our money at home. We're sending $1 trillion to the oil-producing states like Russia, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, not particularly our friends. If we keep that money at home, we're going to strengthen our economy.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to my friend from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS).

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, due to higher fuel costs, the two largest utility companies in Oklahoma recently announced a monthly rate increase of $16 on average, with more increases expected this fall. This is just the latest example of how the pain at the pump is spreading to the other necessities of life. This added expense for fuel in business is being passed along to consumers, who are now being hit with a double dose of soaring prices.

However, when given the opportunity to pass meaningful energy legislation, this majority has chosen to introduce the ''Bus Fares for Bureaucrats'' bill, which will spend $1.7 billion in tax revenues to reduce fares in public transportation systems. While I'm sure this will benefit the bureaucrats in D.C. who write these laws, I'm more concerned about the farmers in western Oklahoma, where there is no public transportation system to speak of.

As of today, my constituents are paying upwards of $4 a gallon for gasoline to fill their cars and $4.66 a gallon for diesel to fill their tractors and trucks. Are we to tell them that they not only have to pay higher prices for gas and electricity but that now they have to subsidize people in big cities with the luxury of access to public transportation?

As long as demand continues to rise, the price for oil will continue to climb without increasing supply. The answer to this problem is clear: We must increase our domestic supply of oil by allowing the exploration of new oil reserves and by increasing the capacity of our refineries.

A recent Los Angeles Times Bloomberg poll stated that 68 percent of registered voters support opening up more land for oil and gas drilling, including off the Nation's coast. It's time for this majority to start listening to the demands of the American people and to open up more land for oil exploration.

It's also necessary to encourage the development of alternative energy, such as wind or nuclear power. Oklahoma is currently the number nine generator of wind power in this country, producing 689 megawatts per year. There are other States that have the potential to produce more wind power than that but that choose not to install wind turbines because they consider them unsightly.

However, I guarantee you that any Oklahoma wheat farmer who earns money from both his crops and the wind turbines on his land will tell you his wind turbines are beautiful.

□ 1115

Right now, America produces 20 percent of its energy needs from nuclear power while France produces 78 percent, 78 percent. That's 78 percent less energy they need to import from other countries. So, not only are they able to produce more than three-quarters of their electricity needs in France, they are able to do so in a clean, efficient manner with minimal harmful emissions.

This leads me to my most important point. If electricity that lights your house or the gas that powers your car is produced in America, new jobs are created, and we are becoming less dependent on foreign oil. It's time for America to get back in the business of energy production. I urge my colleagues to sign the discharge petition on H.R. 5656, ''To Repeal the Ban on Acquiring Alternative Fuels Act,'' so we can bring this essential piece of legislation to the House floor for a vote. The rising cost of gasoline is the single biggest challenge we face in this country, as every American who has been to the pump in the last few months knows, and it's time for Congress to rise to the challenge to come up with real solutions.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my friend from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID DAVIS).

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Thank you for yielding time.

It's interesting that we stand here and talk about public transportation. I represent northeast Tennessee, a rural area, and I tell you the people who live in northeast Tennessee don't have access to public transportation.

People in rural America are hurting. Young families are hurting. Senior adults are hurting. Small businesses are hurting. Sheriffs' departments and police departments are hurting.

Let me tell you about two groups. The first is Vern Long. Vern lives in Jefferson County, Tennessee. I met with him last Saturday when I was back home in the district. Vern is an Iraqi war veteran. He has a wife and a child. He lives in Jefferson County and drives to Knoxville, Tennessee to work every day. He makes $8 an hour. He's an apprentice electrician. He wants to go on to be an electrician. He has to drive into Knoxville, and it costs him $90 a week, $90 a week to fill up his tank. He told me, ''Congressman, if the Congress doesn't pass an energy bill to bring these gas prices down, I may have to go on welfare and quit my job. And I want to protect my family. I want to be there to protect my future.''

Let me tell you about Sheriff Steve Burns. Sheriff Burns is from Greene County, Tennessee. I met with him last Saturday. He told me he put his budget together for Greene County this past February and March. He said, if it passes in the county commission as he presented it, he will be $50,000 in the hole because of high gas prices.

Public transportation bills to send bureaucrats to work in Washington will not help rural America. America is hurting. We need an energy policy. We don't need more excuses, and we don't need more bills that make it sound good and look like we're trying to do something here. We need an energy that actually uses American oil, natural gas, coal-to-liquid technology,

clean coal technology. We need to use nuclear power. Yes, we need green energy. We need all of the above. The American people are demanding action, real action, not excuses from Washington.

Please, I beg the majority. Let's take this burden of high gas prices off of people like Vern Long and off of sheriffs' departments like Sheriff Steve Burns'. Let's pass some real energy legislation. No more excuses.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I would like to point out that, under the underlying bill, we provide extensive assistance to rural America. It is clear that folks in rural America oftentimes bear the brunt of high gas prices brought on by this unfortunate Bush economy and by the failure of leadership over the past 6 to 8 years. The underlying bill provides over $100 million for rural America to expand the alternative use through public transportation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I thank again my distinguished friend for having yielded me the time this morning, and I thank all of those who have come to debate on this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, the problem is, when the process by which legislation is brought to the floor is unfair, especially when the issue being dealt with by the legislation is as important as is the issue today, many Members' ideas are shut out, oftentimes ideas on which they have worked for months or years, and in this instance, they are ideas and proposals to bring down the cost of energy and the cost of gasoline. That's why process, something that may sound often theoretical, can have a significant impact on policy. In this instance, an unfair process is denying Members the opportunity to bring concrete ideas to the floor, for debate, to lower the price of energy. That's one of the reasons we are so disturbed, why we think it's so unfortunate that the process on an issue as important as this that the majority has chosen to utilize to bring this legislation to the floor is so unfair.

On almost a daily basis, Madam Speaker, the cost of gasoline is breaking new records. Americans are now paying over $4 a gallon for gasoline. Yet the majority fails to bring legislation to the floor that will actually lower gas prices or decrease our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

We believe it's time for the House to debate ideas for lowering prices at the pump and for addressing the skyrocketing cost of gasoline. So, today, I urge my colleagues to vote with me to defeat the previous question so this House can finally consider real solutions to rising energy costs. If the previous question is defeated, I will move to amend the rule to allow for consideration of H.R. 5656, which would repeal the ban on acquiring advanced alternatives fuels, introduced by Mr. HENSARLING of Texas. This legislation would reduce the price of gasoline by allowing the Federal Government to procure advanced alternative fuels derived from diverse sources like oil shale, tar sands, and coal-to-liquid technology.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment and extraneous materials immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, by voting ''no'' on the previous question, Members can take a stand against high fuel prices and in favor of debating legislation to actually deal with that crisis. I encourage a ''no'' vote on this previous question.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The reformers in this Congress are working for solutions and are casting aside the politics of the past, and for the first time in a decade, they are setting the right priorities for American families. See, American families are caught in this very unfortunate Bush economy that is squeezing them, whether it's health care, the rising cost of housing, and, of course, gas prices.

This New Direction Congress, led by Democrats, is on the side of middle class families, and we are responding to their call for change in the direction of this country. But, Madam Speaker, it has not been easy. It has not been easy in these final years of the Bush administration. A number of times we have stood up to the administration to repeal the massive subsidies to the big oil companies and instead take that money and invest it in new renewable energies and biofuel technologies because one of the most promising ways to end our dependence on foreign oil is in the creation of renewable energy sources. But we were blocked by the White House and Big Oil.

But we are not going to give up. If we had given up, the reformers in this Congress would not have been able to push through the first increase in fuel economy standards in over 30 years. The increase of 35 miles per gallon for each automobile will save American families $700 to $1,000 at the pump when fully implemented.

American families are clamoring for a bold, new direction in energy policy. It is vital to their family budgets, and we know now, as, unfortunately, the leaders of the country have had to traipse over to Saudi Arabia and ask for more oil, that this is vital to our national security. So the contrast between the policies of the past and our forward-looking efforts could not be more clear.

But, Madam Speaker, it is so easy to be frustrated by the misguided policies of this administration over the past 8 years and by their political gimmicks where they pretend that drilling for oil in new areas is the answer to high gas prices when their very own Energy Department dismisses the idea as untrue. After all, there are 68 million acres already open and currently leased to oil and gas companies. So why here at the end of this administration would we give Big Oil even more?

Madam Speaker, American families are counting on us. So I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to back up your rhetoric with support for our bipartisan bills today, to provide American families with greater opportunities to use public transit by lowering fares and by increasing the frequency of buses and trains in their neighborhoods. Reject the oil drilling gimmick for what it is, and urge this President to address the oil speculators that are causing a run-up in high gas prices. My colleagues, stand up to the powerful interests, and end the practice of using energy policy as a way to support Big Oil. Instead, help our families; help our communities; enable researchers and innovators to lead us to a cleaner, safer, and more affordable future.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the rule and of the underlying legislation. Chart a new direction for America on energy. I urge a ''yes'' vote on the previous question and on the rule.

The material previously referred to by Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 1304 OFFERED BY MR. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART OF FLORIDA

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 4. Immediately upon the adoption of this resolution the House shall, without intervention of any point of order, consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5656) to repeal a requirement with respect to the procurement and acquisition of alternative fuels. All points of order against the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on House Oversight and Government Reform; and (2) an amendment in the nature of a substitute if offered by Representative WAXMAN, which shall be considered as read and shall be separately debatable for 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The information contained herein was provided by Democratic Minority on multiple occasions throughout the 109th Congress.)

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Democratic majority agenda and a vote to allow the opposition, at least for the moment, to offer an alternative plan. It

is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives, (VI, 308–311) describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as ''a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.'' To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that ''the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition'' in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: ''The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.''

Because the vote today may look bad for the Democratic majority they will say ''the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.'' But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the definition of the previous question used in the Floor Procedures Manual published by the Rules Committee in the 109th Congress, (page 56). Here's how the Rules Committee described the rule using information form Congressional Quarterly's ''American Congressional Dictionary'': ''If the previous question is defeated, control of debate shifts to the leading opposition member (usually the minority Floor Manager) who then manages an hour of debate and may offer a germane amendment to the pending business.''

Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled ''Amending Special Rules'' states: ''a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.'' (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.''

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Democratic majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on adopting the resolution, if ordered, and suspending the rules with regard to H. Res. 1291.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 228, nays 198, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 462]

YEAS—228

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castle
Castor
Cazayoux
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NAYS—198

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Chabot
Childers
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Donnelly
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hill
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Scalise
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—8

Burgess
Cannon
Davis, Lincoln
Forbes
McDermott
Rush
Space
Stupak

□ 1152

Messrs. ADERHOLT, BONNER and DONNELLY changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 230, nays 196, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 463]

YEAS—230

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin

Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castor
Cazayoux
Chandler
Childers
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NAYS—196

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hill
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Scalise
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—8

Cannon
Forbes
McDermott
Price (GA)
Rangel
Rush
Space
Taylor

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that there are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1202

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, on roll-call Nos. 462 and 463, I was unavoidably detained on legislative business away from the Capitol. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE AMERICAN GI FORUM ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1291, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1291.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 421, nays 0, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 464]

YEAS—421

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Cazayoux
Chabot
Chandler
Childers
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary

Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
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Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
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Spratt
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Thompson (CA)
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Thornberry
Tiahrt
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Tierney
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Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
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Weiner
Welch (VT)
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Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—13

Boucher
Cannon
Cramer
Forbes
Frelinghuysen
Gutierrez
Murtha
Price (GA)
Rush
Solis
Space
Taylor
Velázquez

□ 1208

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 6327. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

CONTINUING CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA AND NORTH KOREAN NATIONALS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110–128)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROSS) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, as amended (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order continuing certain restrictions on North Korea and North Korean nationals imposed pursuant to the exercise of authorities under the Trading With the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. App. 1 et seq.) (TWEA). In the order, I declared a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the current existence and risk of the proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula. I ordered the continuation of certain restrictions on North Korea and North Korean nationals as we deal with that threat through multilateral diplomacy.

These restrictions were first imposed pursuant to authorities found in section 5(b) of TWEA, following the declaration of a national emergency in 1950 in Proclamation 2914 (15 FR 9029), and continued annually, after the enactment of IEEPA in 1977, in accordance with section 101(b) of Public Law 95–223 (91 Stat. 1625; 50 U.S.C. App. 5(b) note). The most recent continuation of such TWEA authorities is found in Presidential Determination 2007–32 of September 13, 2007. In a proclamation, which I signed the same day as the order, I terminated, effective the following day, the exercise of TWEA authorities with respect to North Korea.

The order I have issued continues the blocking of certain property and interests in property of North Korea or a North Korean national that were blocked as of June 16, 2000, and that remained blocked immediately prior to the date of my order. Absent this order, my proclamation terminating the exercise of TWEA authorities with respect to North Korea would have resulted in the unblocking of that property.

The order also continues restrictions relating to North Korea-flagged vessels that would otherwise have been terminated by my proclamation. These restrictions prohibit United States persons from owning, leasing, operating, or insuring any vessel flagged by North Korea and from registering vessels in North Korea or otherwise obtaining authorization for a vessel to fly the North Korean flag. For the reasons set forth above, I found that it was necessary to continue these restrictions.

I delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of my order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order and proclamation I have issued.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *June 26, 2008*.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 6264

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to respectfully request unanimous consent to be removed as a cosponsor from H.R. 6264.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Kansas?

There was no objection.

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 later today.

ENERGY MARKETS EMERGENCY ACT OF 2008

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6377) to direct the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to utilize all its authority, including its emergency powers, to curb immediately the role of excessive speculation in any contract market within the jurisdiction and control of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, on or through which energy futures or swaps are traded, and to eliminate excessive speculation, price distortion, sudden or unreasonable fluctuations or unwarranted changes in prices, or other unlawful activity that is causing major market disturbances that prevent the market from accurately reflecting the forces of supply and demand for energy commodities.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6377

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Energy Markets Emergency Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. ENERGY MARKETS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

(1) The Commodity Futures Trading Commission was created as an independent agency, in 1974, with the mandate to enforce and administer the Commodity Exchange Act, to ensure market integrity, to protect market users from fraud and abusive trading practices, and to prevent and prosecute manipulation of the price of any commodity in interstate commerce.

(2) Congress has given the Commodity Futures Trading Commission authority under the Commodity Exchange Act to take necessary actions to address market emergencies.

(3) The Commodity Futures Trading Commission may use its emergency authority with respect to any major market disturbance which prevents the market from accurately reflecting the forces of supply and demand for a commodity.

(4) Congress has declared, in section 4a of the Commodity Exchange Act, that excessive speculation imposes an undue and unnecessary burden on interstate commerce.

(5) On June 6, 2008, the price of crude oil traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange hit an all-time record of $139.12 per barrel.

(6) The average price of a barrel of crude oil in 2007 was $72, and the average price of a barrel of crude oil to date in 2008 is $109.

(7) Heating oil futures contracts have risen in price from $2.97 to $3.81 during the March through May contract months.

(8) United States airlines are forecast to spend $61,200,000,000 on jet fuel in 2008, which is $20,000,000,000 more than they spent for jet fuel in 2007.

(9) According to the American Automobile Association—

(A) families and businesses are paying an average of $4.07 per gallon for regular gasoline, which is near the all-time high and is more than double the price in 2001; and

(B) truckers and farmers are paying an average of $4.77 per gallon for diesel fuel, which is near the all-time high and triple the price in 2001.

(10) During this decade, energy demand has been steadily on the rise in nations such as China and other Asian exporting nations.

(11) In a May 2008 report, the International Monetary Fund raised the possibility that speculation has played a significant role in the run-up of oil prices, and stated ''It is hard to explain current oil prices in terms of fundamentals alone. The recent surge in the oil price seems to go well beyond what would be indicated by the growth of the world economy.''.

(b) DIRECTION FROM CONGRESS.—The Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall utilize all its authority, including its emergency powers, to—

(1) curb immediately the role of excessive speculation in any contract market within the jurisdiction and control of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, on or through which energy futures or swaps are traded; and

(2) eliminate excessive speculation, price distortion, sudden or unreasonable fluctuations or unwarranted changes in prices, or other unlawful activity that is causing major market disturbances that prevent the market from accurately reflecting the forces of supply and demand for energy commodities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6377 directs the CFTC to utilize all of its authority, including its emergency powers, to immediately curb the role of excessive speculation, if any, in the energy and swaps futures market within its jurisdiction, and to eliminate any unlawful activity causing major market disturbances that prevent the market from accurately reflecting the forces of supply and demand of energy commodities.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think I would be covering any new ground in this Chamber if I were to speak about high prices of gasoline. Everybody in this chamber understands that problem. But, Mr. Speaker, a growing number of people believe a flood of speculative money into the energies futures is driving the increase in prices. The weak dollar and increased worldwide demand has led to a greater number of well capitalized investors into the commodities futures market, including the crude oil market, as these investors seek greater returns than they traditionally found in cash and securities.

□ 1215

It is undeniable that this group of institutional investors has a greater presence in futures markets than ever before.

So what we are doing here is asking the CFTC to look into this and use the powers that they have to look at this situation and determine and give us a report which they have done in the past. We are asking them to take one more look and make sure that these additional moneys that are coming into the futures market are not having any undo effect on prices that people are concerned about.

The CFTC is the chief regulator of the commodities futures and options market. It is their responsibility to identify, pursue and prosecute fraud in this area. I believe they are doing a good job in that regard. Chairman Lukken and his staff have testified repeatedly before our committee and others that at this point they can see no evidence of speculation causing problems in these markets. But there are a lot of folks who are concerned this is going on, and so we are asking them to take one more look.

Under current law, U.S. traders can execute transactions in West Texas Intermediate crude oil, which is the benchmark oil contract on NYMEX, a CFTC-regulated exchange, and on London's ICE exchange that is regulated by the United Kingdom's FSA. The CFTC, however, has information on the positions of traders on the NYMEX that they don't have on the traders on ICE, and this is part of the issue that has caused us to be concerned because we don't have complete information on exactly what is going on in all of these markets.

Mr. Speaker, CFTC right now is taking steps to gain more information. They have gone into an agreement with the FSA to expand trader data, and that is all good and we welcome these steps, but we believe more should be done. CFTC should immediately take these steps to utilize their authority to make sure that, as I said before, there is not excessive speculation in these markets.

We on the Agriculture Committee are going to work with the CFTC to try to acquire more information, and we will thoroughly examine all of the bills in July that have been introduced in this area in a methodical way, we will listen to all sides, and we are going to try to move ahead with a consensus bill if we can come to a consensus about what, if anything, should be done to move on this situation.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today to, we hope, provide a reasonable and useful voice to come to the right conclusion and get the right answers about what is going on in the futures market and what is going on with oil prices in this country.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the chairman of the committee, Mr. PETERSON, for his work in this area. We held a hearing on this issue on Tuesday of this week. In the farm bill which the Congress just passed overwhelmingly several times, we overrode the President's veto, it includes legislative language that takes further steps to complete the closure of the Enron loophole. In that testimony we received on Tuesday, we received assurance that between the language that was in the Commodity Futures Modernization Act passed in the aftermath of the Enron scandal, and in the language that was included in the farm bill, the Enron loophole is now closed.

I have no reason to oppose this legislation and I therefore will support it. It simply tells the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to do what it already has the authority to do, and based upon the testimony that we received on Tuesday is already doing to ensure that there is not excessive speculation in the energy futures markets. I have every confidence that they will do so, that they will heed this additional voice of support for their doing their jobs. But, quite frankly, this legislation does not do what needs to be done by this Congress.

The Democratic leadership in this Congress is continuing a pattern that the American people are increasingly concerned about, and that is to do everything they can to try to blame everyone but themselves for the problem that we face in this country of having years of neglect of not having a domestic energy policy dedicated toward increasing the supply, increasing the supply of oil, increasing the supply of natural gas, increasing the supply of clean-burning coal, increasing the supply of nuclear power, increasing the supply of alternative fuels, increasing efforts to bring about new technologies. This is the all-of-the-above approach that this Congress should be taking that our conference has taken. In fact, we have worked very hard to see that this policy be brought to the floor of the House.

Yes, I will support this bill telling the CFTC to use its authority to curb excessive speculation, but I think it appalling that we aren't doing the job that needs to be done. It is being blocked by the party that controls the access to the floor of this House.

H.R. 2279, to expedite the construction of new refining capacity on closed military installations in the United States, and for other purposes, sponsored by Representative PITTS of Pennsylvania with 55 cosponsors. From the House Energy and Commerce and Armed Services Committees, last major action taken, a motion to discharge petition filed by Mr. ENGLISH, petition 110–9. Why haven't we seen this bill brought to the floor of the House?

H.R. 3089, the No More Excuses Energy Act of 2007 sponsored by Representative THORNBERRY of Texas, 77 cosponsors, referred to the Committees on Natural Resources, House Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce. Last major action, June 10, motion to discharge petition filed by Mr. WALBERG. A motion was filed to discharge the Natural Resources, Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce Committees of this action. No action taken. Why hasn't that bill been brought to the floor of the House?

We have this week another discharge petition on H.R. 5656 which repeals the requirement with respect to the procurement and acquisition of alternative fuels, a discharge petition filed this week by Representative HENSARLING. Why hasn't this legislation been brought to the floor of this House?

There are scores of other bills sponsored by both Republicans and Democrats dedicated to relieving this energy crisis that have been bottled up by the Democratic majority.

When, Mr. Speaker, will we get the chance to vote on these very worthy bills? When will we get the chance to actually start offering relief from the outrageously high gas prices that American consumers are facing?

That's the problem we are confronting. That's the problem that the leadership in this Congress is not allowing us to address. That's what needs to be done, not telling the CFTC to do the job that they are already doing and already have the authority to do, but acting to make sure that we are increasing supply of all sources of energy, new sources of energy, traditional sources of energy, acting to make sure that the incentives are in place for Americans to conserve. My goodness, they are already doing that. We are seeing that reflected in their activities. This Congress could be helping them out. It is failing to do so. And that, Mr. Speaker, is why we are failing the American people when the leadership of this Congress does not allow us to have these votes.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. I am pleased now to yield to the chairman of the subcommittee that has jurisdiction over this issue and has done outstanding work in leading his subcommittee to make sure we are on top of this issue, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE), for 2 minutes.

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in support of the Energy Market Emergency Act of 2008.

I don't have to tell anyone that gas prices have skyrocketed over the last several months. We can all remember when we thought $2 a gallon gas was high. Now we would like to return to that. Now it is on average over $4.

On June 6, the price of crude oil hit an all-time record of $139 per barrel. American families are paying an average of $4.07 for gasoline, double the price from 2001 when President Bush took over. Truckers and farmers are paying an average of $4.77 per gallon for diesel, triple the price from 2001 when the President took office.

There is clearly not just one factor leading to these outrageous prices. However, there is a growing concern that excessive speculation by investors could be a significant cause of the prices we are experiencing. North Carolina families are struggling to make ends meet, as are families all across the country. Congress must act to ensure speculators are not artificially raising energy prices for their own gain while hardworking Americans are suffering.

This legislation tells the CFTC, which is responsible for overseeing our energy markets, to use all other authority to ensure that excessive speculation is not occurring.

I can't blame them. When the price of crude oil spikes $10, folks really believe something is wrong. The House Ag Committee will conduct hearings in July to examine all of the various pieces of legislation to address this issue, including legislation that I have introduced called the Increasing Transparency and Accountability Act of 2008.

I believe after a careful review we can craft responsible legislation that can improve the price discovery function of these commodity markets. But no amount of CFTC authority will make a difference if the agency doesn't have the resources to do their job.

Since 2002, trading on the commodity markets has increased six times.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from North Carolina has expired.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. While trading has increased six times, under the Bush administration, staff levels have fallen to the lowest level in the 33-year history of the exchange.

My legislation and others will increase it by 100 people. These are investigators. Let me just say for those who are listening, that means if you have a speed limit of 55 or 60 miles an hour, we are going to put more cops on the beat. That's what we need.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support the Energy Market Emergency Act of 2008.

I don't have to tell anyone here that gas prices have sky rocketed over the last several months. I remember a few years ago when two-dollar-a-gallon gas seemed outrageous. Now the national average is four dollars.

On June 6th, the price of crude oil hit an all time record of $139.12 per barrel.

American families are paying an average of $4.07 per gallon for regular gasoline, double the price from 2001 when President Bush took office.

Truckers and farmers are paying an average of $4.77 per gallon for diesel fuel; triple the price from 2001, again when the President took office.

There is clearly not just one factor leading to these outrageous prices. However, there is a growing concern that excessive speculation by investors could be a significant cause of the prices we are experiencing.

North Carolina's families are struggling to make ends meet while the cost of energy soars. Congress must ensure that investors are not artificially raising energy costs for their own gain while hard-working Americans are suffering.

This legislation tells the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, which is responsible for overseeing our energy markets, to use all of its authority to ensure that excessive speculation is not occurring.

I serve as chairman of the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, which has jurisdiction over the CFTC, and I'm here to tell you that people think something is not right.

And I cannot blame them. When the price of crude oil spikes $10.00 in one day, people think somebody is making some money, and it isn't them.

The House Agriculture Committee will conduct hearings in July to examine all of the various legislative proposals to address this issue, including legislation I have introduced, H.R. 6334, the Increasing Transparency and Accountability in Oil Prices Act of 2008.

I believe after a careful review, we can craft responsible legislation that can improve the price discovery function of these commodity markets.

No amount of additional CFTC authority will make a difference if the agency doesn't have the resources to do their job. Since 2000, trading on commodity markets has increased sixfold.

However, during that time, the Bush administration let staffing levels at the CFTC fall to their lowest level in the agency's 33-year history.

My legislation calls for 100 additional full-time positions at the CFTC, mostly for enforcement because they need the talent to keep an eye on these markets.

And I want to applaud Representative ROSA DELAURO for knowing this simple truth and providing more funding for the CFTC than the President requested in the Agriculture Appropriations bill.

Commodity markets are like highways in that both have limits. If drivers don't think there are any cops watching on the road, they are going to push past the speed limits. If the CFTC doesn't have enough staff to monitor an ever growing and changing marketplace, investors will push the limits there as well.

Today's directive to the CFTC will send a message to the administration that they must get serious about these sky rocketing costs

and will pave the way for more comprehensive legislation in the future. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, at this time it is my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the ranking member on the subcommittee with jurisdiction over the CFTC, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GOODLATTE for yielding me time to speak in support of a bill that has been developed in part by the House Agriculture Committee. I am glad to see that this issue, the issue of speculation in the futures industry, is being handled by the committee of jurisdiction, the Committee on Agriculture. I think it is important for us to continue our long-standing effort at oversight at CFTC and the futures industry that the Agriculture Committee has had now for many years.

This is an important issue. In fact, I don't think there is a more important issue that this Congress will face except for energy prices. It is a significant conversation, as we all know, and with dramatic consequences upon our constituents.

An e-mail from one of my constituents in Olpe, Kansas, ''What will it take to get beyond partisan politics and the blame game? Society expects children to get along, work together, but they have lousy role models when it comes to government. Many of us are losing hope of Congress ever getting beyond bickering—and in the meantime, our country's problems get worse and worse. It seems that most of our government officials are insulated from the reality that face middle and lower-income families day after day,'' talking about the cost of energy, the prices that Americans are encountering at the pump.

What concerns me, despite my support for this and a belief that CFTC ought to have every tool to discover manipulation, ought to have every tool to discover whatever ''excessive speculation'' means, and we ought to make certain that their enforcement capabilities are strong and beneficial on behalf of the consumer in this country, what concerns me most is that this issue has become the opportunity to do nothing on the underlying cause of why oil and gas prices are so high. And that is increasing demands at a time when we are doing little to increase supply.

And this Congress, we pass legislation dealing with the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, requiring that our government no longer fill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

□ 1230

Whether or not that's a good idea or bad idea, I think all of us would admit it's not going to solve our energy problem. We debated and passed legislation dealing with antitrust and OPEC, and whether that's a good idea or a bad idea, all of us would agree it's not going to solve the problem with the price of energy and the cost at the pump.

And today we're on the House floor talking about speculation. I agree with the gentleman from Virginia. It is time for this Congress to get to this underlying issue that we face in this country: increasing demand for energy and a lack of increase in the supply. The laws of supply and demand work. As much as we Members of Congress might want to pass a law to overcome supply and demand, it cannot be done. And so this Congress needs to adequately express the laws of supply and demand that this country needs.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I am now pleased to yield to the gentleman from Maryland who has sponsored legislation in this area and has a passionate interest in this issue and has been very much involved, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), for 3 minutes.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I thank my colleague and the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Mr. PETERSON, for his leadership on this, along with our colleagues Ms. DELAURO, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. LARSON, and many others who have moved quickly to address the problems of rampant speculation in the energy futures market.

The title of this legislation is the Energy Markets Emergency Act, and what it does is direct the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, the CFTC, to invoke its emergency powers to crack down on extreme speculation in the futures market. We all know that families across this country are facing emergencies in their family budgets, and it's time that the CFTC stepped forward and treated this like the emergency that it is.

Part of the rise in prices is of course due to supply and demand and the fact that China and India are boosting a demand. That's part of it. But the other part of it is in fact an increase in speculation, extreme speculation. There's been testimony before this Congress in front of the committee, subcommittee of Mr. STUPAK, and on the Senate side and the House side by Professor Greenberger from the University of Maryland School of Law and many others that make it absolutely clear that a component of the increase in price does not have to do solely with supply and demand.

And the CFTC has the authority under the statute to invoke its emergency powers if market prices do not adequately reflect the forces of supply and demand. And I must say, Mr. GOODLATTE, that it has not done that. This legislation does not say to the CFTC, Just keep doing what you're doing. The fact of the matter is, they haven't made that finding, they have not invoked their emergency powers, and there's some permanent issues we have to come back and fix. We have to finally close the Enron loophole. We need to deal with what's called the London loophole. We need to do some things on an emergency basis.

But if they invoke their emergency powers, they will have the authority to deal with those issues and close those loopholes on an emergency basis, and they have not done that. If they access and invoke these powers, they can put new position limits on, they can require greater margin requirements, they can even suspend tradings in certain funds.

So what this does is say to them, use the powers that you have; do not sit on your hands and do not stand by and refuse to enact your emergency powers because while they have taken certain steps, they have not made the finding that this bill essentially says which is that speculation is part of the problem. No one says it's all of the problem. But it is a part of the problem, and they therefore have the authority under existing law to invoke the emergency powers, and it opens up a whole set of new tools that they are not using.

So on this immediate basis, they can do everything necessary to address the problems of the Enron loophole, and they can do everything necessary to deal with the London loophole. They are not doing it today. We are directing them to treat this as the emergency it is.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds to respond.

I support this resolution because it gives nothing new to the CFTC but it gives it encouragement to do its work. It does not make any finding that there is excessive speculation in the market, and if there is excessive speculation in the market, then I certainly expect and support action by the CFTC to exercise its emergency powers to do so.

But the gentleman is exactly right when he notes that India and China are increasing their consumption of all different types of sources of energy, and they're not the only ones. They're just the largest ones.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I yield myself an additional 30 seconds to say further to the gentleman that when demand around the world, and not just in China and India, is increasing as steadily as it has in recent years and the United States sits back and waits for other countries to increase that supply and increases our dependence upon foreign oil from such unreliable sources as Venezuela and Nigeria and the Middle East, and we then think that simply asking the CFTC to do its job will solve this problem, that is a very serious problem.

At this time, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to a member of the Agriculture Committee and the ranking member of our Department Operations and Oversight Subcommittee, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

Mr. BOUSTANY. I thank my colleague for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, but I want to restate that it's a redundancy. It's a restatement of CFTC's authority, and it does urge them to

move forward with haste, which I believe that they are doing. We heard testimony just yesterday, and the chairman of the CFTC pointed out a couple things: One, they're taking the lead in creating this interagency process working with all of the other agencies, the Department of Treasury, the SEC and others to really take a hard look at this issue of speculation.

Secondly, they've moved forward with haste to come up with a mutual recognition agreement with London and other jurisdictions to broaden their reach so that they can find out and get more transparency and more information as to what is really happening in these markets. The energy markets are a very complicated issue. And the danger is that Congress will take steps before we have adequate information that could truly be detrimental.

I fear that this debate today is taking valuable floor time away from bills that would really make a difference in working on our energy issues. We need a long-term strategy, a mid-term, and a short-term strategy clearly. And dealing with the issue of speculation is part of a short-term strategy.

But we cannot get away from the fact that we have very tight supply and demand. It is about evenly matched. And when you have a million barrels a day offline because of terrorist activity in Nigeria, when you have Venezuela's production declining because of aged technology and mismanagement, when you have Mexican production declining because of mismanagement and contract problems, these are all issues that are further putting stress on supply.

Finally, I would point out on the supply side that we have a shortage of rig materials around the world, actually. China is dealing with pulling in all kinds of commodities and it is adding costs to this. We have a workforce shortage in this oil and gas industry. There are major factors all coming into the supply side of this that are a problem.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. BOUSTANY. I think it's important to recognize these factors. What is driving uncertainty is clearly the lack of a confidence of energy policy, and this House can take action. There are bills ready. This House could clearly take action. We've got a number of bills, as my colleague, the ranking member of this committee, outlined earlier.

Furthermore, the London loophole, CFTC has taken steps with their mutual recognition agreement. The farm bill provisions take substantive steps to close the Enron loophole.

And finally, if we move prematurely to impose artificial standards and limits to trading, we could definitely hurt our transportation companies, our truckers, our farmers who hedge on these high energy prices.

Furthermore, we may drive transactions into less transparent markets such as Dubai and other markets. This also denies a threat that the low value of the dollar, and there is a threat globally that we could be seeing a move in energy transaction, too. A different currency, the euro. And this is a further issue.

So we need to move forward and not delay any further.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Minnesota has 10 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Virginia, 7½.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I am now pleased to yield 3 minutes to the Chair of the House Agriculture appropriations committee who has been also very passionate in leading on this issue and also working in her committee to make sure that the CFTC has the resources they need to complete their task, the gentlelady from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) for 3 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation that we bring to the floor today along with my colleagues, Mr. PETERSON, I thank him for his leadership, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. LARSON.

What is it about? It's about stopping the excessive energy commodity speculation that has driven up the price of gasoline by as much as 30 percent, according to independent economists.

Last October, the Government Accountability Office issued a report indicating that the Commodity Futures Trading Commission did not have the resources and the authority that it needed to protect the American people. When the report was issued, a gallon of gas cost on average $2.90. Today in my State of Connecticut, gas costs $4.37 a gallon. Commodity prices have skyrocketed in the past 5 years, but those unprecedented price spikes cannot be explained entirely by increased demand from China and India or the dollar's valuation.

So what is the cause? Independent economists point to one significant culprit: unregulated speculation in our futures markets. A May 2008 International Monetary Fund report agrees. Professional investors have purchased contracts for more than a billion barrels of petroleum essentially adding eight times as much demand for oil as the U.S. has added to its Strategic Petroleum Reserve over the last 5 years. The CFTC should be the cop on the beat protecting American consumers by putting a halt to out-of-control speculation. Unfortunately, the CFTC may be partly to blame for allowing loopholes and opening up exemptions.

The resolution before us today is simple. It directs the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to use its emergency powers granted by Congress under section 4a of the Commodity Exchange Act to investigate excessive speculation in any contract market within the CFTC's jurisdiction and take the necessary action to eliminate excessive speculation that is artificially inflating gas prices.

What the CFTC needs to do is to use its powers to close the Enron loophole, to end the London-Dubai foreign border trade loophole. I urge my colleagues to support this effort. What it essentially does is restore sanity to the markets, and it provides consumers with the relief that they need in order to be able to continue to lead their lives and not be forced to make choices of whether to not buy gasoline for their cars and put food on the table or other things to take care of their families.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD a joint analysis prepared by the majority and minority staff of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the testimony of Michael Greenberger before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on June 3, 2008. It responds to a number of assertions made about what might happen to the market. And while I certainly would hope that something could be found to lower gas prices by as much as Mr. Greenberger suggested in his testimony, here are several pages of reasons why that may indeed not be the case.

SELECT EXCERPTS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

8. STATEMENT: ''Overnight, [prohibiting the trading of energy commodities in Exempt Commercial Markets) will bring down the price of crude oil, I believe, by 25 percent.''

RESPONSE: According to recent market data, there is little to no trading of crude oil contracts on exempt commercial markets in the United States. Prohibiting the trading of energy commodities in a market in which no trading is currently taking place is, thus, unlikely to have an effect on the price of crude oil. Moreover, although there have never been any Exempt Commercial Markets for agricultural commodities, many agricultural commodities have recently experienced substantial price spikes. There is no credible evidence that simply amending the CEA to regulate energy commodities as if they were agricultural commodities will lead to lower energy prices.

19. STATEMENT (p. 8): ''The Senate Permanent Investigating Subcommittee has now issued two reports, one in June 2006 and one in June 2007, that make a very strong (if not irrefutable) case that trading on ICE has been used to manipulate or excessively speculate in U.S. delivered crude oil and natural gas contracts. The June 2006 report cited economists who then concluded that when a barrel of crude was @ $77 in June 2006, $20 to $30 of that cost was due to excessive speculation and/or manipulation on unregulated exchanges.''

RESPONSE: The 2006 and 2007 PSI reports focused on the role of excessive speculation in U.S. commodity markets; neither report contained any findings on whether traders manipulated crude oil or natural gas prices.

Mr. GOODLATTE. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK).

Mrs. MYRICK. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I support this bill, and if there is a problem with speculators, yes, we need to get to the bottom of it, but we also need to look at our supply and start using our own resources. Yes, it may be a stopgap to take us on to alternatives, which I totally support because there are a lot of things out there that will work and will stop our dependence on foreign oil. This is a national security issue, and that's what bothers me so much because right now, we are totally dependent on people who don't like us for our oil. And what that does is put money in their pocket that they are using against us to finance terrorism. It makes no sense. We have to look at supply, and we have to look at our own supply.

□ 1245

I have a bill that is the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act, and very simply, it allows us to drill off the Outer Continental Shelf because it's estimated there is a lot of supply out there. And it lets the States decide if they want to do it, and they share in the revenue.

We have got to get serious about this, and we need to get moving now, not wait. There are a lot of bills out there that could be on the floor, but we need to ensure our energy and national security with serious bills. Supply, we need to look at nuclear, and expand that.

We need all the alternatives on the table because that's the only thing that's going to solve the problem. We can't just put band-aids on it. We have to address it in a serious manner.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I'm now pleased to yield to my good friend and Blue Dog colleague from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) for 2 minutes.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, this is an important first step. This bill asks the CFTC to exercise its ability to determine if undue speculation is having an impact on oil prices in this country. We've heard witnesses before the House of Representatives testify before different committees that suggest this could be upwards of $50 of the price per barrel right now may be due to this type of activity. So I think it's important we take this first step.

But I call it a first step. I would encourage our colleagues to continue to work together in a consensus way to have a productive effort in closing what's called the London loophole.

I, along with many other Members in this body, have put forth legislation to stop unwarranted speculation in foreign financial markets. Such legislation may be the best available option we have got here in Congress to address oil prices in the short-term.

When we do address this issue more fully, however, though, I also want to offer a word of caution. We should be careful not to be too overzealous. While we need to address the London loophole, we must make sure we do not take action that would damage our market-based economy.

And finally, I will say this. While we do work on market manipulation, we also need to recognize Congress has other issues to deal with when it comes to the oil price issue. There is no one single factor. As much as folks come down on the floor of the House at times to talk about just one issue, this is a very complex issue that has many dynamics affecting the global price of oil.

I think market manipulation is an important one for us to consider, but we also need to look at a more comprehensive package of issues to try to fully address this issue.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, at this time, it's my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON).

Mr. WELDON of Florida. There is a reason why there's so much speculation in the oil commodities market, and it is because supply is less than demand. This happens in any commodities market. Where demand is exceeding supply, the speculators dive in. And you can try to encourage the CFTC and you can pass new regulations on speculation, but as long as supply is less than demand, the speculators are going to move in.

And I will say further, that if you try to regulate this market so much that it becomes dysfunctional, it will just go overseas. And the reason the speculators are getting in is because they know that this Congress does not want to open up American sources of energy.

I sit on the Appropriations Committee, and outrageously, today, we had the Interior bill before us, and we had three amendments: one to open up ANWR, a huge source of oil; one to open up our offshore assets of natural gas and oil, which can be done safely with today's technology; and the third is to open up shale. We have more hydrocarbons in shale than the Saudis have oil, but amazingly, the Democratic leadership didn't want to vote on those things. They don't want to open up those sources.

That is the political position of the majority, the Democratic majority in this Congress, no increased domestic oil production, and that's why the speculators are pouring in. And there's going to be no relief for price at the pump, no matter what we do in this body, if we do not address the issue of supply.

We have domestic energy. We can access that domestic energy safely and cleanly, but people are standing in the way in this body and the Congress of the United States.

I predict that this bill is going to have absolutely no impact. We're going to do two more bills that probably will have no impact, and prices will probably continue to go up.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I'm now pleased to yield 1 minute to my good friend from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, as has been said, there's a number of causes for the high price in gasoline: a weak dollar, increasing demand from around the world, the failure of leadership to move into alternative energy policies. We have to focus on all of them.

But one of the reasons is rampant speculation, and the question is, will we try to squeeze the speculator or will we allow speculation to continue to squeeze the consumer?

This is a first step, where we're telling the Commodities Futures Trading Commission to do its job, determine the facts, make specific recommendations and actions on how to protect us, and incidentally, many innocent Americans have pension fund investments that are pouring into the speculative market.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, at this time, it's my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I'd just like to say to my colleagues who oppose drilling for oil and natural gas in the United States, go home this weekend, this next week during the recess and talk to your constituents. Go to the gas stations and ask them if they would rather have the price of gasoline be as high as it is or start drilling for oil in the United States.

We have the supply. We have the ability. And we're not doing a darn thing about it, and the American people and our economy is suffering. It is not just gas prices. Food prices and everything else is going to go up because it has to be transported across the roads.

We need to move toward energy independence. We talked about it back in the seventies during the Carter years. We haven't done a darn thing in 30 years. It's time we started drilling here in the United States. The minute we start doing that the price will drop. Mark my words.

I'd just like to say to my colleagues, use a little analogy. Nero started fiddling while Rome burned. We're fiddling right now with the energy of the United States and the economy of the United States. This body and the other body has the ability to do something about the prices of gas and other commodities in this country, and we're not doing anything about it.

Another week has gone by. We're going to go back home. We haven't done a darn thing, and the American people are suffering.

So, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have reservations about drilling here in the United States and give me all this environmental stuff, this is the time to do it. We want to move toward other forms of energy. We want to be concerned about the ecology of this country and other forms of transportation, but at the same time, it's going to take time for that to happen.

We have to start drilling now. We can't wait. The American people want

us to do it, and if you don't believe me, ask them when you go home this week. They're signing petitions by the thousands. The people of this country want to move toward energy independence. They want their gas prices to come down. They want other prices to come down, and they won't until this Congress and the other body starts moving toward energy independence by drilling here in the United States.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6377.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I'm now pleased to yield to a leader on the Energy and Commerce Committee and energy issues in general, Mr. MARKEY from Massachusetts, 1½ minutes.

Mr. MARKEY. I thank the chairman so much, and I congratulate him on his superior work on this legislation.

In the year 2000, a new thing happened in regulation because of a Republican-controlled Congress. It passed a massive deregulatory bill into law. This bill included the so-called ''Enron loophole,'' named after the now-notorious energy trading firm that had lobbied for its creation. This loophole is being exploited. It has not been fixed. As a result, the bill that we are debating today directs the Commodities Futures Trading Commission to examine excessive oil speculation and use their emergency powers to take corrective action.

The CFTC simply has not been as aggressive as it should be in policing these markets. Part of the problem stems from the limited resources which the Bush administration have given them, but another part of the problem is that the CFTC has historically been a reluctant regulator. Instead of a commodities markets watchdog, it has been an industry lapdog, unwilling to use the full authorities that it does have to crack down on excessive speculation.

This bill tells them to use their authorities to more aggressively police the energy futures market from manipulation for fraud, for excessive speculation. This is a good step.

An ''aye'' vote on the Collin Peterson bill is essential to protecting the public from being tipped upside down and having money shaken out of their pocket.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time is remaining on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia has 2 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Minnesota has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, at this time, it is my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY), a member of the committee.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate and thank the ranking member for recognizing me.

It's interesting that, if you look at this bill, which I intend to vote for, what it basically does is it points a finger in the face of the commodities future trading corporation and very sternly and mean-eyed says: Do your job. Great.

They're doing their job. As a matter of fact, I'm sure it's already been mentioned on the floor this afternoon that we had the acting chairman of the CFTC in front of the Ag Committee this week, and he reported that he is, in fact, doing his job, that he looks for every day manipulation in the oil market. He looks every day for undue impact by speculators on swaps in the market.

And to the best of their ability and their economists' estimation, the price of crude oil is currently fundamentally set by laws of supply and demand, and that while they are not able to find any evidence of it, they look for that evidence or look for manipulation and undue influence of speculators in the market every single day.

I want to thank the chairman for doing his good work on that committee. I know that he will take this stern advice to continue to do his job to heart.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE).

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, when the Saudi Arabians tell you you have a problem in your oil speculation market, you've got a problem in your oil speculation market.

Now, some people have argued that a 100 percent increase in the amount of financial speculation in these markets is necessary to liquidity of the markets. Hogwash. We need more liquidity in these markets the way Iowans need more liquidity in the rivers right now. We are drowning in liquidity.

There has been over 100 percent increase of this speculation going into these markets, and we have now had clear, cogent and convincing testimony this is one of the reasons for 100 percent increase in prices of oil in the last year.

We have seen this movie before. It was called Enron. And my constituents saw their electrical bills go up 1,000 percent. Now, they're seeing their oil go up double per barrel in one year in this bad movie.

Pass this bill.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask the chairman if he has additional speakers. I have only myself to close.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. At this moment we have no additional speakers, so I probably can move to close.

Mr. GOODLATTE. That being the case, I will yield myself the balance of my time to say to the chairman again, I thank him for his work on this issue.

I support this measure. Certainly, I expect the Commodities Futures Trading Commission to address any problems with excessive speculation in the energies markets and to use their emergency powers to do so, if appropriate.

But I will tell you that this is a problem that's been going on a lot longer than recent speculation in this market. It's been going on for years because of a lack of increase of supplies of oil and natural gas and other basic sources of energy in this country.

All we ask of the Democratic leadership is to put the bills on the floor that get what the American people want, and that is a vote to open up America to increase domestic supply of energy. The Speaker of the House doesn't have to support the legislation. The majority leader doesn't have to support the legislation. All they have to do is let this happen on a bipartisan basis, and we will have a bipartisan vote to do what the American people want. Let us have that vote. Let us have that debate on the floor of this House, and we will do what the American people want.

□ 1300

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to my good friend, Mr. GOODLATTE, that I appreciate his support for this measure. And what we're trying to do in our committee is to develop a consensus as we move through this issue. And there are a lot of ideas, a lot of different opinions out there, a lot of bills that have been introduced.

This is a step that we can make today I think on a basis where we can come together and make sure that the CFTC is using the powers that they have to examine this market and make sure that the speculation, the extra money that's coming in is being done properly and is not affecting these markets in a way that is not appropriate. And I trust that they will do that job.

But moving forward, what we intend to do, as I said earlier, as soon as we come back here from the July recess, our committee will convene on Wednesday after we come back and we will examine all of the bills that have been introduced or are introduced in the meantime. And we will have a debate on all the different aspects and all the different positions. And what we will try to do on that committee is to sort through all of this and hopefully come to a consensus about what is the appropriate way for us to move ahead.

These are very complicated markets and issues, and I want to make sure that whatever we do is the appropriate response, and as somebody said earlier, we don't have unintended consequences because of the actions that we take here.

So I look forward to working with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle with my colleagues on this side of the aisle to find a consensus that can have bipartisan support like we achieved on the farm bill to move something ahead that makes sense for the American people and gets the right answer.

With that, I urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support to H.R. 6377, the Energy Markets Emergency Act, because I believe the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, CFTC, must investigate speculation in the energy futures market and account for any manipulation and price distortion.

It is clear the increased positions of institutional investors, such as pension funds, endowments and sovereign funds, in the energy futures market are contributing to the escalating price of oil at an alarming rate. The CFTC should level the playing field and apply the 20 million barrel position limit to the institutional investors, the same limit that everyone else adheres to.

I also believe the CFTC must work with the British Financial Services Authority, FSA, to establish position limits on oil futures traded on the London Intercontinental Exchange, ICE, similar to those established by the CFTC for traders on the New York Mercantile Exchange, NYMEX.

In overseas markets, such as ICE, U.S. investors can buy as much oil as they want, driving up demand with little to no regulation.

It is essential the CFTC work with the FSA in London to limit positions and gather accurate information on the impact that speculation has on oil prices.

Rising gas prices are indicative of the United States need to affirm its commitment to renewable energy research and development, and focus on reducing our demand for oil by emphasizing conservation. In addition, however, transparency in the oil futures market is needed and appropriate.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6377, the Energy Markets Emergency Act of 2008.

This bill is an important first step in reaffirming the authority of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to regulate excessive speculation in the energy futures market. There are many reasons that the cost of a barrel of oil has risen so dramatically in the last few years, including increased demand from developing nations, instability in oil-producing nations, the weakening of the dollar, and price gouging on the part of the oil companies. The recent surge in gasoline prices should serve as an urgent reminder that we immediately need to change the way that we produce and use energy.

Nonetheless, consumers should not suffer unnecessary increases in gasoline prices that don't reflect actual changes in supply and demand. I have heard from economists that excessive speculation has added anywhere between $20 and $60 to the price of a barrel of oil. The Bush administration has an appalling record on oversight, and they have allowed the CFTC to become powerless to regulate the commodities market. The CFTC has emergency powers at its disposal, and this bill mandates the use of this authority. In addition to curbing speculation, the CFTC must prohibit the outright fraud and abuse currently being perpetrated on the market.

Closing the loopholes that have allowed dark energy markets to flourish is just one step toward addressing our current energy crisis. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6377.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL OIL AND GAS LEASE ACT

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6251) to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from issuing new Federal oil and gas leases to holders of existing leases who do not diligently develop the lands subject to such existing leases or relinquish such leases, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6251

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Responsible Federal Oil and Gas Lease Act''.

SEC. 2. ISSUANCE OF NEW LEASES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—After the date of the issuance of regulations under subsection (b), the Secretary of the Interior shall not issue any new lease that authorizes the exploration for or production of oil or natural gas, under section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (33 U.S.C. 226), the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands Act (30 U.S.C. 351 et seq.), the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), or any other law authorizing the issuance of oil and gas leases on Federal lands or submerged lands to a person, unless the person—

(1) certifies for each existing lease under such Acts for the production of oil or gas with respect to which the person is a lessee, that the person is diligently developing the Federal lands that are subject to the lease in order to produce oil or natural gas or is producing oil or natural gas from such lands; or

(2) has relinquished all ownership interest in all Federal oil and gas leases under which oil and gas is not being diligently developed.

(b) DILIGENT DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary shall issue regulations within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act that establish what constitutes ''diligently developing'' for purposes of this Act.

(c) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS.—Any person who fails to comply with the requirements of this section or any regulation or order issued to implement this section shall be liable for a civil penalty under section 109 of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1719).

(d) LESSEE DEFINED.—In this section the term ''lessee''—

(1) includes any person or other entity that controls, is controlled by, or is in or under common control with, a lessee; and

(2) does not include any person who does not hold more than a minority ownership interest in a lease under an Act referred to in subsection (a) authorizing the exploration for or production of oil or natural gas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. FALLIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today this body is considering responsible legislation aimed at compelling the oil industry to do what it should do best, drill for oil and bring relief to Americans at the pumps.

That may seem like an odd notion, and certainly we will hear criticism from our Republican colleagues who continue to coddle Big Oil and pander to the industry's political agenda. And there are many in the industry who will not want to hear this side of the aisle say we are for drilling for oil. My approach is slightly different. Big Oil does not need to be coddled, it needs a swift kick in the backside.

While Democrats in Congress know that we cannot drill our way to energy independence and continue to advocate for the development of alternative fuels and increased energy conservation, we also know that we must increase our supply of oil in the interim. I repeat; in this legislation we are not against drilling for oil. That is why today, with this legislation, we are saying ''Drill it or lose it.''

The Federal Government makes vast swaths of public lands, both onshore and underlying the Gulf of Mexico, available for oil and gas development. What we are finding, however, is that the industry is stockpiling these oil and gas leases. At present, 68 million acres of Federal lands are being held by oil and gas companies with no production occurring on these leases. That acreage is equal to the size of Colorado.

Considering today's oil prices, you would think that they would either diligently develop that acreage, bring any oil found into production, or relinquish the leases. The pending legislation would require this diligent development during the term of an oil and gas lease, and if it does not occur, the

leaseholder would not be allowed to lease even more Federal lands. It's simple, ''use it or lose it,'' and allow another company to make a go at that leased land.

Obviously, we have a much better chance to bring relief at the pump by producing oil on Federal lands already held by the oil companies much quicker than having to go through the environmental lawsuits of leasing and permitting required if we were to take the President's method and just open up OCS and ANWR immediately. We have a much better chance, Mr. Speaker, to help Americans grapple with the high cost of fuel by drilling in those Federal lands and waters already open to development.

Over 80 percent of estimated oil and gas resources on Federal lands, both onshore and offshore, are available for development or will be shortly, pending the completion of planning documents. The amount of oil which could be produced from these areas represents 14 years of current domestic oil consumption. Think about that, 14 years; yet President Bush and his Republican allies continue to rally behind the oil industry's political agenda, advocating opening more of America's Federal land, including coastal areas and pristine environmental areas, to drilling.

In response to this scheme I say to Big Oil and its allies, ''You've got 'em. Use 'em.''

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in unhesitant opposition to this misguided and uninformed legislation. I hope today's debate will allow the American people to see this legislation for what it is, and that is, a sham, a shallow attempt of the majority to hide that they lack any solutions for the American energy crisis facing our Nation.

Let me start by just stating one simple fact: 97 percent of our Federal offshore areas and 94 percent of our Federal onshore areas are not leased. Now, let me just say that one more time. Ninety-seven percent of our Federal offshore areas and 94 percent of our Federal onshore areas are not even leased.

The Democrat leadership has done everything it could for the last several decades to stop the leasing in 97 percent of offshore areas and 94 percent of onshore areas since they think America's energy needs can be supplied by just 3 percent of offshore areas and 6 percent of the onshore areas. It is no wonder that America is facing an energy crisis.

Let's talk about the legislative process, too, that brings this issue to the floor today. We are debating legislation that hasn't had a hearing, it hasn't had a mark-up, no committee report, it hasn't even been opened up for an amendment, and no Member of this House but for its author has had more than 5 hours to consider this bill. The Rules Committee even had to pass a special rule to allow this bill to come to the floor today, a rule that effectively waives all points of order against the bill, including PAYGO and earmark bans.

The bill will also cost the American people not only additional energy domestic production, but reduces revenues to the Federal Government. Yes, America, in one fell swoop, Congress will increase energy costs for American consumers and steal from the pocketbooks of American taxpayers. Is this a way to go into Independence Day and to celebrate the birth of our country?

The legislation before us is based on the premise that American oil companies are sitting on resources that they should be developing. The majority will make claims that millions of acres are not being produced. However, the reality is that every leased acre is undergoing some form of exploration, is in the process of getting permits, facing a legal challenge, or in development. They are all going through those processes for every acre.

The supporters of this misguided legislation are not offering any solutions to these challenges. There is no proposal to speed up development by reducing the waiting times for permits, limiting public challenges of leases and applications for the permits to drill, or reducing the frivolous lawsuits. In fact, last year, the Natural Resources Committee was fighting against, and I quote the chairman, ''rapid oil and gas development that has taken place on our Nation's public lands in recent years,'' and focused on an agenda to slow, again quoting the chairman, ''the rampant, nearly unfettered energy development on Federal lands.''

Last year, oil companies were developing too fast. Today, Congress is attempting to punish any company that can't squeeze a 10-year exploration and permitting process into a time frame that suits the majority. We simply can't have it both ways.

One additional fact: Most of the majority leadership, including the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, voted in 1992 to give oil companies more time to drill on onshore leases. That was done at a time when the industry actually had a higher percentage of leases in non-producing status. The majority didn't seem to mind and didn't seem to be interested in complaining about stockpiling then.

To the contrary, there was a bipartisan recognition that companies needed longer terms on their onshore leases to get more production. But these days, as production rates are higher, these same Members think that companies are stockpiling.

We have had a number of experts in this area come forward and present expertise on this issue. I would reference a letter from the Department of Interior which highlights the lengthy, complicated, and often unsuccessful process a company must undergo to develop oil and gas on Federal lands and waters.

In addition, I would like to submit for the RECORD a letter from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, America's scientific experts on exploring for oil and gas. And their letter states, ''Policies that increase exploration costs, decrease the available time to properly evaluate leases, and restrict access to Federal lands and the Outer Continental Shelf do not provide the American people with short-term relief from high prices and undermine the goal of increasing stable long-term supplies.'' That policy to restrict development and reduce exploration is exactly what this legislation before us will do.

What America must realize is that the true source of most non-producing acres in America is the U.S. Congress, which restricts access to almost 600 million acres of the Outer Continental Shelf. We could produce more oil from opening up 2,000 acres in ANWR than would likely be produced from all the onshore acres currently leased but not producing today, especially when you understand that much of the onshore resources are natural gas and not crude oil. If we were to open but a fraction of these acres held up by the congressional majority, we could reduce our dependence on foreign oil and create jobs right here in America. However, the majority has decided time and time again that we should limit our access to our onshore and offshore domestic resources.

The American public is up in arms against the frivolous restrictions which Congress has placed on domestic energy production. People recognize the simple fact that opening up more Federal lands and waters could lead to lower gasoline prices and they're calling on us to lead America in this direction. Congress should open up this debate and this process today and allow each side to present their very best proposals. And that's what this debate is about today.

JUNE 23, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.
Hon. STENY HOYER,
Majority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.
Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, MAJORITY LEADER HOYER, AND MINORITY LEADER BOEHNER: Given the on-going debate about access and leasing activity on Federal onshore lands and the Outer Continental Shelf, I would like to offer some perspective, on behalf of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, AAPG, on the science and process of finding oil and natural gas.

AAPG, an international geoscience organization, is the world's largest professional geological society representing over 33,000 members. The purpose of AAPG is to advance the science of geology, foster scientific research, promote technology and advance the well-being of its members. With members in 116 countries, more than two-thirds of whom work and reside in the United States, AAPG serves as a voice for the shared interests of energy geologists and geophysicists in our profession worldwide.

AAPG strives to increase public awareness of the crucial role that the geosciences, and particularly petroleum and energy-related geology, play in our society.

Finding and developing oil and natural gas blends science, engineering, and economics. It has distinct phases: exploration, development, and production. And it is risky, because finding oil and natural gas traps, places where oil and natural gas migrate and concentrate, buried under thousands of feet of rock is like finding the proverbial needle in a haystack. Talent and technology increase our chances of a discovery, but there are no guarantees.

What is exploration? Well, the grid pattern on a block map makes it tempting to think of exploration as a process of simply drilling a well in each grid block to determine whether it contains oil. But because of the natural variation in regional geology, one cannot assume oil and natural gas are evenly distributed across a given lease or region. Rather, exploration is about unraveling the geologic history of the rock underneath that grid block, trying to understand where oil or natural gas may have formed and where it migrated. If the geology isn't right; you won't find oil or natural gas.

Legendary geologist Wallace Pratt once observed, ''Where oil is first found is in the minds of men.'' When preparing a lease bid, geologists use their knowledge to identify the specific areas in a region that they believe have the highest likelihood of containing oil and natural gas traps. Successful exploration begins with an idea—a hypothesis of where oil may be found.

Since exploration is about developing and testing ideas, some acreage available for leasing is never leased. That is because no one develops a compelling idea of why oil or natural gas should be there. Similarly, some acreage is leased and drilled repeatedly with no success. Then, one day, a geologist develops an idea that works, resulting in new oil or natural gas production from the same land that others dismissed as barren.

Once a lease is awarded, geologists begin an intensive assessment. They collect new geological, geophysical, and geochemical data to better understand the geology in their lease area. They use this data to construct a geological model that best explains where they think oil and natural gas were generated, where it may have been trapped, and whether the trap is big enough to warrant drilling.

If there is no evidence of a suitable trap, the explorer will relinquish the lease and walk away. If they see a trap that looks interesting, they schedule a drill rig to find out if they are right. Drilling is the true test of the geologists' model, and it isn't a decision to be made lightly. Drilling costs for a single well can range from $0.5 million for shallow onshore wells to over $25 million for tests in deep water offshore.

As the well is drilling, geologists continually collect and evaluate data to see whether it conforms to their expectations based on the geological model. Eventually, they reach the rock layer where they think the trap is located.

If there is no oil or natural gas when the drill reaches the trap they were targeting, they've drilled a dry hole. At this point the explorers will evaluate why the hole is dry: was there never oil and gas here; how was the geological model wrong; and can it be improved based on what they know from the drilled well? Depending on the results of this analysis, they may tweak the exploration idea and drill another well or decide the idea failed and relinquish the lease.

If there is oil and/or natural gas, they've drilled a discovery. Typically, they will test the well to see what volumes of oil and/or natural gas flow from it. Sometimes the flow rates do not justify further expenditures and the well is abandoned. If the results are promising, they will usually drill several additional wells to better define the size and shape of the trap. All of this data improves the geological model.

Based on this revised geological model, engineers plan how to develop the new field (e.g., number of production wells to drill, construction of oil field facilities and pipelines).

Using complex economic tools, they must decide whether the revenue from the oil and natural gas sales will exceed the past and continuing expenses to decide whether it is a commercial discovery.

The process of leasing, evaluating, drilling, and developing an oil or natural gas field typically takes five to ten years. Some fields come online sooner. Others are delayed by permitting or regulatory delays or constraints in the availability of data acquisition and drilling equipment and crews. Large projects and those in deep water may require a decade or more to ramp up to full production.

As you can see, oil and natural gas exploration is not simple and it is not easy. It requires geological ingenuity, advanced technologies, and the time to do the job right. It also requires access to areas where exploration ideas can be tested—the greater the number of areas available for exploration, the higher the chance of finding oil and natural gas traps.

U.S. consumers are burdened by high crude oil prices. Conservation and efficiency improvements are necessary responses, but equally important is increasing long-term supply from stable parts of the world, such as our very own federal lands and Outer Continental Shelf.

As Congress considers measures to deal with high crude oil prices, I urge caution. Policies that increase exploration costs, decrease the available time to properly evaluate leases, and restrict access to federal lands and the Outer Continental Shelf do not provide the American people with short-term relief from high prices and undermine the goal of increasing stable long-term supplies.

I am happy to further discuss these ideas. Please contact me through our Geoscience and Energy Office in Washington, DC.

Sincerely,

WILLARD R. (WILL) GREEN
President,
American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Mr. Speaker, because we have so many other Members who would like to speak on this bill, I would like to ask unanimous consent that we extend the debate on H.R. 6251 to an additional 10 minutes, equally divided.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Oklahoma?

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, did she say 10 minutes on each side?

Ms. FALLIN. Equally divided.

Mr. RAHALL. I have no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, each side will control 5 additional minutes.

There was no objection.

□ 1315

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY).

Mr. MARKEY. I thank the gentleman from West Virginia, and I thank him for his extraordinary leadership on this issue and for the legislation he's bringing out here on the House floor, especially with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) for his work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, right now we are facing an energy crisis. The Bush administration and Republicans in Congress are perpetuating a myth that the oil companies don't have access to enough places to drill for oil. This story is nothing more than a drilling decoy. We might as well put an aquarium out here in the well, there are so many red herrings that the Republicans are throwing into this debate about our energy independence.

Roughly 80 percent of all of the oil and gas are located in areas where drilling is already allowed, 68 million acres, 80 percent of the resources in America. So ExxonMobil, everybody in America pulling into the ExxonMobil station. They made $40 billion last year. Do you know what they did with their $40 billion? They put $32 billion of it back into buying their own stock. They were drilling for profits in their own stock, not on the lands where America wants them to go to find the oil and gas, where they are already permitted.

Now, what did they do on renewables, ExxonMobil? They took $10 million, million dollars, just millions of dollars, 10 million, and put it into renewables. Do you know what else the oil industry is doing and the Bush administration and the Republican Congress? They're blocking the tax breaks still today for renewables, for solar, for wind, for geothermal, blocking them.

So there is their agenda: Tip the consumer upside down at the pump, keep the supply of oil down because they're not drilling on the 80 percent of the land where we say they could go, even offshore, and go and drill; pocket the profits for themselves; nickle and dime renewables; and then block the tax breaks for a renewable energy revolution in America. It's a recipe for disaster. But there is no mistake why we are here. You cannot have an oil and gas President and Vice President for 8 years and not have an oil and gas strategy for America. And the price that we are paying at the pump is the price we are paying for allowing that policy to be implemented for these 8 long years.

So, ladies and gentlemen, we have 2 percent of the world's oil reserves, 2 percent. We consume 25 percent of the oil, which we consume on a daily basis. Republicans are saying let's drill off the beaches, let's drill where the polar bear is, although they are not willing today to put a penalty for the oil industry for not drilling where the 80 percent of oil is. Ladies and gentlemen, this is a big mistake.

OPEC has two-thirds of the oil in the world. That's their strength. Rather than sending a message to OPEC, we are going to innovate our way out of this with wind and solar and renewable energy sources. The Republicans are

blocking the tax breaks for that and saying give bigger profits to oil and gas, don't penalize them for not drilling for the oil and gas here in America where we have access to it, and then go home on the 4th of July and pretend as though this 8 years of Republican rule where we have gone from $30 a barrel to $130 a barrel is not on their watch. It is, ladies and gentlemen. We have gone from 46 percent dependence on imported oil on the day the Republicans took over Congress to 61 percent dependence upon imported oil on the day they left office 1 year ago. That's why we are in the mess that we're in right now.

The American public needs help. We need to send a message to Big Oil, to Big Gas: Start drilling. Start drilling right now or lose the leases that the American people have given you. Do not warehouse these leases. Do not warehouse the oil and gas here in America. Let's put the penalty on them. Let us no longer have the policies set by Big Oil, by Big Gas, and OPEC. Let us today declare independence from them. Let us say we are taking those leases back from you. We are taking back the American land where oil and gas is. If you don't drill on it, you lose it, and we are going to penalize you for allowing this crisis to build to the point that it has today.

Ladies and gentlemen, support the Rahall bill. This is the day where we begin to break and create our own independence from Big Oil in our country.

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), our chairman.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I just witnessed one of the greatest displays of inaccuracies I have ever heard in my life.

It's too bad that the public doesn't understand that this whole bill is a charade, and I am disappointed in my chairman because there were no hearings on this. In fact, the testimony that I have heard from the majority is the reality is not real. The report is not real. And where he gets the figures about 68 million acres set aside and not utilized, I don't know. And where do they get the idea of getting 4 billion barrels?

I've just listened to the gentleman from Massachusetts' tirade. I have heard that same tirade for as long as he's been in Congress. He has never supported any energy at all, any development of energy, including nuclear. Now his people in Massachusetts are paying that price.

When I first came to Congress, we were in the minority, and the price of oil for a barrel was $8 a barrel, 39 cents at the pump. Yes, it's high today because the Trans-Alaska Pipeline was the last big development we ever had because this Congress would not allow us to develop any other oil fields. Now, we have a big oil field in Alaska called ANWR, which is 74 miles away from the existing pipeline that delivers 17 billion barrels to the American people, and we're not allowed to drill it because this Congress won't act.

And we have a tirade on this floor about blaming Big Oil. There's only one group that's to blame, and it's this Congress, both sides of the aisle, because it's easier to buy it from OPEC countries. And we stopped trying to figure out how we can get off the dependency. We have not done that.

Now, if we don't drill, we are going to be in trouble. I predict the price of oil, if we don't drill and start supply to this demand in the United States, the price of oil will probably go to $150 a barrel. And that's going to be under your watch.

Are you proud of what you've done? I say no. This bill is a charade. It should be voted down, and we should vote ''no, no, no, drill, drill, drill.''

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, just to remind all of my colleagues, if this administration were not playing politics with oil, why does the President not just by one stroke of the pen sign an executive order lifting these lands that the other side claims should be open? That's all it takes, a stroke of the pen to lift the moratorium on these lands for drilling. Instead, he puts a political pointer at this body.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to avoid remarks in the second person.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, this is a little lesson about one of the largest finds of oil in the United States. We have known about it since 1923.

In 1923 this large area of Alaska was designated as Naval Petroleum Reserve Number 4. Why? Because we knew there was a huge pool of oil under it. Estimates are the current figure is up to 15, ''b,'' billion barrels of oil. That's a lot of oil. So the President, I believe it was President Harding at the time, designated that as a Naval Petroleum Reserve.

This little area over here, the one they don't want to talk about, was designated as a wildlife refuge. Why was that? Well, because we didn't know there was any oil under it. So the oil's here, make it an oil preserve. There's wildlife here, make it a wildlife preserve. Now they say they want to drill in the wildlife preserve, but they're kind of neglecting this one over here.

Now, it was a Naval Petroleum Reserve until 1996. In 1996 the Republican Congress voted to open it up to drilling by the oil industry. Bill Clinton signed the bill, and, in fact, the Clinton administration let the first 3 million acres of leases in the year 2000. Eight years ago the industry got 3 million acres of land leased over a pool of 15 billion barrels of oil. They have drilled 25 wells and capped them. That's it. The Bush administration is going to lease another 4 million this next year.

If we don't have this bill, maybe they'll drill some more wells and cap them. They have no plans. Now, they say they want to drill over here. You will notice actually this area is closer to the existing pipeline than this area over here, but they want to debate this area over here with no known oil reserves and no pipeline and neglect this area over here with massive reserves and no pipeline and apparently no plans to build a pipeline.

If we pass this bill today, that will all change. They won't be able to sit on the largest single pool of oil in the United States territory anymore. They will have to begin in good faith to develop it. But guess what. The industry really doesn't want to do that because they're making a bucket of money the way it is now by pretending there's a shortage and not drilling.

Now, that's just the Alaska issue. If we go offshore and look elsewhere, as Mr. MARKEY said earlier, 80 percent, according to the United States Minerals Management Service, 80 percent of the oil and gas that's known to exist off of the Continental United States is accessible from existing leases. Unfortunately, 6,491 of those leases are sitting idle. On different days you get different excuses: ''Oh, it takes a really long time.'' Well, if it takes a really long time, why do we want to let new leases when it's taken a really long time to develop the old leases that they're sitting on, that have known pools of oil under them? They're taking a bucket of money now. They don't want things to change; we do.

Produce American oil for America.

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SALI).

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the letter from Assistant Secretary Allred relating to this bill that my colleague from Oklahoma referenced in her remarks.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, DC, June 25, 2008.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Ranking Republican Member, Committee on Natural Resources, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. YOUNG: Thank you for your letter of June 19, 2008, to Secretary Kempthorne regarding a recent report on oil and gas by the House Committee on Natural Resources. Secretary Kempthorne has asked me to reply.

In your letter you asked that the Department of the Interior (Department) address the report's claim that oil companies hold non-producing leases on 68 million acres which could produce 4.8 million barrels of oil and 44.7 of natural gas each day.

The report does not reference specific locations for much of the data and therefore we cannot ascertain where each of the numbers was derived. It appears the report took raw data, some of which can be found on the Department websites, and then used various formulas to reach certain conclusions. The report does not disclose the assumptions or formulas used.

The views contained in the report are based on a misunderstanding of the very lengthy regulatory process. The existence of a lease does not guarantee the discovery of, or any particular quantity of oil and gas. To

truly determine this, lessees must develop data and eventually explore their leases which requires numerous permits involving compliance with various environmental laws and regulations. This process often takes months or years. In addition, lessees undertake a vast array of business steps prior to making a decision to move a lease into production, and must obtain another set of Federal and State permits to do so. I would like to provide some background on both points.

Obtaining a lease is just the first step. The lessee must first obtain the myriad of permits and approvals for exploration activities and development plans that are required before production can occur. Exploration, which occurs after the issuance of the lease, is critical. For example, after an operator acquires an onshore lease they must obtain Geophysical Permits, Permits to Drill, Sundry Notices, and permits that may be required by State government. In addition to all necessary permits being obtained, an operator must also file a plan of development.

Development offshore is equally complex. An operator must obtain Geological and Geophysical Exploration Permits, Environmental Protection Agency National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits, an Army Corps of Engineers Permit, Permits to Drill, and Marine Mammals/Endangered Species Permits. If a lessee makes the decision to move to development, in addition to the myriad of required permits, an operator must file numerous plans, including Deepwater Operations Plans, Oil Spill Response Plans, Hydrogen Sulfide Plans, Development Plans or Development Operations Coordination Documents.

While these lists are not exhaustive, they illustrate the efforts that must be undertaken before a lease can be explored and developed and production comes online. A more comprehensive list of the various permits, approvals, and other legal and regulatory prerequisites that may be required based on site specifics for both onshore and offshore production is attached for your information.

In addition to the processes mentioned above, other factors affect potential development and subsequent production. These factors include capital investments and equipment such as drilling rigs and platforms.

In shallow water, approximately one in three wells results in a discovery of a quantity of oil and/or natural gas sufficient to produce economically In deeper water, one well in five is economical. Shallow wells cost approximately $200,000 for just the drilling. In deepwater, the drilling of one well may cost $100 million to $200 million. A full development project, including a platform or floater, involves multiple blocks and has cost as much as $3.5 billion. Onshore development is less expensive. A well cost 10,000 feet or deeper well will $2 million to $3 million. A shallow well runs about $200,000.

To illustrate further that a lease does not mean the discovery of oil and gas, it is important to look at the well success rates. For onshore leases, the well success rate is about 10 percent for new areas. For areas already developed, it is much higher—about 95%. For offshore, in shallow water, the success rate is about 33 percent. In deepwater it is about 20 percent.

In the Gulf of Mexico, 1132 new deep water exploration wells have been drilled since 1995, with over 170 new discoveries. While the government does conduct activities to determine resource availability, it is the private sector that funds exploration activities for more refined data and analysis on a site specific basis that can lead to production. The lengthy processes we have in place can lead to more production but it takes time to find the exact location of those resources.

In today's market, it does not make business sense for lease holders to defer or forgo pursuing production and continue to pay rental fees. In addition to the bonus bid paid at the time of a lease being issued, lessees are required to pay rentals for leases. In Fiscal Year 2007, $267.2 million in rental fees was collected as rent for oil and gas, coal, and other mineral leases.

If a lessee determines that leased acreage does not contain sufficient resources to produce economically, it will typically relinquish the lease, and the Federal Government is free to offer the tract at a subsequent lease sale. However, only after numerous steps are taken, and leased acreage is determined to contain economically and technologically producible oil and gas, can a lessee justify the significant investment required to bring leased acreage into producing status.

While increasing the productivity of already leased land is important, to ensure our country's future security and economic well being we need to open new areas for development. The lengthy processes we have in place, which can lead to more production, means that we need to look to new areas. We cannot ignore that the world's demand for oil has grown dramatically. Meanwhile, the supply of oil has grown much more slowly. As a result, oil prices have risen sharply, and that increase has been reflected at American gasoline pumps.

Sincerely,

C. STEPHEN ALLRED,
Assistant Secretary,
Land and Minerals Management.

Attachments.

PLANS AND PERMITS REQUIRED ON OCS

The number of required plan and permit approvals is on the order of 25 to 30. The reason for a range is that the specific lease holder may not file for certain permits on their own. For example, they may not file for a G&G (geological/geophysical) permit but it is certain that no lease holder will move forward without geophysical data to guide them. They may obtain sufficient data from a third party that acquired under their own speculative permit with the intention to sell the information to successful lease bidders. Additionally, there may be supplemental plans filed to cover changes in assumptions based on newer information and other steps that not all lessees will need to file. The overview of MMS regulations is at http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/regs/reg_sum.html with a discussion of the plans and permits at http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/regs/laws/env safe.html_#perapp. Following is a fairly complete list of the plans and permits that a lessee may have to file to bring a lease to production:

LIST OF TYPICAL PLANS AND PERMITS REQUIRED TO BRING A LEASE TO PRODUCTION

Oil and Gas Lease.

Geological and Geophysical Exploration permit.

Exploration Plan.

Coast Guard Compliance review for mobile drilling units.

Oil Spill Response Plan.

Oil Spill Financial Responsibility.

Hydrogen Sulfide Plan (some locations).

Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination (Exploration).

Army Corps of Engineers Permit (Navigation and National Security).

EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit.

EPA Air Emissions Permit (some locations).

Marine Mammals/Endangered Species permits from NOAA or FWS (some locations).

Application for Permit to Drill (exploratory wells).

Application for Permit to Modify (any changes in drilling program).

Application for Permit to Modify (to plug and abandon exploration wells).

Deepwater Operations Plan (for some locations).

Conservation Information Document (for some locations).

Coast Guard Structural Review (for floating production systems).

Certified Verification Agent Review (for some locations).

Development Plan or Development Operations Coordination Document (depending on location).

Pipeline Right-of-Way. Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination (Development).

Application for Permit to Drill (development wells).

Application for Permit to Modify (any changes in development drilling program).

Application for Permit to Modify (to plug and abandon development wells).

Platform Removal Application.

Pipeline Decommissioning Application.

PERMITS, PLANS, AND SURVEYS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AN OIL AND GAS LEASE ON-SHORE

BLM PERMITS, PLANS, AND SURVEYS

Geophysical Exploration Permit—Notice of Intent; Notice of Completion—(Required if the operator chooses to conduct this optional activity) Purpose: Allows exploration for oil and gas resources on Federal lands.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review—Environmental review may consist of review and documentation through a Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA), Categorical Exclusion (CX), Environmental Assessment (EA), or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). (May be completed by the BLM or the Operator to BLM standards. The BLM signs the Decision).

Land Use Plan Conformance—Project evaluated to ensure it is in conformance with the BLM's land use plan.

Surveys—(Completed by the BLM or the Operator.)

Cultural Survey—Almost always required. Almost always completed through an operator-funded contract with a cultural survey contractor that has been approved by the BLM. May involve consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Wildlife Surveys—Frequently required. May be completed by the BLM or the operator to BLM standards.

Endangered Species Act Consultation—only required when endangered species may be affected by the project.

Tribal Consultation—May occur at the Planning or Permitting stage in areas where Indian tribes have historically used an area or have expressed an interest in proposed projects.

Oil and Gas Lease—(Required) Conveys a basic right to develop oil and gas from Federal Mineral estate pending approval of additional site-specific permits.

Land Use Plan Conformance—The proposed lease is evaluated to ensure it is in conformance with the BLM's land use plan.

Tribal Consultation—May occur at the leasing stage if not current in the land use plan.

Endangered Species Act Consultation—May occur at the leasing stage if not current in the land use plan and there are endangered species present.

Communitization/Unitization Approval—(Some Locations) Creates management units to improve development efficiency.

Plan of Developent—(If operations are located within a unit agreement) Creates a development management plan for the Unit.

Application for Permit to Drill (APD)—(Required) Contains the operator's proposed

drilling and surface use plans and any additional permit requirements added by the BLM. The BLM may also require Cultural and Wildlife surveys.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review—Environmental review may consist of review and documentation through a Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA), Categorical Exclusion (CX), Environmental Assessment (EA), or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). (May be completed by the BLM or the Operator to BLM standards. The BLM signs the Decision.)

Land Use Plan Conformance—Project evaluated to ensure it is in conformance with the BLM's land use plan.

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Wildlife Surveys—Frequently required. May be completed by the BLM or the operator to BLM standards.

Endangered Species Act Consultation—only required when endangered species may be affected by the project.

Tribal Consultation—May occur at the Planning or Permitting stage in areas where Indian tribes have historically used an area or have expressed an interest in proposed projects.

Sundry Notice—(Required) Notifies the BLM of the operator's proposed changes to the APD.

Approval and/or Review—In limited cases may involve NEPA, Cultural, Wildlife, ESA reviews and consultation.

Hydrogen Sulfide Plan—(Required if the poison gas may be encountered) Plans for protection of public health land safety in the event of a hydrogen sulfide leak.

Right-of-Way Grant—(Required for any development that occurs off the lease area.) Provides legal access for roads, pipelines, and powerlines.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review—Environmental review may consist of review and documentation through a Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA), Categorical Exclusion (CX), Environmental Assessment (EA), or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). (May be completed by the BLM or the Operator to BLM standards. The BLM signs the Decision.) Usually completed in conjunction with the APD NEPA analysis.

Land Use Plan Conformance—Project evaluated to ensure it is in conformance with the BLM's land use plan.

Surveys—(Completed by the BLM or the Operator.)

Cultural Survey—Almost always required. Almost always completed through an operator-funded contract with a cultural survey contractor that has been approved by the BLM. May involve consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Wildlife Surveys—Frequently required. May be completed by the BLM or the operator to BLM standards.

Endangered Species Act Consultation—only required when endangered species may be affected by the project.

Tribal Consultation—May occur at the Planning or Permitting stage in areas where Indian tribes have historically used an area or have expressed an interest in proposed projects.

OTHER FEDERAL. STATE. OR LOCAL PERMITS AND PLANS

Air Emission Permit—(May be required by State).

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit—(May be required by the State or EPA).

Section 404 Permit—(May be required by the Army Corp of Engineers if the project would potentially dredge or fill waters of the U.S.).

Storm Water Prevention Plan—(Required in some States).

UIC Permit—(Required for Class II wells—water disposal or reinjection).

Spill Prevention Countermeasure Control Plan—This is a permit required by EPA when oil and gas activities have the potential to impact waters of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the justification for this legislation is a report from Democrats on the Natural Resources Committee, and in that report the conclusion is reached: ''We can estimate that the 68 million acres of leased but currently inactive Federal land and waters could produce an additional 4.8 million barrels of oil and 44.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas each day.''

Mr. Speaker, may I ask that the gentleman controlling the time on the other side be yielded time to respond to a question?

Mr. RAHALL. Sure. If the gentleman will yield, I will be happy to answer the question.

Mr. SALI. I understand that the Department of the Interior has issued a letter saying that they don't agree with the assumptions of your report.

Can you name a single professional organization or government agency that has told you that they agree with the assumptions or calculations used to reach the conclusion that I have just read from the report?

Mr. RAHALL. Our Committee on Natural Resources has extrapolated out the figures from current production on Federal lands, those figures coming from the Energy Administration, the same department that the administration uses.

Mr. SALI. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question is ''no.'' There is no professional group or government agency that agrees with those assumptions.

In his opening remarks, the good chairman said we must ''increase our supply'' of crude oil and that the answer to our energy needs in the short term is to increase American production.

Then why aren't we voting on that today? The fact is that the assumptions that this bill is premised on are false and that there will be no increased production from this bill.

Congress is to blame for the shortage of American production today, and this is having a real impact on people. There's a gal who is a certified nursing assistant in Boise, Idaho, who's taking care of my mother and my younger sister in a nursing home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

□ 1330

Ms. FALLIN. I yield the gentleman 30 seconds.

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, this young lady, who's a CNA, last week took her husband's bicycle and a few other items to a pawn shop to get $37 so she could put gas in her car to go to work at this nursing home to take care of my mother and my sister. This is having a horrendous impact on real life people.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for partisanship to be put aside. It's time for Congress to get to the real answer, which is increasing American production.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. I thank my colleague for yielding.

I rise in strong support of this legislation. The oil and gas companies, awash in profits, would have us believe they have nowhere to drill. That's just plain wrong. It is the Bush administration which acknowledges that 80 percent of our oil and gas reserves are in areas where drilling is already allowed. The industry is sitting on nearly 70 million acres of public lands where it could be drilling, but isn't. The oil and gas industry already owns drilling rights to more than 6,000 untapped leases in the Gulf of Mexico.

If the industry is so eager to produce more oil and gas, it should get to it. We don't need to open more lands to drilling, when industry is dragging its feet on producing where it already could.

Mr. Speaker, this recent push by President Bush and Senator MCCAIN to open up the rest of our coast to offshore drilling is a ruse. It's not about lowering gas prices today, or even in the future.

In response to the previous statement, yesterday Guy Caruso, head of the Bush administration's Energy Information Agency, said the following about the impact of new drilling, and I quote, ''It would be a relatively small effect because it would take such a long time to bring those supplies on. It doesn't affect prices that much.''

This push for new coastal drilling is really just a last-ditch effort to get rid of barriers to drilling everywhere before the Bush administration leaves office. It's an attempt for favored special interest to oil companies to get one more favor from its friends. And the high gas prices Americans are now paying offers the perfect cover.

I urge my colleagues to call this industry's bluff. If Big Oil wants to drill on public lands, it can do so now. Please vote for this legislation that tells the industry to use it or lose it.

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY).

Mr. CONAWAY. My first reaction to reading this bill was how could 236 Members of Congress on the Democratic side, their legions of staff, and their hired guns, know so little about a fundamental industry like we've got that they would think that these exploration companies would invest millions and, in some instances, billions of dollars of shareholder equity and debt and lease bonus payments, regulatory compliance and bureaucratic compliance costs, geological and geophysical

costs, drilling and exploration expenditures, production facilities, to then sit on these generally unsalvageable investments and not produce oil and natural gas, which is the only way to recover these investments and make a profit.

This chart, Mr. Speaker, shows a 14-year timeline of the typical exploration in the Gulf of Mexico. It is a difficult process to get through. There are some 27 bureaucratic steps that we go through. This legislation today will add another ongoing step that these companies will have to comply with.

My colleagues here on the other side of the aisle know this discourages exploration. It fits in with their overall attempt to continue to keep gasoline prices high. It is one more dagger in the heart of the American lifestyle that has been developed since World War II that has centered on reasonable gasoline.

Defeat this bill.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman has not even read the bill. If everything he says on that chart is true, that is due diligence. The companies get to hold their lease, under this legislation.

I am very glad to yield 2 minutes to a member of our Appropriations Committee, the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY).

Mr. HINCHEY. Anyone who thinks back just a few years would remember how this administration and the Members of the Congress who were so complicit with them has been able to falsify information and get this country into such deep trouble. The situation in Iraq has got to come to mind. All of the deep problems we have there, based upon the falsification of information. That is what we are seeing here again, falsification of information.

The Republicans are alleging that no one wants the oil companies to be able to drill for oil offshore when the fact of the matter is that the oil companies already have leases on 68 million acres, half offshore, half on the dry land of this country, and they are not using those 68 million acres.

So what the Republicans want to do, at the request of this White House, is to continue to do what this administration has been doing since the meeting of Dick Cheney with the heads of the big oil companies in this country to continue to have an energy policy that is not in the interest of America but in the interest of the big oil companies.

What they want them to do is to be able to get more land, more land, more public land, and hang on to that public land and not produce anything on it.

What we are saying in this bill is use it or lose it. You already have the leases on 68 million acres of public land. Start using it. You want to drill, start drilling. We want you to drill. Drill on the leases that you already have. Don't pretend that you have nothing on which you can drill. You have 68 million acres.

What the Republicans want to do is just put more public land in the hands of the oil companies so that they can more completely and over a longer period of time control all of the energy resources, oil and natural gas, that the people of our country own and possess. They want the oil companies to possess them for long periods of time, not to use them. They are not drilling on what they have.

So pay attention to this bill, and vote for it. Use it or lose it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mrs. CAPITO. Today, we are considering a bill to make something the law that is already the law. The majority claims it is necessary to force energy exploration companies to either use or lose leases they hold. However, use it or lose it is already the law. The Secretary of the Interior can already cancel a lease if the lessee fails to comply with the terms. Federal leaseholders are already required to produce oil and/or natural gas within 5 to 10 years of beginning the lease.

By blocking some firms from competing for new leases, this legislation could further increase gas prices that are already exceeding $4 per gallon. This is frustrating because I believe West Virginians would rather see us take up legislation that will actually lead to a new and more forward-thinking energy policy rather than waste time passing legislation that is already on the books. That means new exploration, coal-to-liquids, and renewables.

If this is the best the majority can do, is to restate current law, that's fine. But I think most Americans and West Virginians understand that the time has come for a more serious and comprehensive debate on this issue. That's what they deserve.

Mr. RAHALL. I'm glad my colleague from West Virginia answered the previous speaker on the Republican side and explained the bill. But let me further clarify what the bill does and does not do, and current law.

Currently, the law allows leaseholders 10 years to develop oil or gas. Our bill used to cut it down to 5 years. We have now upped it back up to the 10 years to try to satisfy some of the critics concerned with this legislation. Yet, they are still not pleased, of course.

Existing leases can be cancelled if leaseholders fail to comply with lease provisions, such as public safety and environmental requirements. Yet, there's no law or regulation that requires diligent development on Federal oil and gas leases. That is what we are doing here, is requiring this due diligence. As long as the leaseholders paid the required annual rental fee, the government cannot compel diligent development of the leased lands.

Our bill requires oil and gas operators to diligently develop oil and gas leases, as is currently required of coal leaseholders, I might remind my colleague from West Virginia. We had this same regime in place for Federal coal leasing. It was put in place when coal was in its boom days.

What we are doing for oil and gas now is what we have done with coal and other commodities that are produced on the land that the people of the United States own.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH).

Mr. YARMUTH. I thank my colleague.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of legislation that would pressure the oil companies to drill, and drill now. In my hometown of Louisville, people are struggling to pay more than $4.20 for a gallon of gas. While they search for a way to make ends meet, a few multinational corporations hold the answers: Permits to drill over 60 million acres of oil and gas reserves today.

These existing leases could double U.S. oil production. But the oil companies don't want more land to drill, they want more land to control, which keeps oil off the market and gas prices high. After all, high gas prices have made them the richest companies in the history of the world.

Instead, they demand the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, presumably so they cannot drill there too. Even this oil-friendly White House admits that drilling the wildlife refuge won't affect the price of gas for more than 20 years, and then, only by a couple of pennies.

Mr. Speaker, the American people's problems are measured in dollars, not pennies, and they can't wait until 2030. I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation and get American oil into the market as soon as possible.

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, what time remains for each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Oklahoma has 11½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from West Virginia, 6½.

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. The Democrats claim there's 68 million acres of energy-rich lands that companies are refusing to explore. Sixty-eight million acres. Really. So name one. Name an acre of land where vast reserves of oil are underground and a company refuses to explore.

I will open the mike. One acre. Any takers?

Mr. RAHALL. If the gentleman will yield.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Absolutely.

Mr. RAHALL. We have these maps that are identified, that we have shown.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Well, bring down the map and identify an acre and tell us how much oil is underground and who has refused to drill.

Mr. RAHALL. Would the gentleman tell us the same about the OCS, where

the President is proposing to lift this moratorium?

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Do you have an acre you can point to?

Mr. RAHALL. Yes, we do. We will bring it in. Right here.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. That's what I thought. This bill is a shame and an insult to families who are trying to pay their gas bills.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

Mr. ISRAEL. I thank my friend from West Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, if I were a football coach and I had been calling a play for 7 years and I actually lost yardage, I'd change the play.

Our friends on the other side, Mr. Speaker, they don't want to change the play. They want to keep the same plays that have been losing yards and money for the American people for the past 7 years.

In the spring of 2001, Vice President CHENEY had this meeting with the oil and gas industry to create a new energy policy for America. Then, the cost of a barrel of oil was $23. Now the cost of a barrel of oil is $139. The policy did not work.

Then, the average price of gasoline was $1.46 a gallon. Today, the average price of a gallon of gasoline on Long Island is $4.31 a gallon. It tripled.

The policy didn't work. In all that time, oil and gas companies could have drilled on the properties which they have leases to. They didn't do it.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ISRAEL. I will not yield. I only have a little bit of time.

They did not do it. Now what we're saying is we have got to try something new because what was tried before, didn't work. We need a change in policy. So what we are saying to the oil companies is use it or lose it. Drill what you have the right to drill, explore where you have the right to explore, and if you're not willing to do that, we will find somebody who can.

It's time to put the sound bites aside and give real relief to the American people. The fact of the matter is that the policies that have been tried, have failed. I am not saying that anybody has committed wrongdoing, I am just saying that they have pursued the wrong policies.

The right policy is to put the American people's pocketbooks ahead of the oil company profits. Use it or lose it. That's what we are doing today.

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, nobody likes these high prices, and I think most folks understand the law of supply and demand. Worldwide, this last year, we pumped 126,000 fewer barrels of oil and we used a million barrels more each day.

We have said no to ANWR, we have said no to tar sands, we've said no to oil shale, we've said no to nuclear. Sierra Club, I'm told, has opposed solar in California. This Congress has not extended R&D for renewables. Yet, 85 percent of our offshore sites are off-limits.

□ 1345

I would like to put a letter that I received a copy of from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists into the RECORD that was sent to the Speaker. They conclude that policies that increase exploration costs, decrease the available time to properly evaluate leases and restrict access to Federal lands in the OCS do not provide the American people with short-term relief from high prices and undermine the goal of increasing stable long-term surpluses.

We can't waive a magic wand and say here it is. If you say 5 years, but you still require some 27 different environmentally-mandated permits that are required, with no shortening of the time that it takes to get those permits approved, you are not succeeding. In effect, what you are doing is telling the companies to go look someplace else. They are not going to look in America. They are going to look someplace else, because they may not have to comply with these same 25 different regulations that you have to comply with in this country. You can't just say 5 years, without shortening that process.

Now, I am sorry that I didn't talk to Mr. DEFAZIO before I used that chart, but he cited I think a Shell development in Alaska that doesn't have access yet to the pipeline that takes that oil down through to the bottom of Alaska. Without the pipeline permits, they have to cap the wells.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS,
June 23, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. STENY HOYER,
Majority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, MAJORITY LEADER HOYER, AND MINORITY LEADER BOEHNER: Given the on-going debate about access and leasing activity on federal onshore lands and the Outer Continental Shelf, I would like to offer some perspective, on behalf of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), on the science and process of finding oil and natural gas.

AAPG, an international geoscience organization, is the world's largest professional geological society representing over 33,000 members. The purpose of AAPG is to advance the science of geology, foster scientific research, promote technology and advance the well-being of its members. With members in 116 countries, more than two-thirds of whom work and reside in the United States, AAPG serves as a voice for the shared interests of energy geologists and geophysicists in our profession worldwide.

AAPG strives to increase public awareness of the crucial role that the geosciences, and particularly petroleum and energy-related geology, play in our society.

Finding and developing oil and natural gas blends science, engineering, and economics. It has distinct phases: exploration, development, and production. And it is risky, because finding oil and natural gas traps, places where oil and natural gas migrate and concentrate, buried under thousands of feet of rock is like finding the proverbial needle in a haystack. Talent and technology increase our chances of a discovery, but there are no guarantees.

What is exploration? Well, the grid pattern on a block map makes it tempting to think of exploration as a process of simply drilling a well in each grid block to determine whether it contains oil. But because of the natural variation in regional geology, one cannot assume oil and natural gas are evenly distributed across a given lease or region. Rather, exploration is about unraveling the geologic history of the rock underneath that grid block, trying to understand where oil or natural gas may have formed and where it migrated. If the geology isn't right, you won't find oil or natural gas.

Legendary geologist Wallace Pratt once observed, ''Where oil is first found is in the minds of men.'' When preparing a lease bid, geologists use their knowledge to identify the specific areas in a region that they believe have the highest likelihood of containing oil and natural gas traps. Successful exploration begins with an idea—a hypothesis of where oil may be found.

Since exploration is about developing and testing ideas, some acreage available for leasing is never leased. That is because no one develops a compelling idea of why oil or natural gas should be there. Similarly, some acreage is leased and drilled repeatedly with no success. Then, one day, a geologist develops an idea that works, resulting in new oil or natural gas production from the same land that others dismissed as barren.

Once a lease is awarded, geologists begin an intensive assessment. They collect new geological, geophysical, and geochemical data to better understand the geology in their lease area. They use this data to construct a geological model that best explains where they think oil and natural gas were generated, where it may have been trapped, and whether the trap is big enough to warrant drilling.

If there is no evidence of a suitable trap, the explorer will relinquish the lease and walk away. If they see a trap that looks interesting, they schedule a drill rig to find out if they are right. Drilling is the true test of the geologists' model, and it isn't a decision to be made lightly. Drilling costs for a single well can range from $0.5 million for shallow onshore wells to over $25 million for tests in deep water offshore.

As the well is drilling, geologists continually collect and evaluate data to see whether it conforms to their expectations based on the geological model. Eventually, they reach the rock layer where they think the trap is located.

If there is no oil or natural gas when the drill reaches the trap they were targeting, they've drilled a dry hole. At this point the explorers will evaluate why the hole is dry: was there never oil and gas here; how was the geological model wrong; and can it be improved based on what they know from the drilled well? Depending on the results of this analysis, they may tweak the exploration idea and drill another well or decide the idea failed and relinquish the lease.

If there is oil and/or natural gas, they've drilled a discovery. Typically, they will test the well to see what volumes of oil and/or natural gas flow from it. Sometimes the flow rates do not justify further expenditures and the well is abandoned. If the results are promising, they will usually drill several additional wells to better define the size and shape of the trap. All of this data improves the geological model.

Based on this revised geological model, engineers plan how to develop the new field (e.g., number of production wells to drill, construction of oil field facilities and pipelines).

Using complex economic tools, they must decide whether the revenue from the oil and natural gas sales will exceed the past and continuing expenses to decide whether it is a commercial discovery.

The process of leasing, evaluating, drilling, and developing an oil or natural gas field typically takes five to ten years. Some fields come online sooner. Others are delayed by permitting or regulatory delays or constraints in the availability of data acquisition and drilling equipment and crews. Large projects and those in deep water may require a decade or more to ramp up to full production.

As you can see, oil and natural gas exploration is not simple and it is not easy. It requires geological ingenuity, advanced technologies, and the time to do the job right. It also requires access to areas where exploration ideas can be tested—the greater the number of areas available for exploration, the higher the chance of finding oil and natural gas traps.

U.S. consumers are burdened by high crude oil prices. Conservation and efficiency improvements are necessary responses, but equally important is increasing long-term supply from stable parts of the world, such as our very own federal lands and Outer Continental Shelf.

As Congress considers measures to deal with high crude oil prices, I urge caution. Policies that increase exploration costs, decrease the available time to properly evaluate leases, and restrict access to federal lands and the Outer Continental Shelf do not provide the American people with short-term relief from high prices and undermine the goal of increasing stable long-term supplies.

I am happy to further discuss these ideas. Please contact me through our Geoscience & Energy Office in Washington, D.C. at 202–684–8225 or 202–355–3415.

Sincerely,

WILLARD R. (WILL) GREEN,
President.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) to reply.

Mr. DEFAZIO. The former Naval Petroleum Reserve has 15 billion barrels of oil under it. It was leased by President Bill Clinton in 1998. There is no pending lengthy application process for the pipeline. They have no plans to connect to the pipeline.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, would the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEFAZIO. Certainly, whatever time I have left.

Mr. UPTON. If the gentleman would yield, it is my understanding that they haven't been able to conclude the permits that would link those oil discoveries.

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) in bipartisan opposition to the bill.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise not necessarily in opposition to H.R. 6251. It is difficult to support or oppose something that is already current law. We already have use-it-or-lose-it. We have 10-year leases in this bill. That is what the law is.

Americans need Congress to look at real solutions in addressing energy needs, especially when we have $4 a gallon gas. We need answers, and not just slogans. We cannot drill our way to energy independence, we can't conserve our way, and we surely can't use alternatives to have energy independence. We need to do it all.

The legislation before us today was introduced a week ago with no committee hearings, no markups. And they raise a valid question: Are people really sitting on oil leases and not producing?

Now, there may be reasons for it, like there are not permits allowed to get it from the Navy Petroleum Reserve. I know in the Outer Continental Shelf, which I am real familiar with because it is off of Texas, a lot of those leases can't produce because there are no resources on it, but they still have that lease for 10 years.

Let me tell you, with $140 a barrel oil, everybody wants to drill everywhere that you can. But we already have 10-year leases. In fact, I would like to include for the RECORD a copy of a current lease that is from Minerals Management on section 4, diligence and rate of development. We already have a diligence requirement in the 10 year leases that are there.

What we need to do is actually do everything we can. We need to drill the leases we have, but we do need to get additional leases available in some of the most productive areas of the Outer Continental Shelf and make it available, because we need to make sure that our country is going to be energy independent and not dependent on Venezuela or Saudi Arabia or any other country. And we can do it. We have Senators going to Saudi Arabia begging for them to increase their production, but we won't increase ours in some of the most potential productive areas.

That is why we need solutions instead of slogans. That is why I have a hesitation to support the bill or oppose it, because it is already current law.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I will be glad to yield.

Mr. RAHALL. I appreciate my friend from Texas yielding.

The due diligence requirements or timeline that you asked for submission into the RECORD, that is perfectly allowed under my bill. We would not grab a lease. If a company is showing due diligence, if a company is moving toward production of oil or gas on Federal leases, we don't touch them.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I would be glad to read part of the lease for you, the fact that they can already take that lease back now under current law, if they want to.

Mr. Speaker, I include the lease section referred to earlier for the RECORD.

Sec. 4. Diligence, rate of development, unitization, and drainage—Lessee must exercise reasonable diligence in developing and producing, and must prevent unnecessary damage to, loss of, or waste of leased resources. Lessor reserves right to specify rates of development and production in the public interest and to require lessee to subscribe to a cooperative or unit plan, within 30 days of notice, if deemed necessary for proper development and operation of area, field, or pool embracing these leased lands. Lessee must drill and produce wells necessary to protect leased lands from drainage or compensatory royalty for drainage in amount determined by lessor.

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

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), our minority leader.

Mr. BOEHNER. Let me thank my colleague for yielding and tell my colleagues that in 1992 I voted for this bill. In 1992, the chairman of the committee voted for the bill. In 1992, Mr. HOYER, the majority leader, and Ms. PELOSI, the Speaker of the House, voted for the same bill. This is already the current law.

All this is is another excuse put up by the majority to not go after more American energy. That is all this is. And we have had more excuses. We going to blame it on speculators, we are going to blame it on the oil companies, we are going to blame it on OPEC, when there is only one group, only one group in this Chamber we ought to blame, and that is all the liberals in this House who have voted on for no energy each and every time over the last 18 years that I have been here.

Forty-six votes. Forty-six votes have been brought to this floor over the last 18 years that I have been here to produce more American-made energy. I voted yes 46 times out of 46. Ms. PELOSI, as an example, voted yes twice. Just twice. And how many times did the gentleman from West Virginia vote to bring more American-made energy to the market?

We are giving $600 billion a year to people in the Middle East, money that could be spent here in America if we were willing to bring more oil out of our ground in an environmentally safe way.

Republicans have put forward an all-of-the-above strategy. We need to conserve more of our energy, we need to develop biofuels, we need to develop alternative fuels, we need to have nuclear energy, and, yes, we need to produce more oil and gas here in America in an environmentally safe way. But all we get from the other side each and every time are excuses. ''Let's blame somebody else.''

We are about to go home for our Independence Day district work period. We should not leave here until we take steps that will help us move our country toward more energy independence. Not more excuses, not more posing for ''holy pictures,'' as the chairman of the Appropriations Committee would say. We need to bring bills to the floor that will actually put Members on record whether they are for more American-made energy or not.

I am willing to show my constituents how I will vote. Let's let all of America

see how our colleagues will vote, for more American made energy, which is what we need to do to bring gas prices down in America.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I would simply remind the distinguished minority leader, if my memory serves me correctly, the minority party was in control of both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue for some 6 years, both Houses of Congress. I don't recall this legislation or any serious energy policy being adopted during that time period.

Mr. Speaker, I fully agree with the minority leader about developing all of our domestic reserves. Coming from a coal area, certainly I agree with that scenario, that we need to develop all of our domestic resources, and in a nonpartisan fashion as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL).

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, July 28, 2005. The House of Representatives, one month from now will be the 3-year anniversary of the House Republican Congress passing their energy bill. The minority leader, who was just here, said at that time when gas was $2.29 a gallon, ''It will ultimately lead to lower energy prices for the consumer and will spur our economy.''

President Bush when it was signed: ''I am confident that one day Americans will look back on this bill as a vital step toward a more secure and more prosperous Nation that is less dependent on foreign sources of energy.''

We have had 3 years of your energy policy, 3 years where you promised lower prices and a spur to the economy. By any standard of the imagination, it is a failure. Not because you want it to be. You thought it was the right policy. But it was a failure.

We have today a policy, because we do not believe this is an either-or choice, between more drilling or more conservation. We think it takes both. That is why we passed the standards, which you did not after 12 years in control, to increase the fuel efficiency standards for our cars. The first time in 30 years that was done. You all voted against that in your leadership.

Second, when it comes to drilling, we do believe as it relates to the oil and gas companies who are having record profits, use it or lose it. We gave you 68 million acres of public land. I have 3 children, 11, 9 and 8. My middle one, she loves chocolate, really loves chocolate. But we have a rule in the house: You don't get your desert until you finish everything on your plate. And to the oil and gas companies that want those leases in other areas, you don't get those leases until you finish what is on your plate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Illinois has expired.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield the gentleman 30 additional seconds

Mr. EMANUEL. So see what we have done here. Not only have we given them 68 million acres with record supplies of oil and gas, you, the taxpayers, because they refused to agree to this, give them $14 billion, that is the oil companies, to drill, out of your money. $14 billion. They all vote against rescinding that and putting it towards alternatives. You give them $14 billion. You give them 68 million of acres of public land. And what is the policy? $4.08 a gallon for gas.

I say it is time for a new direction: More conservation, more drilling, use it or lose it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Ms. FALLIN. I would like to ask how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Oklahoma has 5 minutes remaining. The gentleman from West Virginia has 1 minute remaining.

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the minority whip.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for recognizing me.

I would point out to my good friend the conference chairman on the now majority side that we often passed pieces of legislation from this House that are already available to pass again today. Certainly there is no question that on the other side of this building, that legislation was often blocked. But we would like to see a comprehensive solution.

My littlest boy and my grandchildren all love Band-aids. In fact, sometimes my little boy, Charlie, will fall and bump his head, and he feels better if we put a band-aid on his arm.

I think that is kind of what we are doing here this week. We are bringing band-aids to the floor, rather than dealing with the real problem. We have got bills on the floor that say it is the people who run the service stations, and maybe there is price gouging; or it is the people who participate in the market; or it is the people who look for oil and gas.

I would suggest it may very well be the people that don't bring the legislation to the floor that would do the things that my friend from Illinois just said he was for: Production. Those bills are there. We would like to see them discharged.

We have got the No More Excuses Energy Act that the gentleman from Texas, Mr. THORNBERRY, has proposed, that would allow the kinds of production that the majority has just said they are for.

We have got a refinery siting bill that Mr. PITTS from Pennsylvania has that would allow more refinery capacity.

We have a repeal on a ban that won't let the government buy any of these alternative fuels that we are hearing are such a good idea. The very best way you can get a loan and go to the bank is if you had a government contract for coal-to-liquid jet fuel or oil shale or the tar sands. We have a Coal-to-Liquid Fuel Act that we will be trying to discharge in the future. We would like to see the real solutions come to the floor.

And on-use-it-or-lose-it, absolutely you do lose it when the lease is up. Less than 10 percent of the available land is being used now.

□ 1400

Mr. RAHALL. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentlewoman from Oklahoma.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this misguided bill. Rather than allowing us to bring forth legislation that will allow us to increase the supply of oil and gas, allow us to lower the price of gas at the pump, the Democratic leadership brings us this bill that could now halt leases for up to 3 years.

Section 2(b) of this Act would require that the Department of Interior publish within 180 days major regulations dealing with development on Federal lands. If you go look, regulations associated with the EPA Act of 2005 are still not in place, and that has been 3 years.

Furthermore, with at least two agencies, both the Minerals Management Service and the Bureau of Land Management, having to conduct separate rulemaking, I find it hard to believe that with all the public comment and lawsuits that would be associated with this, it would be impossible to meet that timetable; and that would mean a delay of 2 years or 3 years in leases.

In Louisiana, the heart of our coast relies heavily on revenues we receive from offshore activities. We have dedicated in Louisiana that revenue to restore our vanishing coast. We have lost thousands of miles of land and acres of our coast to coastal restoration, and we have dedicated our revenues from leases to coastal restoration. Those funds are desperately needed.

We cannot afford to wait to lose 3 years to have more leases. Our Nation cannot afford to lose 3 years of offshore leasing just because the Democratic leadership is trying to push legislation based on false assumptions.

We need to defeat this legislation. We need to bring forth a real plan to increase supply and lower gas prices.

Mr. RAHALL. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the remainder of our time to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 90 seconds.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, we have heard before that Big Oil is trying to gouge the consumer, and now Big Oil is down there trying to hide this stuff, in an effort to find another scapegoat or say there is a big conspiracy that is causing our problems,

rather than 30 years of failed policies on behalf of this Congress. And now we are doing this on a suspension where we have half the time to debate, no amendments are possible in an effort to stop discussion.

The fact of the matter is 68 percent of all oil leases and 87 percent of all natural gas leases are done by small companies, small companies who need to produce to put food on the table. Is it logical that they are actually part of a conspiracy to hide the oil beneath the ground? This bill is nothing more than another law with a layer of bureaucracy put on it than we already have.

But maybe, for the gentlelady of Oklahoma, maybe the Democrats have something here. Maybe we should be looking at this tactic for other areas. Like we all know 18-year-olds and women have the right to vote. Maybe we can pass another law to let them vote; this time, they can use it or lose it.

Or I know free speech is in the Constitution. Maybe we can say we all have free speech, unless we use it or lose it. I think there are some Members of this body who would never lose it. Or faith, use it or lose it. Or maybe a brain. You can use it, or you can become a Member of Congress.

What we need to do right now is to stop finding scapegoats and find solutions. This bill is not a solution.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I have said this in my opening comments and I will say it again. We on the Democratic side are not opposed to drilling. We are for drilling on leases that oil companies currently already have in hand. We are for a comprehensive energy policy, including using all of our domestic resources and our domestic willpower as an American people.

A comprehensive energy policy is something that this Congress will address using in a bipartisan fashion the talents of this body and the talents of American ingenuity and willpower.

This pending legislation is a responsible bill that seeks to say to the oil companies: Use what you already have or show where you are moving toward producing that oil; otherwise, give somebody else a chance that may want to competitively bid on that same lease.

This is a use it or lose it. And I urge a ''yes'' vote for this responsible piece of legislation.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I think it would be instructive for Members to see this letter from the national organizations representing the oil producers, oil and gas supply industries and the off shore oil and gas infrastructure supply industry; the organizations that supply domestic energy for the American consumer.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.
Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: We write today in opposition of HR 6251, the so-called ''use it or lose it'' legislation under consideration in the House today. As Americans cope with $4 a gallon gasoline, it is regrettable that some in Congress choose to propose diversionary legislation, not based on facts, instead of focusing on the real issue—the need for additional energy supplies to meet growing world energy demand.

Over the past few weeks, rhetoric surrounding our nation's lack of a coherent energy policy has reached an apex. Unfortunately, policy proposals like the ''use it or lose it'' legislation ignore fundamental facts about the oil and gas industry and jeopardize the long-term energy security of our nation.

Every energy forecast has predicted that oil and natural gas will be a critical component of America's growing energy demands. The federal Energy Information Administration (EIA) estimates 88% of our nation's energy needs will be met by oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear power in the year 2030. This fact is being lost in the proposals of some members of Congress. While political candidates talk of energy independence, some in Congress are offering proposals that will lead our nation in the opposite direction. These members ignore the challenges of domestic production, and make unfounded accusations such as the latest charge that non-producing leases are the same as inactive leases. This couldn't be further from the truth.

The U.S. oil and natural gas industry is in the business of supplying energy, not sitting on it. The industry has reliably supplied our nation with the necessary energy to move our cars and fuel our homes and will continue to do so for decades to come. The industry buys leases with the intent to produce all commercially viable reserves of oil and natural gas. Unfortunately, not every acre of land under lease contains oil or natural gas. In fact, many leases do not contain any commercially recoverable oil or natural gas resources.

But these non-commercial leases continue to provide rental payments for the federal government, on top of bonus bids paid for the right to explore this land. In fact, the federal government received more than $9 billion in bonus bids from the last four offshore lease sales alone.

For the acreage that does include promising reserve prospects, it can take years and millions, or even billions, of dollars to develop this resource. The exploration process, which precedes production, necessarily takes time. Seismic surveys must be undertaken, delineation wells must be drilled, government permits must be obtained, environmental regulations must be adhered to, and complex production facilities must be engineered and installed.

Oil and gas development is an extensive, expensive and time-consuming process, even with advances in technology. As an example, in the U.S. ultra deepwater (greater than 5000 ft) in the Gulf of Mexico—where some of our nation's most promising new discoveries have been made—only 21% of wells drilled have resulted in a discovery of oil or natural gas. However, as a result of this industry's willingness to invest billions of dollars despite these odds—and because of what has historically been a stable domestic oil and natural gas regulatory regime—the U.S. oil and gas industry has continued to explore the Gulf of Mexico. This exploration has resulted in an 820% increase in deepwater oil production and a roughly 1,155% increase in deepwater natural gas production from 1992 to 2006, while adding billions of dollars in revenue to the federal treasury.

In fact, royalty payments provide the second-largest revenue stream to the federal government, behind only federal taxes administered by the IRS.

The ability to explore in Gulf Coast waters has resulted in not only a steady stream of major discoveries since the mid 1990s, but also a tripling of estimated undiscovered potential from 1995 to 2003. Similarly, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska was initially thought to contain 9 billion barrels of oil, but the industry has already produced about 12 billion barrels and it still is estimated to contain reserves of another 6 billion barrels. Imagine what American industrial ingenuity could find through environmentally responsible exploration and development of 85% of Lower 48 Outer Continental Shelf and 83% of onshore federal lands that are currently off-limits or facing significant restrictions to development.

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, the Mineral Leasing Act, and the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands already establish a regulatory system that sets time limits on lease terms, establishes annual rental payments for leases that are not yet in production, and requires diligent development of all available resources. The current debate does not acknowledge these facts. The American public deserves a policy discussion grounded in market fundamentals.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE.
AMERICAN EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION COUNCIL.
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRILLING CONTRACTORS.
INDEPENDENT PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA.
INDEPENDENT PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION OF MOUNTAIN STATES.
NATIONAL OCEAN INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION.
U.S. OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, the administration's answer to record gas prices today is to allow drilling in Alaska's pristine wilderness and off our shorelines for little payoff a decade from now.

What they don't tell you is that big oil companies already lease 68 million acres of public lands that they are not developing. Big oil companies are sitting on 81 percent of America's Federal oil and gas reserves, but all they are producing are complaints that it's not enough.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6251—the ''use it or lose it'' bill. This legislation would compel the oil industry to start drilling on the acreage they already lease before obtaining any new leases.

Madam Speaker, if domestic drilling can bring relief to American families, what are the oil companies waiting for?

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 6251, the Democrat ''use it or lose it'' plan.

Leases and drilling permits are not awarded with any certainty that oil or gas will be found. Just because my Democrat colleagues say oil and gas is there, does not necessarily make it so. The Democrats in the majority need to stop playing geologist and start representing the American people.

Seventy-six percent of the American people believe Congress should expand domestic production. Gas prices are high because demand is greater than supply. In fact, U.S. oil production has steadily decreased since 1970.

Reports by the Bureau of Land Management and the Minerals Management Service place potential federally managed areas for oil

and gas exploration at 1.3 billion acres. Currently, only 68 million acres of Federal land are being explored for oil and gas.

This Congress should be more concerned with opening up Federal land to energy production than wasting time arguing over the 5 percent of land that is currently available.

Democrats have pushed for higher gas prices for decades. Now that they have finally succeeded, Democrats seem determined to keep them that way.

Madam Speaker, we know increasing supply will lower the price of gasoline and we have the means to do so. Drill here, drill now, pay less.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6251, the Responsible Federal Oil and Gas Lease Act.

Over the last few months we have frequently heard claims from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle that we need to open up more Federal lands to oil and gas drilling, the magic bullet that will solve our energy crisis. They have told the American people that Democrats and environmentalists are protecting our Nation's most sensitive and special environments at the expense of the American people. They have claimed that opening up land in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) would quickly help bring down the price of gas. Not only are these claims misleading American families desperately seeking help with skyrocketing gas prices, they are completely false.

Currently 81 percent of our Nation's Federal lands are available to be leased for the purpose of oil and gas drilling. Sixty-eight million acres of the lands open for drilling both onshore and offshore currently are leased by oil companies who are not using them for production. It is estimated that these leased but unused lands could produce an additional 4.8 million barrels of oil and 44.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas each day, nearly doubling U.S. oil production and cutting oil imports by a third. Existing leases can also come online much faster than any newly leased lands, which would save only pennies per gallon, more than a decade down the road.

I would like to commend my colleague from West Virginia, Representative NICK RAHALL, for introducing H.R. 6251, the Responsible Federal Oil and Gas Lease Act. This legislation would require oil companies to certify to the Department of the Interior that they are actively developing on the lands that they have already leased. If these oil companies are not producing on these lands, they either would have to relinquish these leases or start producing on them before they could apply to lease additional lands. Also my colleagues who say ''drill, drill, drill'' should support this legislation and they should stop talking about drilling on our environmentally sensitive coastlines and wildlife refuges until oil companies have gone as far as they can towards on these currently leased lands.

This legislation is common sense and I urge my colleagues to support it. There is no logic to opening up more land to oil and gas drilling when we are not utilizing the leases we already have. Of course this legislation is not a long term solution to America's energy needs. Currently we produce 3 percent of the world's oil and consume 25 percent. Unless we find a way to dramatically reduce our consumption we will never be able to drill our way to energy independence. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to develop a long term solution to this crisis.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I will vote for this bill.

In recent days, discussion of the bill has included statements—by some supporters and some opponents alike—that I found exaggerated in their descriptions of the likely effect of its enactment. I regret that, and think it would be better to avoid the ''use it or lose it'' rhetoric that oversimplifies the issue and fails to reflect the reality that oil and gas exploration is a complicated commercial and scientific enterprise involving efforts not easily fitting within strict regulatory timelines.

But while the bill may not be as far-reaching as some have claimed, I think it is a reasonable response to current conditions and should be passed.

In essence, the bill would bar the current holders of Federal mineral leases—whether for onshore or offshore areas—from obtaining additional leases unless they are able to show that they are ''diligently developing'' the leases they already hold. The Secretary of the Interior would be responsible for spelling out in regulations exactly what would be needed to show such ''due diligence.''

Current Interior Department regulations include provisions addressing due diligence requirements, so this is not a new concept. But I think giving it greater emphasis is appropriate in view of the continuing importance of oil even as we work to increase the availability and use of alternative energy sources.

More useful in terms of energy policy, this bill will reinforce the provisions of current law that aim to prevent hoarding of leases, and by providing an incentive for relinquishment of some leases may increase the opportunity for others to seek and obtain the right to explore for and perhaps produce oil or gas from those lands.

This approach is similar to that taken when Congress amended the coal-leasing laws by passing the Coal Leasing Act Amendments of 1976 over President Ford's veto. That 1976 legislation provided for a due-diligence requirement as part of a comprehensive overhaul of the laws governing leasing and development of federally owned coal resources—a provision that some analysts have said had the most immediate practical effect of any of the legislation's various provisions.

As a result, for several decades the holders of Federal coal leases have been required by law to diligently develop their leases, which has aided in the orderly and efficient development of the Nation's coal. I think a similar reinforcement of existing law for leasing of other Federal energy resources makes sense.

This bill alone is certainly not all that needs to be done to improve our energy policies. But I think it can make at least a modest contribution to achieving that, and so I will support it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6251, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PERMISSION TO CONSIDER AS ADOPTED MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to suspend the rules relating to the following measures be considered as adopted in the form considered by the House on Tuesday June 24, 2008:

House Resolution 1294, House Concurrent Resolution 163, House Resolution 353, House Resolution 1231, H.R. 2245, H.R. 4264, H.R. 4918, House Resolution 1271, House Concurrent Resolution 370, House Concurrent Resolution 195, House Resolution 970, House Concurrent Resolution 365.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, sundry motions to reconsider are laid on the table and titles are amended as applicable.

There was no objection.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today on a motion offered pursuant to this order, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Monday, June 30, 2008, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in House Concurrent Resolution 379, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION TO REDUCE TIME FOR ELECTRONIC VOTING DURING PROCEEDINGS TODAY

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during proceedings today in the House and in the Committee of the Whole, the Chair may be authorized to reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any question that otherwise could be subjected to 5-minute voting under clause 8 or 9 of rule XX or under clause 6 of rule XVIII.

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

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks, and include extraneous material on H.R. 6052.

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

There was no objection.

SAVING ENERGY THROUGH PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1304 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 6052.

□ 1408

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 6052) to promote increased public transportation use, to promote increased use of alternative fuels in providing public transportation, and for other purposes, with Ms. DEGETTE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 6052, the Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008.

The purpose of the bill, very simply stated, is to promote energy savings for all Americans by increasing use of public transportation throughout this country, a fact that has been a need, let us say, that has been driven home dramatically by $4 a gallon oil and gasoline prices since Memorial Day, and I thank the Speaker and majority leader for making time for us to bring this bill to the House Floor.

Basic law of economics is that the price of gas is a two-part equation: Supply and demand. Demand is a critical factor in the cost of oil, and decreasing demand is one of the most immediate ways we can attack the high cost of gasoline prices. And our fellow citizens understand this. They are making choices. They have been making choices for several years.

Over the last 3 years, in particular, there has been growth of 1 million new riders a day on public transportation systems across America, for 375 million new transit trips nationwide last year, a total of 10.3 billion transit trips throughout the country.

There was a time when New York City accounted for 60 percent of all transit trips in the United States, but no longer. In the last 3 years, New York's share of transit ridership nationwide has slipped to 38 percent, not because New Yorkers are riding transit less; they are riding more. But more Americans have found their way to public transportation, and increasingly in droves since the skyrocketing price of gasoline.

Transit systems throughout the United States have found every new transit project, every new light rail project has more than tripled its original projections of ridership nationwide.

Innovative cities like Denver under then-Mayor Wellington Webb, said: Ride our transit system free in the center city. Keep your pollution out of the center city. Ride the transit system free. And it has been an enormous boost and benefit to the city of Denver.

I can and I will cite some very specific ridership improvements in my own State. In Minneapolis, the Hiawatha light rail, 20 years in the waiting, finally was constructed; ridership opened, and 9 months later, 10 months ahead of schedule, they achieved their 10 millionth rider. Dramatic improvements.

Seattle, Dallas-Fort Worth, San Francisco all have similar increases in transit ridership. The Charlotte Area Transit System recently opened a new light rail line. They have increased ridership 34 percent from February of last year to February of this year.

CalTran, the commuter rail line that serves the San Francisco Peninsula and Santa Clara Valley, set a record for average weekday ridership in February of this year with a 9.3 percent increase over last year.

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, my good friend, the ranking member, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) knows well, posted a rise of more than 20 percent ridership from Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach in March and April of this year as compared to last year.

Americans are making the choice. They have decided. We need to help them with that choice. And the bill before us will make a huge step in that direction.

This legislation provides substantial support for States and public transportation agencies increasing incentives for computers to make their choice to ride transit: 1.7 billion, 2 years for transit agencies that are reducing transit fares or expanding the services to meet the needs of growing transit commuters. We increase the Federal share for clean fuel and alternative fuel transit bus, ferry, and locomotive related equipment or facilities, helping transit agencies become more fuel efficient.

□ 1415

In fiscal years 2008 and 2009, the increased Federal share for these activities will go from 90 percent to 100 percent of the net capital cost of the project.

We also provide authority to extend the Federal transit pass benefit program which has operated over the past few years on a pilot basis in the National Capital Region and in a few selected areas throughout the country. After evaluating the transit pass program, the U.S. Department of Transportation recommended that it be expanded nationwide. We do that in this legislation. There was an executive order signed by President Clinton in 2000 that launched this initiative. It was supported in the SAFETEA legislation. The 3-year pilot program under our legislation would be substantially expanded nationwide.

The Department of Transportation says that expanding this program will implement their own department recommendation by giving more Federal employees incentives to choose transit options. And we also create a pilot program to allow the funding expended by private providers of public transportation for van pools to acquire the vans to be used as their non-Federal share for matching Federal transit funds in five community pilot projects. Under current law, only public funds can be used as the local match. This pilot program will induce private funds to participate in the van pooling initiative.

I would observe we had a very successful van pooling program in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area in the mid-1980s when companies like 3M, Control Data, and Minneapolis Honeywell bought the vans for their employees and provided a fuel subsidy and encouraged their employees to join together. The vans were full. The program was successful. It cut down on congestion in the greater metropolitan Twin City area, and reduced cost for all of the riders. We should do that nationally, and we provide further authority to make that change and to take that initiative.

There are other provisions in this bill that are important, and I will submit those for the RECORD, but I want to close this part of my remarks with an observation by Paul Weyrich in a very thoughtful publication, Free Congress Foundation. ''Does Transit Work: A Conservative Reappraisal.'' It begins, ''The first recorded example of mass transportation was the movement of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. At that time, 100 percent of the population was moved at once in a single trip; a record never equaled since.'' Then he says, ''According to most studies of mass transit, it has gone straight downhill from there.''

Well, we are on the way up and we are going to lift mass transit and speed its acceptance and its use by the public with the legislation that we bring before you today.

Toward that purpose, I express my great appreciation to the gentleman from Florida, the ranking member, Mr. MICA, for the partnership he has engaged in with us and for the thoughtful, constructive suggestions he has made every step of the way. I appreciate very much the gentleman's participation.

Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6052, the "Saving Energy

Through Public Transportation Act of 2008''. This bill promotes energy savings for all Americans by increasing public transportation use in the United States.

As gas prices have skyrocketed past $4 per gallon since Memorial Day, everyone is talking about how we need more oil. I thank the Speaker and the Majority Leader for scheduling today's bill, H.R. 6052, so that we can also talk about using less.

Let us all remember the basic law of economics that the price of gas is a two-part equation: supply and demand. Demand is a critical factor in the cost of oil, and decreasing demand is one of the most immediate ways that we can tackle the high cost of gas.

Americans understand this. They are making choices today that are decreasing our global demand for oil. We're seeing record ridership on public transportation all across the country, as well as decreases in the number of miles traveled in cars, SUVs, and pickup trucks. Without doubt, many Americans are making these choices based on the economic hardship caused by the high price of gas. However, in my discussions with constituents in my district and people across the country, Americans are also considering transit alternatives because they're sick and tired of knowing that our great nation imports 60 percent of its oil, much of it from the Persian Gulf.

As a result, across America, public transportation has experienced a renaissance in big cities, suburban communities, and small towns. In 2007, Americans took more than 10.3 billion trips on public transportation, the highest level in 50 years. In the first quarter of 2008, commuters took more than 2.6 billion transit trips nationwide, an increase of 3.3 percent over the first quarter of 2007.

Now that the price of gas has surpassed $4 a gallon, even more commuters are choosing to ride the train or the bus to work rather than drive alone in their cars. Public transit systems in metropolitan areas are reporting increases in ridership of five, ten, and even 15 percent over last year's figures. Light rails saw the largest jump in ridership with a 10 percent increase to 110 million trips in the first quarter. Some of the biggest increases in ridership are occurring in many areas in the South and West where new bus and light rail lines have been built in the last few years.

In Denver, for example, ridership was up eight percent in the first three months of 2008 compared with last year, and Minneapolis, Seattle, Dallas-Fort Worth, and San Francisco all reported similar increases. The Charlotte Area Transit System, which recently opened a new light rail line, has increased ridership more than 34 percent from February 2007 to February 2008. Caltrain, the commuter rail line that serves the San Francisco Peninsula and the Santa Clara Valley, set a record for average weekday ridership in February with a 9.3 percent increase over 2007. The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, which operates a commuter rail system from Miami to Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, posted a rise of more than 20 percent in ridership in March and April as compared to the same time last year.

Madam Chairman, Americans are proving that riding transit is an easy, immediate, and important part of the solution to decreasing our demand for foreign oil. However, meeting this impressive new demand for public transportation services is no small task for our transit agencies. With these record-breaking numbers of commuters riding transit, many of our nation's transit systems are busting at the seams. In addition, the cost of fuel and power for public transportation providers has sharply increased, compounding costs of serving all of these new transit riders.

Currently, public transportation reduces gas consumption by 1.4 billion gallons a year (3.9 million gallons per day), which equates to more than 33 million barrels of oil. It's equal to 108 million fewer cars filling up year.

Although those fuel savings are incredible, we can do better, and we must.

H.R. 6052 provides much needed support to states and public transportation agencies and also increases incentives for commuters to choose transit options, thereby reducing their transportation-related energy consumption and our nation's reliance on foreign oil.

To increase public transportation use across the United States, H.R. 6052 authorizes $1.7 billion in funding over two years for transit agencies nationwide that are temporarily reducing transit fares or expanding transit services to meet the needs of the growing number of transit commuters. It is important to note that the funds authorized by this bill will be distributed to States and local communities in the same manner as they currently receive Federal transit urban and rural formula funds. However, in an effort to provide transit choices to smaller urban and rural areas, which may not currently have any transit service, this bill specifically increases the relative share of the transit funds that will be going to the rural areas.

H.R. 6052 also increases the Federal share for clean fuel and alternative fuel transit bus, ferry, or locomotive-related equipment or facilities, thereby assisting transit agencies in becoming more fuel efficient. In fiscal years 2008 and 2009, the increased Federal share for these activities is 100 percent of the net capital cost of the project.

H.R. 6052 also extends the Federal transit pass benefits program to require that all Federal agencies offer transit passes to Federal employees throughout the United States. Current law requires that all Federal agencies within the National Capital Region implement a transit pass fringe benefits program and offer employees transit passes.

Data from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority covering the first three years of the National Capital Region transit pass program show that more than 15,500 automobiles were eliminated from roads in the Washington, DC area as a result of Federal employees shifting their travel mode away from single occupancy vehicle (''SOV'') use to public transportation use for commuting to work. DOT estimated the energy savings from this mode shift included the reduction of more than eight million gallons of gasoline for each of the three years that they studied. DOT also studied the results of a nationwide pilot program and found that, within the three agencies, 11 percent of the participants shifted their travel mode away from SOV use to public transportation use for commuting to work, again producing marked energy savings.

The Department of Transportation has determined that both the National Capital Region transit benefits program and the nationwide pilot program produce marked energy and emissions savings, congestion reductions, and cleaner air, and recommends that the transit pass benefits program be extended to Federal employees nationwide. This provision will implement the Department's recommendation by providing more Federal employees the incentives to choose transit options, thereby reducing their transportation-related energy consumption and reliance on foreign oil.

H.R. 6052 also creates a pilot program to allow the amount expended by private providers of public transportation by vanpool for the acquisition of vans to be used as the non-Federal share for matching Federal transit funds in five communities. Under current law, only local public funds may be used as local match; this pilot program would allow private funds to be used in limited circumstances. The Department of Transportation will implement and oversee the vanpool pilot projects, and will report back to Congress on the costs, benefits, and efficiencies of the vanpool projects.

Finally, H.R. 6052 increases the Federal share for additional parking facilities at end-of-line fixed guideway stations. This provision increases the total number of transit commuters who will have access to those facilities.

Public transportation use in all of its forms—bus, rail, vanpool, ferry, streetcar, and subways to name a few—saves fuel and reduces our dependence on foreign oil. As such, increasing public transportation use by providing incentives for commuters to choose transit options is a priority of this Congress.

Given the price of gas, Americans are more focused on the costs of commuting than at any time in recent history. And they want choices. We need to provide them. With passage of this bill, we have an opportunity to provide transit choices that will change the way that Americans travel.

The impact of such changes on our nation's dependence on foreign oil would be extraordinary. According to a recent study, if Americans used public transit at the same rate as Europeans—for roughly 10 percent of their daily travel needs—the United States could reduce its dependence on imported oil by more than 40 percent, nearly equal to the 550 million barrels of crude oil that we import from Saudi Arabia each year.

That's the difference this bill can help make.

I strongly support H.R. 6052, the ''Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008'', and urge my colleagues to do the same.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, June 3, 2008.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportaiton and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OBERSTAR: I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to the consideration of H.R. 6052, the Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008, which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on May 14, 2008.

In the interest of expediting consideration of H.R. 6052, the Oversight Committee will not separately consider this legislation. The Oversight Committee does so, however, with the understanding that this does not prejudice the Committee's jurisdictional interests and prerogatives regarding this bill or similar legislation.

I respectfully request your support for the appointment of outside conferees from the

Oversight Committee should H.R. 6052 or a similar Senate bill be considered in conference with the Senate. I also request that you include our exchange of letters on this matter in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Report on H.R. 6052 or in the Congressional Record during consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, June 3, 2008.

Hon. HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WAXMAN: I write to you regarding H.R. 6052, the ''Saving Energy through Public Transportation Act of 2008''.

I appreciate your willingness to waive rights to further consideration of H.R. 6052, notwithstanding the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Of course, this waiver does not prejudice any further jurisdictional claims by your Committee over this legislation or similar language. Furthermore, I agree to support your request for appointment of conferees from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform if a conference is held on this matter.

This exchange of letters will be placed in the Committee report and inserted in the Congressional Record as part of the consideration of H.R. 6052 on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR, M.C.
Chairman.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chairman, I want to thank our chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, my Democrat counterpart, Mr. OBERSTAR, for his work on this piece of legislation that does deal with some of the issues that we are facing right now and follows some of the discussions that we have had on the floor relating to energy and energy conservation.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has a very small piece of the puzzle, but it is nonetheless an important piece and we have tried to exercise our jurisdictional responsibility in coming forth with this, again, small piece of the puzzle.

This bill does provide for expansion of some of the transit grants around the country, and I think that there are some beneficial provisions for those in rural areas, suburban areas, and for much of the public that relies on public transportation.

This bill further does allow sort of an unprecedented ability to use some of the money traditionally used for projects to assist some of the local transit authorities that are suffering now with high fuel costs. Just like the average family is suffering with high fuel costs, transit agencies have also experienced the same problem. They are cutting back on services, sometimes when people really need to have an option and don't have that option, by cutting out routes, and that has been announced even in my area. So I think we are doing a responsible thing.

This is a 2-year authorization. It is an expansion of the authorization of $1.7 billion that does give some of the folks on my side some hiccups, but it is authorization, it is not appropriation and each Member is going to have to judge their support or opposition based on the final product. But I have joined Chairman OBERSTAR in support of this authorizing bill. I think again it fills our small piece of the puzzle.

I did want to take just a minute or two, I didn't get a chance to speak on the rule or on the energy legislation that was before the House earlier, and there was quite a bit of banter. And some people were bashing the President and this administration for not having a plan. In fact, someone said he didn't recall a plan, which is kind of funny.

I am very fortunate to have outstanding staff, but this summer I also have some outstanding interns. They come from all over the country to Congress, and I have gotten some from my district and elsewhere. So you have a little more staff to do research rather than just keep on the track that we are on here every day. I said wasn't there a Bush plan? And all be darned, there was a Bush energy plan. So I had a little research done on that.

Lo and behold, very shortly into his term, it was May 17, 2001, the President of the United States, George Bush, just a few months into office, he set two major priorities, one being education. You remember on 9/11 he was in a Florida classroom talking about his plan to improve education. But even before that, in May as one of his first priorities, he announced his plan. He announced his plan actually in the home State of the chairman, in St. Paul, Minnesota. On that day when he announced it he said, ''If we fail to act, our country will become more reliant on foreign crude oil, putting our national energy security into the hands of foreign nations, some of whom do not share our interests.''

On that same day when he announced his plan, he said regarding part of his plan, ''We will underwrite research and development into energy-saving technology. It'll require manufacturers to build more energy-efficient appliances. We will review and remove obstacles that prevent business from investing in energy-efficient technologies.''

Furthermore, President Bush said, ''The second part of our energy plan will be to expand and diversify our Nation's energy supplies. America today imports,'' and now this is May of 2001, ''America today imports 52 percent of all of our oil. If we don't take action, those imports will only grow. As long as cars and trucks run on gasoline, we will need oil, and we should produce more of it at home.''

The President called for burning coal more cleanly, expanding nuclear power, and drilling for new oil in new places, that included the Arctic area in Alaska. The President said that is banned now, but the President said it can be done safely.

Listen to this one. This is the President in St. Paul. ''ANWR can produce 600,000 barrels of oil a day for the next 40 years. What difference does 600,000 barrels a day make? Well, that happens to be exactly the amount we import from Saddam Hussein's Iraq. We're not just short of oil; we're short of the refineries that turn oil into fuel. So while the rest of our economy is functioning at 82 percent of capacity, our refineries are gasping at 96 percent of capacity.''

That was part of the President's plan, and how prophetic could you be. This was before 9/11. This was in May of 2001, announcing his plan.

I can't take up all of the time, but I have Mr. Gephardt's response: Congress will take action to stop them. Mr. KERRY vowed to filibuster, and the Sierra Club is already running ads against it. Those were some of the responses.

It is interesting how quickly we forget that there have been plans, and those plans could have made a big difference.

Here today we are trying in a bipartisan fashion to make a small difference to give some of our Federal employees outside the Capital Beltway the opportunity to have the same transit advantages and payments that we give within the Beltway to Federal employees outside, expand some of the grants for transit, and also help some of those transit operations that are suffering like the American family is with cutbacks because of high fuel costs.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Chairman, I yield myself 15 seconds to just remind my good friend that the bill before us is not ANWR or the other subjects. It is about moving people more efficiently with lower costs and lower energy consumption. I think we do ourselves service by sticking to the subject matter at hand.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) who as chair of the Surface Subcommittee has held 22 hearings on the future of transportation in America and has done a superb service for the Nation.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank the gentleman of the full committee for his outstanding work over the many years for transit. How prophetic many of his positions have been. I remember during the last reauthorization fighting to just get a tiny bit more for transit. We didn't get what we wanted and said we would need, but we did get a little more, despite a particular opposition from a number of Republican Senators.

We are loving our transit systems to death today. Americans of necessity, or with changes in life-style, are flocking

onto mass transit at record rates, rates not seen in half a century in the United States of America. That's the good news.

The bad news is so many Americans are flooding onto our transit systems, the most in 50 years, that our transit systems are having to curtail service and cut routes. There is something very wrong with this picture.

At the very time that the American people are demanding an alternative because they can't afford the $4.50 a gallon for their car or they are tired of the congestion and commute, which have not yet been effectively dealt with because of our lack of investment in other infrastructure, they are turning to transit as an alternative.

But transit is confronted with, if it is a bus, a doubling of the cost of diesel. And other modes that are electrically driven have seen their energy costs go up. But beyond that, the rate of utilization, the people crushing on, are wearing the equipment out even faster and we haven't been keeping up with the replacement cycle because of the under-investment in the system.

I was talking to someone who came in from Rockville today. They said you wouldn't believe how packed it was. I said I think we are going to have to adopt the Japanese system where we hire little guys with white gloves to start pushing people onto our Metro cars, or our MAX cars in Oregon, because there are so many people who want to get on, we have to utilize what isn't enough capacity.

So this bill is the first, little, baby, incremental step to giving some assistance to those transit agencies who want to give assistance to an American public that is hurting because of failed energy policies.

I am not going to re-debate the energy policies with the gentleman from Florida, but that was an incredibly creative recapitulation of the failed energy policies of the Bush-Cheney administration over the last 6 years.

□ 1430

So we need now to deal with some of the results of those failures.

And we've debated other bills to help provide relief to the American consumers there. But here we have to provide relief and help to our transit agencies who are going to extend a hand to our American commuters and families. Unfortunately, this is, as yet, only a promise. It's an authorization. And the budget is a little tight around here unless you're one to fund a war with emergency funding. The President won't declare a transit emergency, I don't think. Maybe we can get him to do that. But we need to get some funding and flesh out the bones of this bill.

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) 2½ minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I have been sitting down here and listening for about a couple of hours to the debate on the whole question of energy, and I would like to, from my perspective, tell you what I have gleaned from this debate.

First of all, Americans are suffering. That is a fact. The price of gasoline is too high. Another fact is that everything that is associated or has anything to do with transportation is being affected, and the prices are going up for groceries, for everything. And the American people are suffering.

I'm very concerned about the future of our economy if we don't get more oil and gas to market.

Now, a while ago, the chairman of the previous committee said that we're importing 61 percent of our oil, up from about 48 percent some time ago. This was the chairman on the Democrat side. I would agree with that. We are importing 61 percent, up about 13 percent from what we did a couple of years ago. The reason is we're not drilling enough here in America. We're not producing enough in America, and we're buying it from Saudi Arabia, from Venezuela and other parts of the world.

We need to move towards energy independence, and if we don't, I predict we're going to have severe, severe economic problems over the next few years. We could have a major economic recession or depression if we don't get control of our energy prices because it's going to spread into every other area of our lives. And the American people, I think, sense that. And that's why I said to my colleagues, Go home and talk to your friends and neighbors at the gas station and ask them, Do you want to get the gas prices down, or do you want to make sure that we don't drill in America, that we're more concerned about environmental concerns than we are of taking care of our economy?

Obviously we want a better economy or better environmental situation. We want to go to alternative fuels. We want to do all of those things. Clean air, clean water. But at the same time, we don't want the entire economy of the United States to go down the tubes. And unless we get that energy independence by drilling here at home, that's a very real risk. We could have a real severe economic downturn.

Fact: Prices are too high. Fact: It's hurting our entire economy. Fact: We have enough oil and gas in oil shale to make us energy independent if we get it out of the ground and out of the ocean into the market. Fact: 68 percent of oil well explorers are small companies. That's been brought out here today. And 87 percent of gas producers are small businesses. We talk about these permits. Why would they not want us to drill? It's their livelihood.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. MICA. Madam Chairman, I yield 1 additional minute.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Why would these oil producers and gas producers not want to drill?

So I think it's a bogus argument to say, Hey, they're holding these permits and not drilling. They want to make money, and if they don't drill, they're not going to make money.

In fact, 97 percent of the Continental Shelf and 94 percent of onshore areas are exempt from drilling, and the oil's there, the gas is there, and the coal shale is there; and we're not doing a darn thing about it, and we are arguing about it. There has to be a bipartisan move to solve this problem. It ain't gonna solve itself, and the American people continue to suffer.

So I would like to say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, let's sit down and work this out because if we don't, everybody is going to suffer, and this blame game ain't solving anything.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished Chair of the Subcommittee on FEMA and Economic Development and other related subjects, the distinguished gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. I owe the chairman and the ranking member many thanks for today's bill. I appreciate that you have worked together on it, and I appreciate that you have brought forward the only available remedy for driving down $4-a-gallon gas.

Sometimes, Madam Speaker, the remedy is so obvious that we can't see it. But who has made us see it are the American people because they have found that remedy, and they are leading the way. That's why this bill is on the floor today, notwithstanding the leadership of a chairman, who for a long time has wanted to pass this bill.

I have great respect for our ranking member. But the fact is that wherever you stand on offshore or in Alaska, this is the only way to have an effect tomorrow. And that is what the American people are saying: Don't tell me about digging. Don't tell me about drilling. Tell me that I can get to work tomorrow. There is only one ''tomorrow'' remedy, and that is this public transportation remedy.

Moreover, we know what to do. What makes me want to cry is the Federal Government has done it to a fare-thee-well with incentives right here in the national Capital area where more than half of the Federal presence is located for decades because we've been giving financial incentives to Federal employees to hop on the metro and to hop on buses to get to work instead of taking to the roads. And boy, they've done it.

That's why I thank this House for last year authorizing a bill that will help us take care of the capital costs because Federal employees have hopped the metro and bus so that they've broken down our own metro.

But Madam Chair, small communities and a lot of others don't have their metro, their subway. Guess what they are doing? They are hopping on buses. They are crowding on buses. They understand there is only one way to defeat gas prices tomorrow, and that is public transportation.

I am very pleased that this bill leads by example because what we have done for a long time in the national Capital region in offering incentives to Federal employees will now be available to Federal employees countrywide. Everywhere in the United States Federal employees will get this incentive. When you consider that we're talking about more than a million employees, we're going to have an effect there.

If you need any further proof, look at what the American people have done in leading us to this point. This is 2008. In less than a year, they have already dropped 100 million miles that they were driving before that. Where have those miles gone? The same people have taken more than 85 million more trips on public transportation. There's the proof. The proof is that people have voted in the best way to do it, crowd the trains, make it happen. Now we're going to make it possible so that they don't have to crowd, so that we're partnering with local jurisdictions, in fact, to help them to do it.

We say to the American people today, we hear you, we're following you with this bill.

Mr. MICA. Madam Chairman, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

Mr. KIRK. Madam Chairman, as the gas prices continue to rise, the most effective and immediate way to offer relief is to provide incentives for mass transit use. According to a study published by the American Public Transportation Association, public transportation use saves an annual 1.4 billion gallons of gasoline, almost 4 million gallons per day. Factoring in the national average of gas at $4 a gallon, it saves consumers nearly $16 million a day in gas costs.

Now, I support our public transportation system, and I'm pleased to support an extensive grant program to help expand transit use across the country. But I am disappointed in this bill because it only requires that Federal employees be offered transit benefits. While I support expanding the current transit benefit program, all Americans should have this benefit.

Now, more than a month ago, Congressmen LIPINSKI and BIGGERT and I introduced bipartisan legislation, the Creating Opportunities to Motivate Mass-transit Utilization to Encourage Ridership Act, the Commuter Act of 2008. Our legislation offers employers a 50 percent tax credit for all transit benefits provided to employees. And under its provisions, employees would receive up to $1,380 in free mass-transit funds this year, with the employer receiving a $690 tax credit.

According to Forbes, the average gasoline costs in the ten worst commuter cities is $6.35 per day. Should businesses take advantage of this incentive, they would save their employees $1,600 per year. As family budgets tighten, an extra $1,600, or if there's two commuters, $3,200 would really ease burdens of health care and education. Such a benefit should also include Americans who are not lucky enough to have a Federal job.

I support H.R. 6052, but I'm surprised that this bill stands for the principle that if the taxpayer already pays your salary, we will help you more. But what if you're not lucky enough to have a government-paid position? Under this bill, you're out of luck. But under our bipartisan Commuter Act, you would have this benefit, too.

To help commuters, we should pass the bipartisan Commute Act to help all communities to really lower the gas bill of the United States and not just offer assistance to people already paid by the Feds.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute.

The gentleman made a thoughtful observation, and I'm sure the gentleman is aware that there already is a tax exemption in Federal code for private sector employers and employees. But that doesn't apply to the Federal government or to other governmental agencies because they don't have a tax. So the transit benefit for Federal employees is a matter that we could do within the context of the current bill.

In the longer term, next year, when we consider the longer-term authorization, the gentleman's suggestion would be an appropriate matter for consideration. We will have better figures which we're requesting now from public agencies for those matters.

Mr. KIRK. If the gentleman will yield.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. KIRK. The gentleman is a very good chairman of the Transportation Committee. I know he wants to go in the right direction. I just wish we had gotten exactly where he wants to go a little faster today, and I thank the gentleman.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I wish we could have, too, but we didn't have good numbers to see what those costs might be.

Madam Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), a representative of the beautiful Sonoma Valley.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I want to thank Mr. OBERSTAR and Mr. MICA for this piece of legislation because, Madam Chairman, it's going to take a big change in how we do business if our country is going to meet our energy demands for the future.

While the Republicans in Congress and President Bush chant ''drill, drill, drill'' to appease, it appears, their big oil buddies, the truth is we can't drill our way out of this problem. What we need is a commonsense solution, solutions like the bill before us today. H.R. 6052 won't solve all of our problems, but it does start the process of getting people to change their habits and get out of their cars by providing them options of transportation that allow them to get to where they're going without driving solo in their cars.

It's steps like this that can make a big difference because public transportation is going to play a huge role in solving our energy problems. It will also make a difference in what is going on in our environment. It will help communities not have to build more and more roads, and it will get people where they're going in a very efficient way.

Madam Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, to support the expansion of public transportation.

□ 1445

Mr. MICA. I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the T&I Committee, the gentleman from beautiful southwest Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

Mr. BOUSTANY. I thank my friend, the ranking member, and I thank the committee.

I think this is a good bill. I rise in support of it, but I want to emphasize that this is really just a short-term relief in what we need to do. We have to do a whole lot more, and we could do a whole lot more.

This will provide short-term relief in public transit for those who use it, but short of a comprehensive policy that involves short-term solutions, mid-term and long-term, this isn't going to get us anywhere near to what we need to do to solve our energy problems.

I want to focus on one issue. I mean, clearly, we have to increase supply, and it can be done in an environmentally responsible way. We've shown that in my State of Louisiana.

We should lift this moratorium on the Outer Continental Shelf, and that's one way that we can really move things forward quickly.

I would emphasize that, in the cumulative debate that's gone on today, there's been some misinformation because Louisiana delegations, in a bipartisan way over the years, over the last decade-and-a-half, have fought to open the Outer Continental Shelf and provide Outer Continental Shelf revenue-sharing so that the States could also get some of this revenue to rebuild their infrastructure. This is a sensible way. We have fought for this, and we've been blocked by the other side consistently in this.

I also want to point out with regard to the use-it-or-lose-it issue, it's very expensive, and companies cannot even get the permitting to assess with seismic what we know to be these reserves or what we think are reserves. We don't have definite information. A lot of that information is 10, 20, 30 years old, if we even have information.

I would say that it costs somewhere between $1 and $5 million just to get the permit to do seismic. Then you have to get the lease. That's another anywhere from $11 to over $200 million to secure these leases. Then you go into seismic, and that can be very expensive. And those cumulative costs continue to add. By the time you actually get to a point where you can drill

a well where you have known reserves, you're talking years down the line, and typically, it is not unusual for the costs to be up in billions, $1.5 billion.

That's why it's important to lift this moratorium. Let's move forward. Let's have a comprehensive energy policy that's not only focused on supply and increasing exploration and production in an environmentally sensitive way, but also focuses on renewables and alternatives, nuclear and the others.

Mr. OBERSTAR. How much time remains on both sides, Madam Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Minnesota has 11¾ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Florida has 15 minutes remaining.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Oregon, a long-time proponent of and advocate for and practitioner of public transportation, a man who saves 8 barrels of oil a year by consuming 86,000 calories on his bike.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy as I appreciate his leadership.

It's interesting for us to hear from some of our friends on the other side of the aisle, my good friend from Florida, recounting sort of the history of the Bush administration leadership on energy. I have a slightly different recollection of that.

One of the first things this administration did when they came to power was to create 7 years ago a secret task force. They never really fully released what was going on or why, but we know that it was dominated by representatives of the industry. And the Secretary of Energy in March of 2005 indicated that 95 percent of the objectives of the task force were completed. And then 35 months ago, on the floor of the House, we passed their big picture energy bill when they controlled everything, House, Senate, White House, and it was going to envision great changes for all American families.

Well, all American families have had some significant changes since the Republican energy bill was passed. Most significant is that gasoline prices have gone from $2.49 a gallon to over $4 a gallon. The changes about altered conservation, for instance, have come over the objections of our friends in the Republican party. Remember, for years, they made it illegal even to study increasing CAFE standards, and lo and behold, now George Bush is claiming credit for what we forced him to do for the first time in 30 years, increasing those fuel standards. But even if we give him credit for going to 35 miles to the gallon standard, it took George Bush longer to get to that 35 miles to a gallon than it took Jack Kennedy to get Americans to the moon.

This legislation is part of a comprehensive approach. You've seen it come to pass from our first days in Democratic control in this Congress, where we provided more incentives for new sources of energy, where we've worked to shift incentives from massive oil companies who didn't need our tax dollars. Remember, George Bush said they didn't need subsidies at $50 a barrel. Well, Big Oil didn't need it at $100 per barrel or $140, but that shift to alternative energy support was resisted by the administration and by my Republican colleagues.

We have systematically moved forward in areas to give more choices to Americans. I heard my friend from Louisiana talk about how it costs money to explore the 68 million acres already available to them. Gee, ExxonMobil spent $36 billion last year, not in alternative energy, that was $10 million, but to buy back their own stock.

Let's get a grip. It's time for us to move forward with choices that will make a difference. This legislation will make a difference for every community, rural and urban, around the country. I urge its adoption.

Mr. MICA. Madam Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time at this time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. We have several speakers, Madam Chairman, who have not arrived yet, and does the gentleman from Florida have other speakers?

Mr. MICA. Madam Chairman, I'm in the same situation that the gentleman from Minnesota is.

Mr. OBERSTAR. If the gentleman will yield back the balance of his time, we will yield the balance of our time.

Mr. MICA. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Well, again, I have to compliment Mr. OBERSTAR, and folks have to look at what we're doing here this afternoon. This is the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. We can't solve all the energy issues. We have a very small piece, and we're trying to take care of that small piece here today.

We don't get into some of the other issues that have been raised, but I must say that I'm going to be going back to Florida tomorrow, and I'll be talking to folks. And you know, it doesn't take you long to talk to folks at home and have them get your attention. And they are getting our attention by saying, what are you doing about $4 a gallon gasoline, what are you doing about energy costs that are soaring, what are you doing about the price of food and other things that are being affected by energy costs.

The people who are on a limited income, God bless them. I don't know how they're making it, or a fixed income, with the prices that they see both at the pump, at the store, in their lives. They want answers.

I'm sorry that some of the other committees are not acting and the Congress is not acting like the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, because when I go home I have to tell them that how things are left in their Congress was that we took care of a small piece. We provided transit grants for those Federal employees working outside of the Beltway. We provided additional grants through eight transit companies who are hurting because of increased fuel costs and trying to expand transit service that people are becoming reliant on now because of the high cost of fuel. But I can't tell them that I've done anything about supply, that, again, the supply has been cut off.

I even agree with the child that's crying in the gallery. People are not happy about this. They want a response from this Congress, and this Congress has the ability to act to increase the supplies so we're not reliant on reliable friends like Venezuela, the sheiks and leaders in the Middle East, and that dependable source of energy, Nigeria.

Folks, that isn't going to cut it for an answer when we get home, and this isn't complicated. It's a question of Economics 101. This is a question of supply and demand. Right now, in the short-term, we need to increase supply. If we had worked together over the past 7 years from that introduction by President Bush some 7 years ago, one of his first plans—and I cited his rollout statements, and let me just read also what he said on May 17.

President Bush said: ''Too often, Americans are asked to take sides between energy production and environmental protection—as if people who revere the Alaska wilderness do not also care about America's energy future; as if the people who produce America's energy do not care about the planet their children will inherit. The truth is energy production and environmental protection are not competing priorities. They're dual aspects of a single purpose—to live well and wisely upon the earth. Just as we need a new tone in Washington, we also need a new tone in discussing energy in the environment, one that is less suspicious, less punitive, less rancorous. We've yelled at each other enough. Now it's time to listen to each other and act.''

Again, these are the words of our President before 9/11 on the energy issue.

You know, again, if you want to look at the RECORD, and I will be glad to submit for the RECORD how many Republicans and how many Democrats opposed each of the proposals, all that's history, folks. What the American people want is now us to act as the President said 7 years ago.

So, today, Mr. OBERSTAR and I don't bring an answer to the whole energy problem. We bring our little piece. We ask the rest of the Congress, I ask the rest of the Congress, to come forth and to act, and that needs to be done because when we get home, those people are going to ask you, what did you do about the high cost of energy, the high cost of food, the businesses that are closing, the lives that are being impacted by high energy costs, and we need to be able to give them an answer.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. We do have a speaker on the transit subject, and I'm very

pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY. I'd like to thank the chairman for yielding and thank him for his leadership on this subject.

In urban States such as mine in Rhode Island, we have more and more of our consumers getting caught in traffic jams. The air quality is increasingly poor, and still, people are having trouble affording to fill their gas tanks with gas. And this is a tsunami of problems, both with their paying for their gas, trying to get to work, and the traffic jams, and breathing in the poor air quality.

□ 1500

It seems to me adding this $1.5 billion for mass transit solves all three of these problems: One, it gets cars off the road; two, it allows us to get our air cleaned up; and three, it helps these consumers be able to save money that they would otherwise put into their gas tank. And in doing so, it reduces our demand on foreign oil.

So, really, to reference what some of my colleagues have said, this is part of the approach to this problem, and I think it's well worth our taking into account. That is why I support this legislation.

Mr. MICA. Madam Chairman, I continue to reserve.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished majority leader, Mr. HOYER, with great appreciation, and thank him for making it possible for us to bring this bill to the floor today.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the distinguished chairman for yielding.

JIM OBERSTAR is one of the most knowledgeable people in America on energy issues and on transportation issues. And the two, of course, are closely related. I want to thank him for his leadership and for his service. We are fortunate, as an American people, to have him chairing this critically important committee.

There is no stronger proponent of rail service and mass transit than JIM OBERSTAR. That service has never been more important than it is today. His vision and his service have put this country in a place where we now have the opportunity to make additional investment which is critically needed so that the demand for mass transit resulting from the cost of gasoline and energy products can be met by our mass transit system. And I thank him for his leadership.

This bill, as well as the other two bills considered on this floor today on drilling and market speculation, is a clear recognition by this House majority that America's energy policy cannot be one dimensional.

We've heard a lot of finger pointing on the floor today, and finger pointing is relatively easy. The fact of the matter is we all need to come together. I don't just mean Republicans and Democrats and the Congress of the United States, but all 300 million of us in this country need to come together and understand that we have 3 percent of the world's oil supply and 25 percent of the demand. It does not take a great mathematician to understand, therefore, that simply drilling for new product will not solve our problem. That is not to say by any stretch of the imagination that that should not be done.

These bills, taken together, and when combined with other actions taken by the majority on energy, are a clear reflection of the alternative to the Republicans' sole focus on drilling, to the exclusion of alternative and renewable sources of energy.

Let no one be mistaken: Democrats do not oppose further drilling, discovery and production of product, period. All we are saying, as I will explain in more detail shortly, is that the oil and gas companies should utilize the 68 million acres—that's 68 million acres—currently available to drill on which contain, according to experts, over 100 billion barrels of oil. And we use about 7.5 billion a year in this country, so that is approximately 14 years of oil. That's what the experts tell us, not Democrats and Republicans, the experts tell us are available on these untapped resources currently available, currently leased. I would tell my friends that, not only that, but they contain hundreds of millions of cubic feet of natural gas.

Now, as to Chairman OBERSTAR's bill: It promises Americans relief from our $4 per gallon gas prices. Tomorrow? No. Next week? No. Next month? No. Very frankly, we have been too long delaying our investment in alternative energy sources and alternative transportation modes. But it does promise that in the future we will have the capability both to provide mass transit for our people, and to provide for the alternative to lower demand which, therefore, should lower prices as well.

It authorizes $1.7 billion over the next 2 years to provide grants to mass transit authorities to reduce public transit fares and will help transit agencies deal with escalating costs. That is a rational response to increased demand.

In just the first 3 months of this year, Americans took almost 85 million more trips on public transit than in the same period the year before. Surely all of us in this body, faced with 85 million additional trips, will want to respond in a way that provides capacity to accommodate that growth.

Public transit reduces America's oil consumption as well as carbon dioxide emissions. Thankfully, the administration has, very late, come to the conclusion that, yes, global warming is a problem. Unfortunately, for 7-plus years of this administration they denied it was a problem, but coming to the right conclusion late is always timely.

In addition, the legislation on market speculation that was introduced by Chairman PETERSON and Congressman VAN HOLLEN is an effort which I hope every Member of this body will support to address this issue, record high gas prices, from another angle.

Oil producers are telling us they believe that a large portion of the price is related to speculation. Can I guarantee they're right? No, I cannot. Am I an expert on this issue? I am not. But I do know that they have said that is the case. If it is the case, it's incumbent upon us to find out, because if it is, and we can reduce prices for the consumer at the pump, they expect us to do so and we want to do so.

The Bush administration, of course, insists that the spike in gas prices is not attributable to market speculation. That may be why the commission that is supposed to oversee this has not acted as vigorously as they otherwise might. George Soros, a very successful investor, has said this: ''The crude oil market has been significantly affected by speculation.''

The legislation that we will vote on shortly simply directs the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to use its full authority and emergency tools to curtail excessive speculation and other practices distorting the energy market. Why would any Member of this body vote against asking this commission to look at that issue to determine whether or not there is validity? If there is not, presumably the commission will so find.

Finally, about Chairman RAHALL's bill, let me simply say this: What could make more common sense than saying to the oil and gas companies that they should drill or pursue drilling on the 68 million acres of Federal land currently under lease or simply lose those leases? After all, they are leased for the purposes of us producing more product. If they lie fallow and are not being worked, not being investigated, not being explored, not being tapped, then the American consumer finds a dwindling or short supply. And what happens in that context? Prices go up. And yes, oil companies make record profits, but consumers lose. This bill simply says to the oil companies, be diligent in the development of what you have or lose the lease to someone who will pursue the discovery and production of oil.

Democrats believe that we need to find product. I mentioned the 68 million acres that you've heard a lot about, that's a lot of acres. But there is an additional 23 million acres in Alaska, 22 million of which is under congressional set-aside for oil production and discovery. Nine hundred thousand acres have already been leased for that purpose. And experts tell us there is more oil there than there is in the Alaskan Wildlife Refuge, but our Republican friends continue to focus on the Alaskan Refuge.

Let no one be mistaken: The oil companies have many acres to look at onshore and offshore. According to the Minerals Management Service and the Bureau of Land Management, these 68 million acres on land and waters, 74

percent of which we have already leased, are not producing oil and gas.

Our Republican friends have also charged that we're keeping the best lands out of the hands of oil and gas companies. That is not the case. They can say it again and again and again and again, but it's not the case. In fact, 81 percent—I hope all of my colleagues hear this, and I hope the American public will read the RECORD—81 percent of estimated oil and gas resources on Federal lands and the Outer Continental Shelf are presently available for development. And here, perhaps, is the most important fact: These resources are equal, as I said, to 107 billion barrels of oil and 658 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. That is 10 times the amount of economically recoverable oil that could be produced from opening up the Arctic Wildlife Refuge and more than 14 years of current U.S. oil consumption.

Finally, Madam Chairman, let me say that there is no silver bullet, we all understand that; to pretend otherwise would be dishonest. We need to be honest with the American public. Unfortunately, for over a quarter of a century we have had mostly administrations or Republican control of the House and the Senate which essentially said that drilling more oil and not looking for alternatives was the policy they wanted to pursue.

When we got here, we passed an energy bill that focuses on alternatives. If we only have 3 percent, we have 25 percent of the demand, you can bet your sweet life that those who have the oil all over this world are going to say to us, you pay us what we tell you to pay us. And not until we pursue policies—which this administration has failed to do, which this Republican leadership failed to do—not until that time will we be able to say to our friends and, indeed, some not so friendly, we're not going to pay your price because we have alternatives. We have mass transit provided by JIM OBERSTAR. We have alternative energies provided by the bill that we passed. We are expecting electricity—which the Republicans oppose—to be produced by alternatives. We have renewable fuel standards passed in this House, sent to the Senate.

Ladies and gentlemen of this House, we have taken significant steps last year, we're taking significant steps today, and we will continue to take significant steps so that America will be energy independent. That's in the best interest of our national security, our economic security and, indeed, it is critically important for our global health.

The bills we are considering on this House floor today are key components of a comprehensive energy strategy that seeks to provide Americans with relief at the gas pump while we wean our Nation from its dangerous addiction to foreign oil. The President said we're addicted to foreign oil. And yet there was a meeting on energy in 2001, just after the President became the Chief Executive, and they convened oil company executives to tell us, what should our policies be? One of my colleagues said, well, whatever they said—because the meetings were secret—their policies failed. Perhaps. Perhaps they failed. One cannot inevitably draw that conclusion, however, because those same companies, 7 years later, are making the greatest profits they have made in the history of their companies. Perhaps their policies failed, or perhaps their policies led to success.

Ladies and gentlemen, we need to pursue mass transit and invest in expanding it so we can meet the demand of our consumers and of our citizens and of our energy independence.

I thank the gentleman for his leadership. And I urge my colleagues to vote for all three of these critically important bills. Are they the sole solution? They are not. Are they the only solution? They are not. Are they the solutions that we will take and then stop? They are not. But they are a step, each and every one of them, in the right direction. Let's take those steps today.

I urge my colleagues to support these three bills.

Mr. MICA. Madam Chairman, may I inquire as to the remaining time?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Florida has 9½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Minnesota has 6¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. MICA. Madam Chairman, I continue to reserve.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER).

Mr. OLVER. I thank the chairman for yielding me time.

I just want to say that we have a very severe problem in this country on our energy supplies. In the short term, there are a series of ways that we might save ourselves some money on the gas prices, and those ways include driving less, driving slower, carpooling, and using public transportation where it is available.

□ 1515

And I have to commend the chairman for bringing so quickly to the floor this important legislation, which provides a substantial increase in moneys, authorization, at least, for public transportation, which is already in place in our smaller metropolitan areas and even in our rural areas, so that we can enhance the public transportation available for people—what is already available—and take care of people who are making that move toward using a bit more public transportation.

In the longer term, which is speaking about the 10-year kind of time frame, whereas the short term is in the first year or so, in the longer term, living closer to where we work so you don't have to commute so far, doing the research and development on renewable energy sources, drilling wherever it's open for leases, and I say that's in the longer term because everybody agrees that it will take, even in the best of circumstances, 5 years to bring new leased areas to production and more likely 10 years to bring those new leased areas to production, that and changing over our whole vehicle fleet, our whole vehicle fleet, which will take a considerable period of time, to using much more fuel-efficient vehicles, those are the longer-term ways that we can get out of this problem.

And by far the fastest way to immediately have an effect is the elimination of speculation. There has been much testimony before our committees that speculation is a very significant portion of what is going on right now. The speculative activity in the oil market has quadrupled in just the last few months, 3 or 4 months, and that would be the fastest and most effective way.

My friend the ranking member from Florida has pointed out that we need to increase supply. Well, yes, it would be possible to increase supply. But remember, as the majority leader said here a few minutes ago, we in America have 5 percent, somewhat less than 5 percent, of the planet's population. We are now consuming 25 percent of the oil produced on this planet today, and we in America have only 3 percent of the reserves. You can't drill your way out of this problem because we do not have the reserves.

Mr. MICA. Madam Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Chairman, I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) 2 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Let me thank the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota and as well his ranking member, who I hope is recognizing the importance of the work that we are doing here today, and, of course, the Members that have spoken.

Madam Chairman, I rise today to support the Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008 and also to speak to the manager's amendment that incorporates my language that speaks specifically to encouraging, I hope insisting, that stakeholders, whether they be cities and counties or various transit agencies, engage the public in the question of promoting public transportation.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has shared a recent study that states that if Americans use public transit at the same rate as Europeans for roughly 10 percent of their daily travel needs, the United States could reduce its dependence on imported oil by more than 40 percent, nearly equal to the 550 million barrels of crude oil that we import from Saudi Arabia.

Right as we speak, Houston, Texas, the fourth largest city in the Nation, is beginning to grow its mass transit system. It started by the advocation of many of us, including our former mayor Lee P. Brown, which required,

because of the restraints here in Washington and the difficulties of our being able to get consensus, it was started by our own tax dollars. The 7½ mile transit system that was started at least 3 or 4 years ago has now become one of the fastest new starts in America and is located in my congressional district shared with my fellow colleague in the Ninth Congressional District. What it says is that new starts should be increased in months to come. And as we look to expanding opportunities for transit systems and reducing our use of oil, it is important as well that we look to collaborative efforts on efficient transportation systems.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Chairman, let me ask my colleagues to support this legislation, and I hope to get time on the manager's amendment.

Madam Chairman, thank you, and thank you Chairman OBERSTAR for your efforts on energy conservation with H.R. 6052—"Saving Energy through Public Transportation Act of 2008." The Transportation and Infrastructure has once again produced legislation that will help Americans save money and develop new modes of transportation.

The primary objective of this legislation is to reduce the United States dependence on foreign oil by encouraging more people to use public transportation. The Transportation and Infrastructure has shared a recent study that states if Americans used public transit at the same rate as Europeans—for roughly 10 percent of their daily travel needs—the United States could reduce its dependence on imported oil by more than 40 percent, nearly equal to the 550 million barrels of crude oil that we import from Saudi Arabia each year.

Rising gas prices have only added to this country's economic downturn. When we add this cost into our troubled housing markets, soaring food prices, and a war without a clear end—the importance of this legislation becomes even more apparent.

I urge transportation systems such as Houston METRO to work in greater coordination with their local community to ensure that routing lines make not only economic sense, but practical sense as well.

Community involvement is essential, which is why I offered an amendment that would state that "public transportation stakeholders should engage local communities in the education and promotion of the importance of using public transportation in cities and counties; and in the planning, development, and design of transportation routing lines."

I am pleased that my amendment was incorporated into the manager's amendment. However, I am disappointed that all the language was not incorporated—leaving out the key portion of community involvement in planning, development, and design of transportation routing lines.

I still support this measure and I sincerely hope that our local public transportation agencies take the communities' use into account as well as their thoughts on what routes would add value and which routes may actually do more harm than good. It is our residents who utilize the mass transit systems not the planning boards.

In my district of Houston, Texas, many residents utilize the public transit system to alleviate congestion as well as to control cost. I believe it is imperative that we have full community involvement in the discussions surrounding outreach, planning, design of mass transit.

Our parents who are trying to hold one child, guide another, balance their bags and get to work; it is our elderly who need extra time to get onto trains and buses; and our youth who are trying to get back and forth to school and activities—these are the people who can and will utilize public transportation. The incentives are there for commuters but they should be examined with community involvement so the right message is sent.

This act will add value to our public transportation by:

Authorizing $1.7 Billion of Capital and Operating Funds for Transit Agencies to Reduce Fares and Expand Transit Services. This section authorizes $850 million (General Fund) for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009 to allow public transit agencies to reduce transit fares and expand transit services. These funds will allow transit agencies to provide incentives for commuters to choose transit options, thereby reducing our nation's transportation-related energy consumption and reliance on foreign oil, as well as decreasing its greenhouse gas emissions. These funds will be distributed under current law urban and rural transit formulas. The Federal share for these grants is 100 percent and funds will only be available for a two-year period.

Increasing the Federal Share for Clean Fuel and Alternative Fuel Transit Bus, Ferry, or Locomotive-related Equipment and Facilities from 90 percent to 100 percent. The bill increases the Federal share for the alternative fuel vehicle-related equipment from 90 percent to 100 percent of the net project cost for fiscal years 2008 and 2009.

Extending Transit Benefits to All Federal Employees. The bill establishes a nationwide Federal transit pass benefits program and requires all Federal agencies in the United States to offer transit passes to Federal employees.

Requiring the Department of Transportation (DOT) to Establish Specific Guidance for Implementing the Nationwide Transit Pass Benefits Program. The guidance will ensure that Federal agencies have the necessary administrative procedures to ensure that Federal employees properly use the program. It also requires the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Energy to implement a nationwide three-year pilot transit pass benefit program for all qualified Federal employees of those agencies.

Establishing a Vanpool Pilot Program. The bill establishes a two-year pilot program to allow the amount expended by private providers of public transportation by vanpool for the acquisition of vans to be used as the non-Federal share for matching Federal transit funds in five communities. The provision requires the private providers of vanpool services to use revenues they receive in providing public transportation, in excess of its operating costs, for the purpose of acquiring vans, excluding any amounts the providers may have received in Federal, State, or local government assistance for such acquisition. The Department of Transportation will implement and oversee the vanpool pilot projects, and will report back to Congress on the costs, benefits, and efficiencies of the vanpool demonstration projects.

Increasing the Federal Share for Additional Parking Facilities at End-of-Line Fixed Guideway Stations. The bill increases the Federal share for additional parking facilities at end-of-line fixed guideway stations to increase the total number of transit commuters who have access to those stations.

Therefore Madam Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 6052, which seeks to address energy conservations through public transportation.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 6052, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

Page 3, after line 25, insert the following:

(10) Public transportation stakeholders should engage and involve local communities in the education and promotion of the importance of utilizing public transportation in cities and counties and in the planning, development, and design of transportation routing lines.

Mr. MICA. Madam Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Again, this is an important debate. It's a little piece of the big national debate that's going on now. Mr. OBERSTAR and I lead the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. We came forward with this measure. This measure is within our jurisdiction, as I said earlier, and it is just a small piece of the puzzle.

Many Members come to me on my side of the aisle and ask me how I am going to vote, and I am going to support this legislation. It does increase the authorization. That's a fairly substantial piece of change by any estimate, $1.7 billion over 2 years, and it does make some significant changes in policy, in opening up authorization to spend money to help transit companies and agencies that are suffering like the American public is suffering with high fuel costs, and I think that's a good thing. It expands some services for mass transit, which is also a good thing. And it also expands from just within the beltway to other Federal employees the benefits of using public transportation, and that's a good thing too.

This is general debate, and we have gotten into general debate, and I have heard the distinguished majority leader speak and he quoted George Soros. I don't use him as a quote too much or rely on him for my opinion seeking, but I did just happen to have some sources that quote the American public and their opinion.

The Los Angeles Times Bloomberg Poll said when all registered voters are asked whether they support increased exploration for oil and natural gas, 68 percent respond in the affirmative, and that was just within the last 2 days. Rasmussen reports, according to them, 67 percent of the American people support oil drilling off the Nation's coasts and 64 percent think it will lower gas prices. Now, they seem to get it. The other committees with jurisdiction and the rest of Congress don't seem to get it.

Now, don't tell me you can't do it. I mean this is an incredible institution

and can do anything. We represent the greatest ingenuity, the greatest people that ever walked the face of the Earth. God blessed this Nation so much, and we are the custodians of coming here and doing things.

Now, Mr. OBERSTAR and I on a Monday introduced a piece of legislation. We worked together on it, and within the same week on a Thursday night, we had the President of the United States at 7 o'clock at night sign the legislation as is. So we can do these things that the American people want.

Now, 1 week from tomorrow, people are going to try to celebrate Independence Day in this great country, this great country for which so many people made so many sacrifices, and I have to go back home and tell them I increased transit grants for Federal employees outside the beltway and I also helped transit agencies who are suffering like they are to pay their fuel bill, but I don't have an answer for them. That's not what they want to hear, folks. This is the Congress of the United States, and we can and we must do better.

I have been here going on my 16th year, not as long as Mr. OBERSTAR. He knows transportation inside and out and he's an expert renowned on a whole host of issues, but the good thing about being here just half as long as he is that you hear some of these things.

First, we're going to solve this problem; we'll tax it. So what do they do? They say, windfall taxes for the oil companies that are taking advantage. Windfall taxes, that's it. So first we'll tax it.

Well, that didn't work. People come up to me, did you ever hear of a time when you tax something and the price goes down for consumers? Duh. Well, that didn't work.

So now there's speculation; so we'll get 'em. We'll regulate. We're going to regulate those speculators. That'll take care of it.

Madam Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time I have left.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Florida has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MICA. Oh, good. So I can tell this story, Madam Chairman.

This reminds me of sitting on a committee coming here, and this took over some time. We always hear about high drug prices, and I sat on the committee, and everyone was railing about the price of vaccination drugs. So we dragged in the drug companies to sit them down, and I remember this guy who represented a drug company, and this was an investigative hearing. And he showed a little vial, and he said, this vial of vaccine, this medicine, only costs about $2 to produce. So we hammered him. It only cost $2 to produce, but he said that the liability on it was reaching $30, so $30 and increasing.

So then we dragged in the insurance company. ''You're charging them $30 for this vaccine?'' We hammered them. So they left.

And then the next thing we knew was we weren't producing any vaccine in the United States because no one would insure it. So the next hearing we held—remember this, now, folks—the next hearing we held was on its now being produced in Great Britain and we had some bad batches. Well, we hadn't sent enough FDA inspectors over to inspects the batches there.

Folks, these aren't the answers: additional taxation, additional regulation, chasing business off our shores. And the same thing isn't going to happen with energy. The American people get it. I just read the poll. It doesn't take a lot, folks. They know if you increase the supply, the price will go down. And we have the capability of doing that. We built the Alaska pipeline in 3 years.

Next Friday is Independence Day. It's going to be a sad Independence Day because instead of America's being independent, we will be dependent on energy. That's affecting all of us, and it's not right.

Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I listened with great interest to the gentleman's ruminations on a wide range of subjects. I won't comment on those that reach beyond the subject matter at hand, our transit bill. I do reaffirm my appreciation for his partnership in bringing this bill to the floor.

This is an important piece of legislation. In the larger scheme of the billions of dollars, $125 billion a year, that we need to be investing in all levels of government in our surface transportation system, this $1.7 billion is a relatively small step, but it moves us in the direction of a mode shift in transportation to 10 percent of all trips by transit. If we made just that little step in America, we would save the equivalent of all the oil we import from Saudi Arabia. That is what we can do. It's within our grasp now. We don't need a research program. We don't need a man-on-the-moon program. We just need the funding to invest in what is already at hand: solid, responsible, reliable, effective transportation systems for the public to use instead of getting in their private vehicle.

□ 1530

Had the administration in 2003 concurred in a $375 billion transportation program for the next 6 years, as its own Department of Transportation recommended, and as Mr. YOUNG, then-chairman of the committee, and I introduced, we would have been far better positioned today than we are now.

Instead, that administration proposed only a $5.5 billion funding flat out over the 6 years for transit. We wound up with $10 billion in the SAFETEA legislation over the 5 years of the legislation. But we have to do far better than that, and this bill moves us in the right direction.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 6052, the Savings Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008, H.R. 6052.

As gas prices continue to skyrocket to over $4 a gallon, commuters are increasingly abandoning their automobiles in favor of public transportation. New Jersey's public transit agency, NJ Transit, is breaking ridership records for the sixth consecutive year, with over 900,000 trips per weekday on its trains, buses, and light-rail vehicles. In the first 3 months of this year, public transit trips nationwide increased by 85 million over last year's numbers. Amtrak set record highs for its service with over 25 million users last year. This increase in use not only takes cars off our overburdened roadways, it conserves energy, decreases our greenhouse gas emissions, and helps our economy.

However, mass transit agencies are also suffering from soaring gas prices, increased demand for their services, and decreased operating budgets. Transit agencies are paying 44 percent more for diesel fuel than they were at the beginning of this year, and almost half of bus operators and more than two-thirds of rail operators have increased their fares.

The Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008 would help State and local mass transit authorities meet the increase in demand and allow them to provide a cost-effective alternative to driving. This legislation would authorize $1.7 billion in grants for mass transit agencies to upgrade and expand their transit services without having to further increase their fares.

By taking public transportation the average American household could save $6,251 and help reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 4,800 pounds per year. However, commuters need affordable, reliable access to public transportation if they are to utilize these benefits. This bill would help make public transit more available to commuters, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Saving Energy through Public Transportation Act.

My constituents are struggling to pay rising gas prices caused in part by wild speculation in oil markets. By providing greater access to public transportation we can reduce the demand for oil and help lower the price of gasoline. With increased use of public transit, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen the economy by removing congestion from our already crowded roads.

I would like to thank Chairman OBERSTAR for including the ''Capital Cost of Contracting'' pilot program in this bill. Congressman MIKE ROGERS and I have long supported this program.

The provision makes it easier for employers and communities to offer vanpool services by leveraging their investment with Federal transit funds. By doing this, we can lower the cost of joining a vanpool and increase services nationwide. It is estimated that full adoption of this program could triple vanpooling across the Nation. This would conserve over 500 million gallons of fuel per year and greatly reduce harmful emissions. I appreciate the inclusion of this provision in the bill and applaud Chairman OBERSTAR for his determined efforts to provide public transit to more Americans.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6052, the Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act.

At the onset I want to commend the bipartisan leadership of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their efforts in getting this measure to the floor. The legislation before us is a good bill; one that will provide a much needed hand up to our Nation's transit agencies as they work to meet record demands for public transportation services.

Dallas Area Rapid Transit Agency, or DART, headquartered in my congressional district and one of the best transit agencies in the country, fully supports this bill. Similar to other agencies around the country, DART ridership is setting records, as more north Texans recognize the immense value transit offers.

In May, DART had its busiest month ever, providing 10.3 million trips. North Texans are flocking to transport by rail in record numbers as ridership by light and commuter rail is up 5.4 percent and 7.1 percent respectively over 2007 numbers. During the first 7 months of 2008, DART has witnessed a dramatic 33.8 percent increase in its vanpool ridership.

The agency has acted aggressively to accommodate the increased demand. The agency is utilizing a new super light rail vehicle to increase passenger capacity.

The agency now has a record 145 vans in operation for vanpool commuters and has reached its budget maximum. My transit agency could benefit immediately from the tools provided under H.R. 6052.

H.R. 6052 will help transit agencies expand services and reach more people as it authorizes $1.7 billion dollars for capital and operating funds for transit agencies; increases the Federal cost share for alternative fuel transit buses; extends transit benefits to all Federal employees; establishes a vanpool pilot program; and increases the Federal cost share for commuter parking facilities so more people may have access to commuter stations.

Madam Chairman, without question, there is a need for an overall expansion of transit programs across this country. However, in order for this to happen, there must be a realignment of infrastructure investment priorities and increased support at the local, State, and Federal levels. H.R. 6052 is a step in the right direction as it highlights importance of transit expansion across the Nation.

Public transit takes drivers off the road; uses one-half the fuel of private automobiles; and saves working families billions annually in transportation costs. Studies show transportation costs are the second largest household expense behind housing costs.

Nationally, for every dollar a working family saves on housing, it spends 77 cents more on transportation costs.

While public transit remains an option for some—for poor and working families, public transit exists as a means for economic survival.

So with that said Madam Chairman, I would merely like to reiterate my strong support for H.R. 6052 and urge my colleagues to vote "yes" in giving transit agencies across the country, and the millions of people they service, a hand up today. This sound, bipartisan piece of legislation is deserving of passage.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Chairman, the run-up in gas prices is squeezing families and sending them in search of cheaper alternatives to driving.

As a result, our public transit authorities are also feeling the pinch as rising fuel costs and record ridership strain their systems.

Almost half of bus operators and two-thirds of rail operators have been forced to raise their fares.

Today, we are considering H.R. 6052, the Saving Energy through Public Transportation Act, which provides grants to mass transit systems to reduce fares and expand services for commuters.

Using public transportation saves the average household more than $6,000 a year and reduces dangerous carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to global warming.

Madam Chairman, I urge my colleagues to get on the bus and support this bill.

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Chairman, I would like to recognize Chairman OBERSTAR and Chairman DEFAZIO for their exceptional leadership on this critical transportation issue.

Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 6052, the Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008, and urge swift passage of the measure.

This bipartisan bill goes a long way in improving public transportation.

By creating incentives for transit agencies to reduce fares and expand services, H.R. 6052 makes public transportation a more attractive option for commuters.

But this bill also provides relief to many of our transit agencies who are struggling with operational costs.

I've heard from agencies in my district, like Roaring Fork Transportation Authority, who have seen an increase in ridership, yet face the problem of record fuel prices.

They are begging for more resources just to stay afloat.

So I support the additional $200 million that this bill authorizes for formula grants to rural areas.

Additionally, I applaud Chairman OBERSTAR for including a fuel provision in the Manager's Amendment, which will help our transit agencies deal with their fuel costs.

With their increased ridership, they need help now more than ever.

I believe H.R. 6052 will reduce our dependence on foreign oil by encouraging more people to use public transportation.

Public transit is a critical piece of cutting greenhouse gases.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered read for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6052

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) In 2007, people in the United States took more than 10.3 billion trips using public transportation, the highest level in 50 years.

(2) Public transportation use in the United States is up 32 percent since 1995, a figure that is more than double the growth rate of the Nation's population and is substantially greater than the growth rate for vehicle miles traveled on the Nation's highways for that same period.

(3) Public transportation use saves fuel, reduces emissions, and saves money for the people of the United States.

(4) The direct petroleum savings attributable to public transportation use is 1.4 billion gallons per year, and when the secondary effects of transit availability on travel are also taken into account, public transportation use saves the United States the equivalent of 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline per year (more than 11 million gallons of gasoline per day).

(5) Public transportation use in the United States is estimated to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 37 million metric tons annually.

(6) An individual who commutes to work using a single occupancy vehicle can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20 pounds per day (more than 4,800 pounds per year) by switching to public transportation.

(7) Public transportation use provides an affordable alternative to driving, as households that use public transportation save an average of $6,251 every year.

(8) Although under existing laws Federal employees in the National Capital Region receive transit benefits, transit benefits should be available to all Federal employees in the United States so that the Federal Government sets a leading example of greater public transportation use.

(9) Increasing public transportation use is a national priority.

SEC. 3. GRANTS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.

(a) AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) URBANIZED AREA FORMULA GRANTS.—In addition to amounts allocated under section 5338(b)(2)(B) of title 49, United States Code, to carry out section 5307 of such title, there is authorized to be appropriated $750,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009 to carry out such section 5307. Such funds shall be apportioned in accordance with section 5336 (other than subsections (i)(1) and (j)) of such title but may not be combined or commingled with any other funds apportioned under such section 5336.

(2) FORMULA GRANTS FOR OTHER THAN URBANIZED AREAS.—In addition to amounts allocated under section 5338(b)(2)(G) of title 49, United States Code, to carry out section 5311 of such title, there is authorized to be appropriated $100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009 to carry out such section 5311. Such funds shall be apportioned in accordance with such section 5311 but may not be combined or commingled with any other funds apportioned under such section 5311.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding sections 5307 and 5311 of title 49, United States Code, the Secretary of Transportation may make grants under such sections from amounts appropriated under subsection (a) only for one or more of the following:

(1) If the recipient of the grant is reducing, or certifies to the Secretary that, during the term of the grant, the recipient will reduce one or more fares the recipient charges for public transportation, those operating costs of equipment and facilities being used to provide the public transportation that the recipient is no longer able to pay from the revenues derived from such fare or fares as a result of such reduction.

(2) If the recipient of the grant is expanding, or certifies to the Secretary that, during the term of the grant, the recipient will expand public transportation service, those operating and capital costs of equipment and facilities being used to provide the public transportation service that the recipient incurs as a result of the expansion of such service.

(c) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Federal share of the costs for which a grant is made under this section shall be 100 percent.

(d) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.—Funds appropriated under this section shall remain available for a period of 2 fiscal years.

SEC. 4. INCREASED FEDERAL SHARE FOR CLEAN AIR ACT COMPLIANCE.

Notwithstanding section 5323(i)(1) of title 49, United States Code, a grant for a project to be assisted under chapter 53 of such title during fiscal years 2008 and 2009 that involves acquiring clean fuel or alternative fuel vehicle-related equipment or facilities for the purposes of complying with or maintaining compliance with the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) shall be for 100 percent of the net project cost of the equipment or facility attributable to compliance with that Act unless the grant recipient requests a lower grant percentage.

SEC. 5. TRANSPORTATION FRINGE BENEFITS.

(a) REQUIREMENT THAT AGENCIES OFFER TRANSIT PASS TRANSPORTATION FRINGE BENEFITS TO THEIR EMPLOYEES NATIONWIDE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3049(a)(1) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (5 U.S.C. 7905 note; 119 Stat. 1711) is amended—

(A) by striking ''Effective'' and all that follows through ''each covered agency'' and inserting ''Each agency''; and

(B) by inserting ''at a location in an urbanized area of the United States that is served by fixed route public transportation'' before ''shall be offered''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 3049(a) of such Act (5 U.S.C. 7905 note; 119 Stat. 1711) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (F) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively; and

(B) in paragraph (4) by striking ''a covered agency'' and inserting ''an agency''.

(b) GUIDANCE.—Section 3049(a) of such Act (5 U.S.C. 7905 note; 119 Stat. 1711) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) GUIDANCE.—

''(A) ISSUANCE.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue guidance on nationwide implementation of the transit pass transportation fringe benefits program under this subsection.

''(B) UNIFORM APPLICATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The guidance to be issued under subparagraph (A) shall contain a uniform application for use by all Federal employees applying for benefits from an agency under the program.

''(ii) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—As part of such an application, an employee shall provide, at a minimum, the employee's home and work addresses, a breakdown of the employee's commuting costs, and a certification of the employee's eligibility for benefits under the program.

''(iii) WARNING AGAINST FALSE STATEMENTS.—Such an application shall contain a warning against making false statements in the application.

''(C) INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—The guidance to be issued under subparagraph (A) shall contain independent verification requirements to ensure that, with respect to an employee of an agency—

''(i) the eligibility of the employee for benefits under the program is verified by an official of the agency;

''(ii) employee commuting costs are verified by an official of the agency; and

''(iii) records of the agency are checked to ensure that the employee is not receiving parking benefits from the agency.

''(D) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.—The guidance to be issued under subparagraph (A) shall contain program implementation requirements applicable to each agency to ensure that—

''(i) benefits provided by the agency under the program are adjusted in cases of employee travel, leave, or change of address;

''(ii) removal from the program is included in the procedures of the agency relating to an employee separating from employment with the agency; and

''(iii) benefits provided by the agency under the program are made available using an electronic format (rather than using paper fare media) where such a format is available for use.

''(E) ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.—The guidance to be issued under subparagraph (A) shall contain a uniform administrative policy on enforcement and penalties. Such policy shall be implemented by each agency to ensure compliance with program requirements, to prevent fraud and abuse, and, as appropriate, to penalize employees who have abused or misused the benefits provided under the program.

''(F) PERIODIC REVIEWS.—The guidance to be issued under subparagraph (A) shall require each agency, not later than September 1 of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and every 3 years thereafter, to develop and submit to the Secretary a review of the agency's implementation of the program. Each such review shall contain, at a minimum, the following:

''(i) An assessment of the agency's implementation of the guidance, including a summary of the audits and investigations, if any, of the program conducted by the Inspector General of the agency.

''(ii) Information on the total number of employees of the agency that are participating in the program.

''(iii) Information on the total number of single occupancy vehicles removed from the roadway network as a result of participation by employees of the agency in the program.

''(iv) Information on energy savings and emissions reductions, including reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, resulting from reductions in single occupancy vehicle use by employees of the agency that are participating in the program.

''(v) Information on reduced congestion and improved air quality resulting from reductions in single occupancy vehicle use by employees of the agency that are participating in the program.

''(vi) Recommendations to increase program participation and thereby reduce single occupancy vehicle use by Federal employees nationwide.

''(6) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than September 30 of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and every 3 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate a report on nationwide implementation of the transit pass transportation fringe benefits program under this subsection, including a summary of the information submitted by agencies pursuant to paragraph (5)(F).''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, the amendments made by this section shall become effective on the first day of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. CAPITAL COST OF CONTRACTING VANPOOL PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Transportation shall establish and implement a pilot program to carry out vanpool demonstration projects in not more than 3 urbanized areas and not more than 2 other than urbanized areas.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 5323(i) of title 49, United States Code, for each project selected for participation in the pilot program, the Secretary shall allow the non-Federal share provided by a recipient of assistance for a capital project under chapter 53 of such title to include the amounts described in paragraph (2).

(2) CONDITIONS ON ACQUISITION OF VANS.—The amounts referred to in paragraph (1) are any amounts expended by a private provider of public transportation by vanpool for the acquisition of vans to be used by such private provider in the recipient's service area, excluding any amounts the provider may have received in Federal, State, or local government assistance for such acquisition, if the private provider enters into a legally binding agreement with the recipient that requires the private provider to use all revenues it receives in providing public transportation in such service area, in excess of its operating costs, for the purpose of acquiring vans to be used by the private provider in such service area.

(c) PROGRAM TERM.—The Secretary may approve an application for a vanpool demonstration project for fiscal years 2008 through 2009.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate a report containing an assessment of the costs, benefits, and efficiencies of the vanpool demonstration projects.

SEC. 7. INCREASED FEDERAL SHARE FOR END-OF-LINE FIXED GUIDEWAY STATIONS.

Notwithstanding section 5309(h) of title 49, United States Code, a grant for a capital project to be assisted under section 5309 of such title during fiscal years 2008 and 2009 that involves the acquisition of real property for, or the design, engineering, or construction of, additional parking facilities at an end-of-line fixed guideway station shall be for 100 percent of the net capital cost of the project unless the grant recipient requests a lower grant percentage.

The CHAIRMAN. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in House Report 110–734. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. OBERSTAR

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 110–734.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. OBERSTAR:

Page 3, after line 23, insert the following:

(9) Public transportation stakeholders should engage and involve local communities in the education and promotion of the importance of utilizing public transportation.

Page 3, line 24, strike ''(9)'' and insert ''(10)''.

Page 4, line 10, after ''apportioned'' insert '', not later than 7 days after the date on which the funds are appropriated,''.

Page 4, line 21, after ''apportioned'' insert '', not later than 7 days after the date on which the funds are appropriated,''.

Page 5, line 5, after ''Secretary'' insert ''within the time the Secretary prescribes''.

Page 5, line 7, after ''transportation,'' insert ''or in the case of subsection (f) of such section 5311, intercity bus service,''.

Page 5, line 9, after ''transportation'' insert '', or in the case of subsection (f) of such section 5311, intercity bus service,''.

Page 5, line 14, after ''Secretary'' insert ''within the time the Secretary prescribes''.

Page 5, line 16, after ''service,'' insert ''or in the case of subsection (f) of such section 5311, intercity bus service,''.

Page 5, line 18, after ''service'' insert '', or in the case of subsection (f) of such section 5311, intercity bus service,''.

Page 5, after line 19, insert the following:

(3) To avoid increases in fares for public transportation, or in the case of subsection (f) of such section 5311, intercity bus service, or decreases in current public transportation service, or in the case of subsection (f) of such section 5311, intercity bus service, that would otherwise result from an increase in costs to the public transportation or intercity bus agency for transportation-related fuel or meeting additional transportation-related equipment or facility maintenance needs, if the recipient of the grant certifies to the Secretary within the time the Secretary prescribes that, during the term of the grant, the recipient will not increase the fares that the recipient charges for public transportation, or in the case of subsection (f) of such section 5311, intercity bus service, or, will not decrease the public transportation service, or in the case of subsection (f) of such section 5311, intercity bus service, that the recipient provides.

(4) If the recipient of the grant is acquiring, or certifies to the Secretary within the time the Secretary prescribes that, during the term of the grant, the recipient will acquire, clean fuel or alternative fuel vehicle-related equipment or facilities for the purpose of improving fuel efficiency, the costs of acquiring the equipment or facilities.

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 8. NATIONAL CONSUMER AWARENESS PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall carry out a national consumer awareness program to educate the public on the environmental, energy, and economic benefits of public transportation alternatives to the use of single occupancy vehicles.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $1,000,000 for fiscal year 2009. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1304, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The amendment clarifies that transit agencies may use these new grants to offset the increased cost of fuel to transit agencies. Every penny additional to the cost of diesel and gasoline fuel, public transportation faces a cost of $7.6 million.

The amendment clarifies that intercity bus service is an eligible activity under the bill. The intercity bus provision was included in the version of the bill that passed the House last year, but through a drafting error, was left out when we reintroduced it. We correct that mistake.

Many transit agencies, rural and small urban centers alike, contract with intercity bus providers for more mobility. So it's important that these services are eligible for the new grants created by this bill.

We clarify that transit agencies may use the new transit grants to offset the increased cost of maintenance as they struggle to cope with recordbreaking ridership increases. I have been to transit agency maintenance centers and found very skilled workmen welding new pieces of steel in the support structures of buses that have rusted out over years of use.

Transit buses are now, on average, 12 to 14 years. They should be replacing them every 7 to 8 years. We are seeing a million miles of ridership on a bus a year. They need to upgrade and improve and continue their maintenance.

Many transit agencies are reporting surges in ridership and, at the same time, difficulty maintaining existing services because of higher fuel prices. So we are providing funding to all those transit agencies to respond to their current needs.

I want to thank several of our colleagues for agreeing to have their amendments incorporated into the manager's amendment to expedite consideration of the bill: The gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) whose amendment helps transit fleets become more fuel efficient by providing more funding for clean fuel or alternative fuel vehicle-related equipment or facilities; the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) whose amendment creates a national consumer awareness program to educate the public on environmental, energy, and economic benefits of public transportation; and the Jackson-Lee amendment that clarifies that public transportation stakeholders should engage and involve local communities in the education and promotion of public transportation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. Madam Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. I claim the time in opposition, but I do rise in support of the manager's amendment. I particularly find most attractive in this measure the provision that would allow grant funding to subsidize increased full costs for some of our transit systems in the country.

My support is not based on some lobbyist from a transit agency in New York or Washington or Orlando. My support is based on probably a little lady whose face I have never seen, but she wrote me and said, Mr. MICA, she said, They are going to cut one of the routes and I have no other way to get to work, and I am a constituent in your district. They are going to cut off those routes because of the higher fuel cost.

So the reason I support this is because someone in my district is being dramatically affected. It may not be a big deal here in Congress, but I can assure you in that lady's life, if she can't get to work and make a living, it's a big deal to her. So that is why I support this manager's amendment and this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I have no further speakers on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 110–734.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIRMAN. Is the gentleman the designee of the gentleman from Virginia for purposes of offering the amendment?

Mr. MCGOVERN. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 2 offered by Mr. MCGOVERN:

Page 7, after line 12, insert the following:

(b) BENEFITS DESCRIBED.—Section 3049(a)(2) of such Act (5 U.S.C. 7905 note; 119 Stat. 1711) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: '', except that the maximum level of such benefits shall be the maximum amount which may be excluded from gross income for qualified parking as in effect for a month under section 132(f)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.''.

Page 7, line 13, strike ''(b)'' and insert ''(c)''.

Page 12, line 6, strike ''(c)'' and insert ''(d)''.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1304, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield myself 2 minutes.

Madam Chairman, first of all, I would like to thank the gentleman from Minnesota and the gentleman from Florida for their hard work on this important legislation. I am offering an amendment, along with my colleague from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS). He has been a very important collaborator in this effort.

Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Davis-McGovern amendment. Like the underlying legislation, the purpose of this amendment is to reduce energy consumption by promoting public transportation. This amendment seeks to equalize the current transportation fringe benefit offered to Federal employees who commute to work via public transportation

with the current benefit for those who drive to work by themselves.

Currently, $220 per month in pretax benefits can be offered to Federal employees who drive to work and pay for parking, while these who opt to take a train, bus, or other form of public transit are only eligible for $115 a month. This disparity has had the reverse effect of what the transportation fringe benefit was geared to do, and that is to take commuters out of their personal automobiles by incentivizing them to use public transportation.

Madam Chairman, this bipartisan amendment will do much more than get people to use public transportation. With fewer people driving to work, less gasoline is consumed, less wear and tear is done to our roads and bridges, and less emissions are released into the air. As Congress seeks ways to combat climate change and become energy independent, one of the best ways to make an immediate impact is by offering cleaner, greener commuting options for our workforce.

According to the current estimates, Americans save $340 million a year in fuel costs as a result of the transit benefit. Increasing the transit benefit will result in a corresponding increase in that savings. As we look for ways to provide relief from skyrocketing fuel prices, the transit benefit is a proven part of the solution.

I ask my colleagues to support the Davis-McGovern amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. Madam Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. I yield myself 1 minute.

I rise in support of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN). As has been explained, this does provide the Federal employee transportation benefit program, which has been so successful, is expanded in its usage, and for that, I think that our side agrees, and this is a bipartisan amendment and has our full support.

On behalf of Mr. DAVIS, I urge adoption of that.

I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Chairman, I would like to reserve the remaining time to the coauthor of this amendment, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. I rise today in strong support of the Davis-McGovern amendment to the Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008. This amendment will increase the cap on the monthly amount available to Federal employees nationwide who ride mass transit. For calendar year 2008, this would increase the reimbursement for Federal employees who ride mass transit from $115 per month to $220 per month.

At a time when transportation costs are escalating, with no end in sight, this amendment will have a positive impact on the lives and well-being of the Federal workforce. In addition, it will help promote the use of mass transit by Federal employees nationwide.

For the National Capital Region, this benefit should have a significant impact on the commuting habit of Federal employees. An estimated 165,000 Federal employees currently participate in the Federal transit benefit program. We are hopeful that this amendment will encourage additional employees to leave their cars at home and commute using mass transit, resulting in less traffic on our region's already congested roadways.

As an added incentive, employees using Metro would also have the option of using this added benefit to pay for parking at mass transit stations because employees who ride Metro use the same SmarTrip card to pay for both rail service and mass transit parking.

As a Member of Congress representing the National Capital Region, I have spent a lot of my career trying to find ways to promote the use of mass transit in our workforce. I believe this amendment will be an important step forward in both areas.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this amendment. It's a ''two-fer,'' supporting the Federal workforce and promoting energy conservation through the increased use of public transportation.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Would the gentleman from Florida yield a minute of his time?

Mr. MICA. May I inquire as to how much time we have.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Florida has 4½ remaining. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MICA. I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I do so simply to express my support for the amendment, on which Mr. MICA and I have agreed, but also to point out that in the body of the bill there are protections and safeguards for the proper use of the transit pass authority provided in the additional funding increase in the monthly limit for the transit benefit. There have been reports of abuse of transit passes in the past year. An investigation by the Office of Inspector General revealed that there are some abuses.

We have provided protection against such abuses in the base of the bill underlying this legislation. I wanted to point that out for those who may have been concerned to assure that the committee has taken appropriate steps to assure that transit passes are used by the person for whom intended and for the purpose for which intended.

Mr. MICA. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield our remaining time to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

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Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Chairman, I thank Mr. MCGOVERN and my friend from Virginia. This is really important for us, to be able to start equalizing the playing field. I think there is nothing at this point in the game that is more critical than giving people transportation choices. I appreciate the long-term interest and advocacy that you have had in terms of doing this. I think it is an important step to make sure that commuters across the country are treated in a fair and equitable fashion.

I am hopeful that the body will embrace this, that we will be able to deal with it in an aggressive sense, both in terms of the Ways and Means Committee, that we can work with our colleagues to find ways in the Tax Code to make the adjustments that are necessary to cushion the commuter cost of transit users, as well as people who use their vehicles; that we deal with some people who have extraordinary costs because of the long distances commute, and I think there are ways that we can adjust this.

I would beg their indulgence for one modest potential adjustment, and that is while this moves forward to make a difference for people who are commuting, I would hope there would be some way we could work together to also include equity for people who burn calories instead of fossil fuel, because as yet, the Tax Code and the policies do not provide equity for Mr. OBERSTAR's friendly, favorite people, the cyclists, although we have passed that three times through the House this year previously. Being able to put cycling communities along with transit and auto communities will make a big difference in the long run.

I appreciate this leadership and look forward to working with them to make progress in the future.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. MAHONEY OF FLORIDA

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 110–734.

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 3 offered by Mr. MAHONEY of Florida:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 8. EXCEPTION TO ALTERNATIVE FUEL PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENT.

Section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–140; 42 U.S.C. 17142) is amended—

(1) by striking ''No Federal agency'' and inserting ''(a) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in subsection (b), no Federal agency''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) does not prohibit a Federal agency from entering into a contract to purchase a generally available fuel that is not an alternative or synthetic fuel or predominantly produced from a nonconventional petroleum source, if—

''(1) the contract does not specifically require the contractor to provide an alternative or synthetic fuel or fuel from a nonconventional petroleum source;

''(2) the purpose of the contract is not to obtain an alternative or synthetic fuel or fuel from a nonconventional petroleum source; and

''(3) the contract does not provide incentives for a refinery upgrade or expansion to allow a refinery to use or increase its use of fuel from a nonconventional petroleum source.''.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1304, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAHONEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MAHONEY of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. I want to thank Chairman OBERSTAR for bringing this bill, the Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008, to the floor today.

Madam Chairman, 232 years ago, this country fought to gain its political independence. Today, as we approach Independence Day, it is time that we must fight for energy independence.

Madam Chairman, as we all know, Americans are suffering because of high gas prices. But some of the recent proposals we have seen in the past week are political opportunism at its worst. Take the proposal to end the moratorium on offshore drilling. Not only could drilling imperil Florida's $65 billion tourist industry, but there is insufficient oil to meaningfully address demand.

In 2007, the Energy Department found that drilling off the coast would not add to domestic production before 2030, and that the impact on gas prices would be insignificant. Further, the U.S. proven reserves are approximately 2 percent of the world's supply, yet we continue to be the number one consumer of oil in the world, consuming about 25 percent of the world's production. So anyone who stands here and says we are going to drill our way out of this problem is not being honest with the American public. It is time to get real, and it is time to take action now.

While there are no easy answers, there are significant steps that we can take to stabilize gas prices.

First, I am a proud cosponsor of the Responsible Federal Oil and Gas Lease Act of 2008, and I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation. At a time when gas prices are skyrocketing, oil and gas companies should not be allowed to stockpile leases and they should be required to drill on the leases they own. They should use it or lose it.

Second, Congress needs to investigate the impact of speculation in the commodities market and the impact that has on the price of oil. It is time to know whether energy speculators are gaming the system to make money at the expense of hard-working Americans.

Third, we must continue to bring alternative energy to the country and to Florida. Recently, the farm and energy bills have set the stage for Florida to become the biofuels capital of America. We must continue to invest in cellulosic ethanol so we can become energy independent.

Fourth, we must recognize that the reckless fiscal policies of this administration have racked up a $6 trillion debt and this debt is ravaging the value of the dollar. In the past 6 years, this has contributed to a 40 percent devaluation of the dollar, and the fact that oil is a dollar-indexed commodity, the American people now know that when the value of the dollar goes down, the price at the pump goes up. The American people can no longer afford these reckless policies and this reckless deficit spending, and this Congress must make it stop.

Lastly, we need to reduce the barriers to importing Canadian oil, which is why I am offering my amendment today which would clarify language in section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 so that it does not apply to Canadian oil.

I appreciate the hard work that my colleagues Congressman BOREN and Congressman LAMPSON have already done on this issue. For those of you who don't know, section 526 prevents the U.S. Government from purchasing an unconventional fuel whose carbon footprint is higher than a conventional fuel. Canada has vast supplies of natural gas and has the world's second largest proven reserves of oil in the world, and Canada is the largest supplier of crude oil and refined products to the United States, supplying approximately 13 percent of total U.S. imports.

My amendment will clarify that section 526 does not preclude Federal agencies from purchasing generally available fuels, and that includes fuel from Canada's oil sands, refined using existing commercial processes. Through my amendment, we can address both a national energy supply issue and a national security issue. After all, who would you rather import oil from; our good friends up north in Canada, or from the Middle East?

The time has come for real solutions, not rhetoric. Today's actions take important steps to help us stop skyrocketing gas prices and put us on the road to energy independence. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MICA. Madam Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Let me say that the only problem that I have with this amendment as offered from my colleague from Florida is the amendment does not go far enough in correcting or addressing all of the problems caused by section 526 of the energy bill that prohibits the Federal Government from using coal derived, oil shale and other non-petroleum-based alternative fuels regardless of existing procurement rules or what is actually cost efficient or practical.

I am not going to vote against his amendment, but I do have some concerns I wanted to express against the amendment.

Madam Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the proponent of the amendment has expired. The gentleman has the only time remaining. The gentleman will need to close and yield back the balance of his time.

Mr. MICA. Madam Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Chairman, the reference was made by my other friend from Florida that there was a related provision that passed last week on a 429–1 vote. I confess to being the one person who voted against that. I had some concerns about how that was framed.

I went back and did some research and concluded that my ''no'' vote was ill-advised, although it wasn't determinative, and I wanted to indicate that I personally support what is being proposed here. I think it is a reasonable compromise to deal with issues that need to be taken, and I appreciate my friend's courtesy in allowing me to do my mea culpa while you wait for your other speaker.

Mr. MICA. I yield myself such time as I may consume just to point out, again, I am not going to object. I have concerns. I would like to have gone further.

Madam Chairman, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. I want to thank my colleague from Florida for giving me a moment to speak on this bill.

We have had examples here all day today of the fact we are not going to be able to pass any meaningful energy legislation in this week before we go home for the 4th of July holiday. It is not just Republicans who are saying this. I want to point out the fact that in today's Politico, the story is headlined: ''Pelosi's Pump Pain. Aggressive Pre-Recess Plan Goes By the Wayside.''

I would like to introduce this, without objection, into the RECORD.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. FOXX. ''Speaker Nancy Pelosi hoped to send House Democrats home for the Fourth of July recess with a series of votes that would show they're

serious about easing the pain at the pump.''

That obviously is not going to be done. We are passing bills here today that deserve the ''Emperor's New Clothes Award.'' Somebody has to stand up and say the emperor has no new clothes, because the bills that we are being asked to vote on are shams. We are not doing anything to help average, hardworking Americans who are paying over $4 a gallon for gasoline as a result of the Democrats' control in the last 18 months of this Congress.

This is a sham. This is for show. They are going to go home and say they did something, but they did nothing to help the average working American, and it is time that people said so. We don't need to be allowing this sham to continue without being able to talk about it.

It says here ''nothing has gone according to plan. The price-gouging bill failed to garner the two-thirds support necessary to pass.'' Even Democrats are speaking against the bill. They are talking about how it is going to hurt gas-producing States and the gas-producing people are opposed to it, the Democrats are.

So nothing that is going on here is really going to help those of you who are paying over $4 a gallon for gasoline in this country. All we are doing is letting the Democrats put on a show that says that they are reducing the price of gasoline, when they are not.

PELOSI'S PUMP PAIN—AGGRESSIVE PRE-RECESS PLAN GOES BY WAYSIDE

(By Patrick O'Connor)

Speaker Nancy Pelosi hoped to send House Democrats home for the Fourth of July recess with a series of votes that would show they're serious about easing the pain at the pump.

Their wish list included legislation giving the federal government more authority to crack down on price-gouging by oil companies and smaller vendors, a bill requiring energy producers to relinquish any land not currently being tapped for oil or gas production, and a measure creating new restrictions for commodity traders whose speculation has driven up the price of oil.

But nothing has gone according to plan.

The price-gouging bill failed to garner the two-thirds support necessary to pass. An accounting issue forced leaders to put off for a day the so-called ''use it or lose it'' measure. And the legislation to curb speculation is now caught up in a member fight over the proper path forward—a fight that exposes the misgivings some Democrats have about this activist agenda.

So instead of a barrage of legislation aimed at knocking back the Republicans' gas price assault, Democrats will settle for a measure giving local transit agencies $850 million in each of the next two years to reduce prices and add routes, as well as a symbolic vote calling on President Bush to crack down on ''excessive'' commodity speculation.

The Democrats' stumbles come as congressional Republicans continue to push aggressively for more domestic oil and gas production on the Outer Continental Shelf and in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as well as for an ambitious plan to turn coal shale beneath the High Plains into natural gas.

Republicans claim an amendment—offered by Pennsylvania Rep. John E. Peterson—to open offshore drilling sites 50 miles off the coast has enough support to survive a committee vote on the Appropriations panel.

The committee postponed consideration of the measure on which Peterson planned to offer his amendment, but Chairman Dave Obey (D–Wis.) told members Tuesday he plans to bring it up when lawmakers return from the weeklong Fourth of July recess.

As the Democrats struggle to hold together support for the existing offshore drilling ban, they find themselves coming apart on another energy issue: what to do about oil speculators.

Some Democrats, such as Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson of Minnesota and Rep. Bob Etheridge of North Carolina, would like party leaders to advance a modest measure that gives federal regulators more resources to crack down on ''excessive'' speculation in the United States and abroad.

''I'm not, at this point, sold that speculation is the reason these prices are going up,'' Peterson said.

Others, such as Connecticut Rep. Rosa DeLauro and Maryland Rep. Chris Van Hollen, the Democratic Party's campaign chief, have urged the speaker to go further by making substantive changes to the current laws, members and aides said.

Add to that a jurisdictional squabble between Peterson's Agriculture Committee and members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee—including Michigan Democratic Rep. Bart Stupak—who have been working on this issue for years, and Pelosi faces a major internal challenge in bringing this legislation to the floor.

The speaker met with these and other members for more than an hour Wednesday morning. They were joined by Michael Greenberger, a law school professor at the University of Maryland and a former director of trading and markets at the Commodity futures Trading Commission, who has testified before Congress that speculators are driving up the price of oil.

But the participants who emerged from that meeting suggested the various committees of jurisdiction will begin looking at this legislation before leaders craft a compromise.

''I think the consensus is that this needs to be done very carefully,'' said House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (D–Md.).

''We're going to focus on the actual legislation and try to come to a consensus,'' Peterson said.

Pelosi told reporters Wednesday that she expects legislation on the floor sometime next month, before lawmakers leave for the summer and for their respective nominating conventions.

Some Democrats wanted to vote on a modest bill this week to give themselves cover before the recess, aides said.

A number of conservative Blue Dog Democrats were also grumbling that party leaders were planning to put them in a bad spot politically with these aggressive oversight measures, aides said. Pelosi met with a number of these members Wednesday, but the speculation issue was only one of the topics discussed.

In the meantime, both parties continued their finger-pointing over the gas prices and the policies that might have an effect on them.

On Wednesday, the Department of the Interior questioned Democratic claims that energy producers could pump oil or gas on 68 million acres of land that has already been leased. This talking point became a common refrain last week; Democrats argued that the lease-holding oil companies could produce 4.8 million barrels of oil and more than 44 million barrels of natural gas each day under the current contracts.

''The views contained in the report [issued by Democrats on the House Natural Resources Committee] are based on a misunderstanding of the very lengthy regulatory process,'' wrote C. Stephen Allred, the assistant secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management, who favors increased oil and gas exploration. ''The existence of a lease does not guarantee the discovery of, or any particular quantity of, oil and gas.''

In his letter—which canle at the request of Republican Rep. Don Young of Alaska—Allred further argued that a lengthy permitting process creates a lag for energy producers to extract fossil fuels from this land.

In a statement issued in response to the letter, House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick J. Rahall (D–W.Va.) called it ''a diversion from the simple fact that there are 68 million acres of leased land not producing any oil and gas.''

Rahall said that the administration's argument about the slow permitting process undercuts its arguments for lifting the offshore drilling ban; a long permitting process, he said, would slow any benefit to be gained from offshore drilling, too.

''Roughly 80 percent of the oil and gas under federal waters are in areas already open for leasing. They should focus on that before trying to grab any more of our public lands,'' Rahall said.

The fight over gas prices also has a personal component.

Pelosi has staked her speakership, in part, on aggressive environmentalism to limit human contributions to global warming. This puts her at odds with those in her caucus who are more sympathetic to the oil and gas industry. That dynamic forces her to tread lightly inside the party, but it does not prevent her from issuing lofty challenges in the name of the environment.

''We are in the battle of this generation,'' Pelosi told reporters Wednesday. ''We're ready to make the fight. We are united behind it.''

The CHAIRMAN. All time has expired.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAHONEY).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. REICHERT

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 110–734.

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 4 offered by Mr. REICHERT:

Page 14, at the end of line 8, insert the following: ''or at a park-and-ride lot that serves a fixed route commuter bus route that is more than 20 miles in length''.

□ 1600

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1304, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Chairman, as we all know, skyrocketing gas prices and the pain they cause is one of the most daunting issues facing this Congress and our Nation.

Today in the State of Washington, the price per gallon of regular gas was $4.34, while a month ago it was $4.02 and a year ago it was $3.11 in the State of Washington. It is hard to believe we are now in the position to yearn for the days of $3 gasoline.

My constituents are looking for some form of relief, an option to paying outrageous prices to fill up their cars only to sit in gridlock traffic. Mass transit offers relief; however, mass transit does not succeed if the public is not convinced that it is a convenient alternative to driving their cars.

The Transportation Research Board studied the accessibility of transit services to suburban commuters, and has identified strategies that improve customer acceptance and the use of transit services. The study found that acceptance and use of transit services are clearly influenced by the availability, convenience, and the cost of commuter parking at rail stations and at park-and-ride lots for commuter buses.

Increasing commuter bus park-and-ride availability directly increases transit ridership in these routes. According to Sound Transit, a local transit agency in my district, once parking lots are 80 percent full at commuter bus stations, the public perceives them to be completely full and they continue to drive by, bypassing an opportunity to ease the pain of high gas prices in an environmentally friendly way.

Expansion of these facilities incentivizes transit systems and the communities they serve by increasing their suburban park-and-ride lot capacity and increases the use of transit.

Like every community, people in the Puget Sound region of Washington State are parking their cars and taking transit more often. In my district alone, the number of people who rode Sound Transit's buses and trains in 2007 increased by nearly six times the nationwide increase.

A few bus ride examples. In the first quarter of 2008, the express bus service connecting two suburbs of Seattle, Lynnwood, Washington and Bellevue, Washington, grew by more than 31 percent over the first quarter of 2007. Ridership on Sound Transit service between Everett, Washington and Bellevue, Washington is up 24 percent. And between Federal Way, another suburb of Seattle, and the Microsoft campus in Redmond, it is up 12 percent. Those are some great examples of mass transit working in my district.

I urge you to support my amendment. My amendment will simply allow bus park-and-ride lots the same Federal funding as commuter rail park-and-ride lots receive in this bill.

Join me in giving Americans a choice on how they go to work, go to the grocery store, or move about town other than painfully paying at the pump to fill up their cars. This amendment will ease congestion, help the environment, and save commuters from high gas prices.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I ask unanimous consent to claim time in opposition to the amendment, though I do not intend to oppose it.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. OBERSTAR. First, a point of order, Madam Chairman.

I observed the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) ask unanimous consent to include an article in the RECORD. That request must be made in the House under the rules of procedure, not in the Committee of the Whole.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is correct. The gentlelady's request will be covered by general leave.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I have no objection to it, but I just want the procedure to be proper.

The CHAIRMAN. That is correct.

Mr. OBERSTAR. The amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington was very thoughtfully expressed and explained, and I commend the gentleman on his statement, very thoughtfully done, to increase the Federal share for parking facilities that serve commuter bus routes.

The Transportation Research Board has addressed this issue and evaluated the accessibility of transit services to suburban commuters, and they have found that acceptance and use of transit services are clearly influenced by the availability, convenience, and cost of commuter parking at transit stations and park-and-ride lots, quoting from the report.

States that have successful long-distance suburban-to-central business district commuter bus operations found that increasing the use of commuter bus services and park-and-ride facilities is directly influenced by the availability of those park-and-ride services.

Increasing the Federal share to 100 percent would create additional incentives for transit systems to build more of these facilities to serve the communities, and I really appreciate the initiative of the gentleman.

In his reference to Microsoft, I know that Microsoft in past years has purchased in the range of 13,000 fares a year for its employees to ride the Sounder and other transit options in Seattle. It is very commendable of a company to engage in that kind of service to its workers, to encourage them to get to work in a better frame of mind, to help the environment, and to serve the public need.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to my good friend from Florida, the ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Mr. MICA.

Mr. MICA. I thank the gentleman so much, that we have a distinguished member of our Transportation and Infrastructure Committee offering this well thought out amendment. It is going to clearly provide availability, convenience, and assist the cost of making eligible again these bus end-of-the-line parking facilities. Well thought out. There was a gap here, and I am glad the gentleman from Washington filled that so adequately, and we support the amendment.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy, and look forward to moving forward on this amendment. I think it balances a potential inequity.

But I would hope that as we move forward to reauthorization, that the folks on both sides of the aisle, Mr. Chairman, that we might be able to look at more Federal flexibility for the land that is used with these park-and-ride items, because in many cases they are frozen in time. We have inflexible Federal rules about what can be used for that land, and they have a habit of not being at the end of the line. So if we can in the future be able to use them as an anchor for community development and redevelopment where people can live and work at that point, rather than having to drive vast distances to get there in the first place, these facilities can leverage significant redevelopment opportunity, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and be able to reduce the operating cost for the lines.

So I have no objection to this proposal as it goes forward, but I would hope that we would be creative as we move to reauthorization that we don't freeze in arbitrarily what local communities can do with transit agencies and the Federal Government to be able to leverage them to get more out of it in the long run so we don't have to unnecessarily force people to drive to use it in the first place.

Mr. OBERSTAR. If the gentleman would yield.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. OBERSTAR. The gentleman is an alumnus of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, a refugee who has been taken in by the Ways and Means Committee; and he will be most welcomed at further hearings of the Surface Transportation Subcommittee to elaborate on this very thoughtful proposal that he has set forth. We welcome that contribution as we shape the next transportation legislation.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy as I appreciate the leadership of the committee. One cannot get back to the committee often enough. And I would look forward to working with you and with the gentleman from Washington to make sure that we get the most out of these resources.

Mr. REICHERT. In conclusion, I would just like to thank the chairman

and ranking member for their support, and the gentleman's kind suggestions and thoughtful suggestions. I would urge passage of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. HODES

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 110–734.

Mr. HODES. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 5 offered by Mr. HODES:

Page 5, after line 19, insert the following:

(3) If the recipient of the grant is establishing or expanding, or certifies to the Secretary within the time the Secretary prescribes that, during the term of the grant, the recipient will establish or expand commuter matching services to provide commuters with information and assistance about alternatives to single occupancy vehicle use, those administrative costs in establishing or expanding such services.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1304, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. HODES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire.

Mr. HODES. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HODES asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HODES. Madam Chairman, I rise in support today of my carpool promotion amendment.

First, I thank the distinguished chairman of the Transportation Committee and the ranking member for introducing this important bill to encourage the use of public transportation in this country.

Public transportation obviously needs to be part of a forward thinking 21st century energy strategy. However, in my home State of New Hampshire, many of my constituents live in rural areas where they don't have access to public transit, and many in my district have to commute by car 20 or 30 miles or more just to get to work.

Today, in intraday trading, oil hit a record of $140 a barrel, and gas prices are over $4 a gallon for regular gas in New Hampshire. The people I represent are struggling. Many drive more than an hour to work. And we have seen carpooling begin to increase in New Hampshire.

With an extremely limited public transportation network, except for city bus service in the cities of Manchester and Concord, often the only option for alternative transportation is carpooling, and the opportunities are often limited for that.

Since the average local commuter is spending more than $2,000 a year in gas just to drive to work, if a driver shares his car with just one other occupant and those carpoolers share the cost of gas, obviously they cut their costs for gas in half.

Now, New Hampshire Department of Transportation has introduced a great program called Ride Share. They work with the New Hampshire Regional Planning Commissions and employers to encourage ride sharing, and they have implemented a Statewide ride sharing program. The program is dedicated to finding an alternative way for commuters to travel to and from work.

These days, our highways and byways are increasingly gridlocked; and many of those cars stuck in gridlock, and all you have to do is go outside this building to see the kind of gridlock that Washington is famous for, and many of the cars that are sitting there are single occupant vehicles. Driving alone is not only expensive, but it also contributes to increased traffic congestion and air pollution.

To help commuters cut costs and to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution, New Hampshire Ride Share uses geographical computer matching to provide commuters with information and assistance about ride sharing and alternatives to the single occupancy vehicle, which can include carpools, van pools, buses and trains. Right now, two other States, Missouri and Michigan, have introduced similar programs.

The amendment that I have propose will help provide additional funding for programs like Ride Share across the country. We have seen in one month a tripling of interest in participation in ride sharing in some parts of New Hampshire, and we need to see more.

With the record high gas prices, rising food prices, the mortgage crisis, and the credit crunch, families across our Nation are feeling the economic squeeze. Commuters across our Nation are suffering under the strain of record gas prices, and they have to sacrifice more of their paycheck just to earn one.

This amendment provides a real-time way to help commuters save money, reduce air pollution, and increase efficiency. It is a win-win all around. I urge my colleagues to adopt this important amendment to help commuters across our Nation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. Madam Chairman, I would like to ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, although I am not in opposition.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MICA. Madam Chairman, we are pleased to support the gentleman from New Hampshire's amendment. And it will also, I think, encourage commuters to find other ways other than single occupancy vehicles to get to and from work. He has the support of the American Association of Commuter Transportation.

Again, it is a small piece in the larger puzzle. We only have jurisdiction, as I said earlier, over transportation issues; we can't resolve all the other problems we have with energy. But I commend the gentleman, and our side supports the amendment and urges its adoption.

□ 1615

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HODES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Florida, and I yield the balance of my time to the chairman of the Transportation Committee.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I rise in support of the amendment which I am certain arises out of the experience of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation which has a program helping commuters find alternatives to riding alone. The State of North Carolina has created RIDE NC to do the same thing.

I just want to observe that this bill pending before the House now is the 110th bill reported from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to the House, 110th bill in the 110th Congress. We have completed action on 63 bills and resolutions including 29 bills enacted into law; in addition to that, eight concurrent resolutions and 26 House resolutions. That's a remarkable record of bipartisan participation for which I express my appreciation to the gentleman from Florida. On all of these, we've had bipartisan support.

Mr. MICA. Madam Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I don't want to take the time, but we are concluding debate on this amendment, the Hodes amendment. I urge its adoption. I urge those who feel it is appropriate to support the measure, as I said it does have an increased authorization, not appropriation, of $1.7 billion. It does expand some of the transit grants to transit agencies that are hurting across the country. It does expand the transit benefits that are now restricted to those within the Beltway to Federal employees outside.

It does not solve the problem. It is a small piece of the solution, and I have been pleased to work with Mr. OBERSTAR in a bipartisan fashion to do our small part.

I must conclude, however, by saying that the House and the Congress can do a better job. My side of the aisle does not control the Congress this time. We have heard that there is a larger energy plan. We need to bring that energy plan forward.

I didn't have the time that the majority leader had in his remarks, and this isn't a blame game situation nor should it be. People are suffering in this country with $4-plus a gallon gas. I just saw this $5.25, which must be from California. That's not why our constituents sent us here. They sent us here to solve problems. In the same bipartisan spirit that Mr. OBERSTAR and I are bringing forward this little piece, we need a much larger piece.

A week from tomorrow is Independence Day, and that is a day we should be celebrating, not lamenting that we are not independent of foreign oil. We can work our way out of this. We can't tax our way out, we can't regulate our way out, but we have the means of moving forward and increasing the supply and lowering the price for the American people. We haven't done this, this Congress hasn't done this, and I am sorry that I have that to report at the end of my remarks, both in favor of the Hodes amendment and in favor of this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. HODES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. MAHONEY OF FLORIDA

The CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAHONEY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 421, noes 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 465]

AYES—421

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Bordallo
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Cazayoux
Chabot
Chandler
Childers
Christensen
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Scalise
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—18

Calvert
Cannon
DeLauro
Doolittle
Ellison
Faleomavaega
Forbes
Fortuño
Jones (OH)
Keller
Lewis (KY)
Norton
Rush
Schakowsky
Smith (WA)
Tancredo
Weller
Wexler

□ 1645

Messrs. NUNES, ISSA and Ms. GRANGER changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. NORTON, Madam Chairman, on rollcall No. 465, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Chairman, on rollcall No. 465, I was stuck in traffic trying to get to the vote and I ran out of time. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

The CHAIRMAN. There being no other amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROSS) having assumed the chair, Ms. DEGETTE, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6052) to promote increased public transportation use, to promote increased use of alternative fuels in providing public transportation, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 1304, she reported the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT OFFERED BY MR. WALDEN OF OREGON

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. In its present form, I am.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Walden of Oregon moves to recommit the bill H.R. 6052 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with instructions to report the same back to the House promptly, in the form to which perfected at the time of this motion, with the following amendments:

Page 5, after line 19, insert the following:

(c) USE OF FUNDS FOR MEETING FUEL-RELATED NEEDS OF SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If school bus transportation services within the urbanized area or State to which funds are apportioned under subsection (a) have been adversely impacted by increased fuel costs, and if any school districts within the urbanized area or State are considering or have implemented service cuts in school bus transportation as a result of increased fuel costs, the recipient of the apportioned funds shall immediately make such funds available to the Governor of the State in lieu of using the funds for the purposes described in subsection (b).

(2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Governor of a State who receives funds under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) allocate the funds to school districts within the State that have been adversely impacted by increased fuel costs and are considering or have implemented service cuts in school bus transportation; and

(B) provide that such funds be used for operating and capital costs in providing school bus transportation service in order to reduce or eliminate cuts in such service as a result of increased fuel costs.

(3) PRIORITY.—The Governor of a State shall give priority in the allocation of funds under paragraph (2) to school districts in rural and suburban areas where school buses travel greater distances in transporting students.

Page 5, line 20, strike ''(c)'' and insert ''(d)''.

Page 5, line 23, strike ''(d)'' and insert ''(e)''.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the motion.

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

Mr. OBERSTAR. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will continue reading.

The Clerk continued to read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, at the outset, let me say I have a long history of supporting mass transit in the urban areas of my State, including light rail development and bus transportation systems. I've received State-wide recognition for this work.

Unfortunately, there are no light rail routes, and few successful bus routes, in rural Oregon and in most of my district. In fact, the most important public mass transit in most of rural Oregon and, indeed, across most of rural America is a bright yellow school bus, like this one, that safely transports American children to and from school each day.

No one in America is immune from the impact of record-high gas prices, but for those of us from rural areas, the impact has been particularly severe not only on farms, families and small businesses, but also on our local governments that are struggling to pay sky-high fuel prices to maintain basic services.

Before you know it, our public school doors will open, and millions of our children will return to school, many of them on that familiar yellow school bus.

Yet all across this country, school superintendents are struggling mightily to figure out exactly how they'll afford to operate those school buses and to get our children to school.

Newspapers are filling with accounts of school districts and how they're going to respond to the cost of fuel. Some districts, including one just a few miles from here in Maryland, are considering reducing bus services and forcing children to walk up to 2 miles to school. Some schools are even discussing going to 4-day school weeks in order to reduce fuel consumption.

As profound as this problem is in urban and suburban area, it is even worse for those of us from rural communities where school buses must travel long distances to pick up and drop off children.

This is what the Yakima Herald-Republic in Washington State had to say just 5 days ago: ''Some of the surrounding districts in rural areas feel the pinch from increased costs a bit more because their buses have to travel farther to transport students. The Mt. Adams School District, which has about 1,000 students, is the third-largest district in the State with an area of 1,325 square miles. The district's 10 buses still travel more than 200,000 miles in a year.''

All the way across the country in Franklin County, Virginia, the Roanoke Times reports that ''a school official advised the board of supervisors Tuesday that the division could face an extra $690,000 in added fuel costs.''

Yet, today we have before us a bill that does absolutely nothing, nothing to lower the price of gasoline or diesel and nothing to help our schools, our school districts, and to help them pay for the bus transportation costs they're incurring.

Instead, it proposes to increase subsidies for public transit systems that reduce their fares and expand taxpayer-funded travel perks for Federal employees.

What's even worse is that existing Federal law would actually prohibit the funds authorized under this bill from being used to provide assistance to struggling school districts. Let me repeat that. This law, and the law on the books, don't allow the use of these funds for our school systems.

As the school year approaches, it's time to get our priorities right and to take care of our kids first.

My motion to recommit would fix this problem by sending this bill back to committee with instructions that they revise it, to specifically provide that in an area where school bus services are being cut back because of high fuel prices, that the funds under this bill shall be used first and foremost to help restore those school bus services, and that preference shall be given to rural and suburban areas where school buses have to travel greater distances to transport our children.

If the Democratic leadership's going to refuse to even allow a vote on proposals to increase domestic energy supplies so that we can lower gas prices for all Americans, then the least we can do is try to soften the blow for our Nation's schools, our school bus system and our children.

As currently drafted, this bill does not do that. We have a chance to fix it. We have a chance to help our school districts, particularly those in rural areas.

Now, the majority will undoubtedly try to rally their Members against this motion, but I ask, given that Congress is recessing tomorrow, what's wrong with sending this bill back to committee where the staff can review the amendment over the break and the full committee can carefully consider the importance of helping local schools cope with their busing needs and report this bill back in 10 days?

Or you can reject this on some sort of procedural grounds, and leave local schools in the lurch, and literally put our school children on the shoulder of the roadways, dodging traffic on their way to and from school this fall.

When schools start closing a day a week early, when parents can't figure out how to get their children to and from school, Americans will look back on this moment and see who stood with our rural and suburban schools and with our children and who stood against them.

This is a reasonable motion to recommit. The committee clearly has the time to take this up. It is of no disservice to the committee or this process to say our first priority in this House, if we're not going to allow greater access to American fuel, is to at least take care of America's school children and their busing needs.

Every paper in your district is probably writing about this issue or will be as skyrocketing fuel costs cost them the ability to run their bus routes. You can smirk and you can laugh, but this reality is coming to us here and now.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman from Minnesota opposed to the motion?

Mr. OBERSTAR. Yes, in its present form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent, in the introductory paragraph of the motion, to strike the word ''promptly'' and substitute therefor the word ''forthwith.''

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Oregon yield for that request?

Mr. OBERSTAR. I ask unanimous consent.

□ 1700

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Reserving the right to object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Oregon yield for the making of that request?

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Yes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. To my friend and the Chair of the Transportation Committee, I would be happy to agree to the unanimous consent request provided that you and your side would also agree to allow us to add a proposal to reduce gas prices for struggling American families. Specifically, would the gentleman agree to add to the bill either the No More Excuses Energy Act, H.R. 3089, or at a minimum, the proposal to allow the deep ocean oil exploration, H.R. 6108, the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I made a unanimous consent request dealing with the motion of the gentleman, not the extraneous items the gentleman has now proposed.

If the gentleman is serious about his motion to recommit, we're serious about accepting it where it's forthwith and bringing that language immediately back to the House.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. While I appreciate the gentleman's position, clearly there is an opportunity for the committee to consider this and other issues related to transportation, so I would object.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Did the gentleman object? I could not hear.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The objection is heard.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Then the gentleman is not serious about this motion, and this is a sham motion.

Under the language ''promptly,'' we would not be able to consider this legislation again until well after the 4th of July recess of the Congress, which the gentleman fully understands.

The substance of the motion is well-intentioned. However, under title 23 and title 49 of the U.S. Transportation Code, school buses are specifically not eligible for public funds out of the Highway Trust Fund, nor would they be under the provisions of the bill that is before us.

Since the gentleman from Oregon objects to accepting his language and making that change in Federal law to make school buses eligible, then I would suggest that he come back to the committee at an appropriate time, we're going to continue hearings—we've had 22 hearings already in the Surface Transportation Subcommittee last year and this year on the future of transportation—and make the case for such a provision to be included in the authorization that we will have next year. We would certainly be delighted to hear the gentleman's case for this provision and to perfect it. But as it stands, this ''promptly'' simply kills the transit expansion funding that we provide in the underlying bill.

Therefore, because the gentleman objected to my unanimous consent request, I say the motion is not offered in good faith, not offered with good intentions. It is a sham motion, and we should defeat it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, were the gentleman's words in order?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot render an advisory opinion.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Is it in order to call a Member's motives in question, Mr. Chairman?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair does not issue advisory opinions.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of the bill, if ordered, and motions to suspend the rules with respect to H.R. 6377, H.R. 6251, and House Resolution 1098.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 199, noes 221, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 466]

AYES—199

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Childers
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Donnelly
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Ellsworth
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mitchell
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Scalise
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOES—221

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castor
Cazayoux
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellison
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rohrabacher
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Snyder
Solis
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner

Welch (VT)
Wilson (OH)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—14

Calvert
Cannon
Doolittle
Forbes
Gilchrest
Gutierrez
Lewis (KY)
Miller, Gary
Rush
Smith (WA)
Tancredo
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Wexler

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1721

Messrs. KIRK and LINDER changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 322, noes 98, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 467]

AYES—322

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Butterfield
Buyer
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castle
Castor
Cazayoux
Chabot
Chandler
Childers
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Drake
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hayes
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (NY)
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Rahall
Rangel
Regula
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOES—98

Akin
Alexander
Barrett (SC)
Barton (TX)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Carter
Conaway
Cubin
Culberson
Davis, David
Dreier
Duncan
Feeney
Flake
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Gallegly
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hoekstra
Hunter
Issa
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
King (IA)
Kingston
Lamborn
Latham
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Linder
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCrery
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Miller (FL)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Pickering
Poe
Price (GA)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Rehberg
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Scalise
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stearns
Sullivan
Terry
Thornberry
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Wilson (SC)

NOT VOTING—14

Aderholt
Calvert
Cannon
Doolittle
Everett
Forbes
Lewis (KY)
Miller, Gary
Rush
Smith (WA)
Tancredo
Weller
Wexler
Wilson (OH)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1728

Messrs. CONYERS and BILBRAY and Mrs. BACHMANN changed their vote from '' no'' to ''aye.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 467, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ENERGY MARKETS EMERGENCY ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6377, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6377.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 19, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 468]

YEAS—402

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Cazayoux
Chabot
Chandler
Childers
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey

Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

NAYS—19

Blackburn
Cubin
Flake
Franks (AZ)
Hensarling
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
King (IA)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
Mack
Marchant
Paul
Pence
Rohrabacher
Sali
Sessions
Souder
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—13

Calvert
Cannon
Doolittle
Everett
Forbes
Lewis (KY)
Miller, Gary
Peterson (PA)
Rush
Smith (WA)
Tancredo
Weller
Wexler

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1736

Mr. LAMBORN changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL OIL AND GAS LEASE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6251, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6251, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 223, nays 195, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 469]

YEAS—223

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boswell
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castle
Castor
Cazayoux
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gordon
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hayes
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Reichert
Richardson
Rogers (AL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Solis
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NAYS—195

Aderholt
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boucher
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Chabot
Childers
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Costa
Crenshaw
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green, Gene
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Jefferson
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Linder
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Melancon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Ortiz
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Roskam
Ross
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Scalise
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shays
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tanner
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)

Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—16

Akin
Calvert
Cannon
Doolittle
Everett
Forbes
Kaptur
Lewis (KY)
Miller, Gary
Peterson (PA)
Rush
Shadegg
Smith (WA)
Tancredo
Weller
Wexler

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1744

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 469, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE YEAR OF THE AMERICAN VETERAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1098, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1098.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 0, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 470]

YEAS—409

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Cazayoux
Chabot
Chandler
Childers
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—25

Bilbray
Calvert
Cannon
Capuano
Doolittle
Doyle
Everett
Forbes
Lewis (KY)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Murphy, Tim
Neal (MA)
Pascrell
Peterson (PA)
Rogers (AL)
Rush
Saxton
Shuster
Smith (WA)
Tancredo
Van Hollen
Weller
Wexler
Wilson (NM)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1751

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, due to family obligations, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 465: Mahoney Amendment to H.R. 6052. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, due to family obligations, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 466: Motion to Recommit H.R. 6052. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, due to family obligations, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 467: Final Passage of H.R. 6052. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, due to family obligations, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 468: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree on H.R. 6377. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, due to family obligations, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 469: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree on H.R. 6251, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, due to family obligations, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 470: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree on H. Res. 1098. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 6052, SAVING ENERGY THROUGH PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of H.R. 6052, the Clerk be authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, cross-references, and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to accurately reflect the actions of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLSWORTH). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, July 9, 2008.

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

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. STENY H. HOYER AND HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH JULY 8, 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 26, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STENY H. HOYER and the Honorable CHRIS VAN HOLLEN to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through July 8, 2008.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 5353

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 5353.

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

There was no objection.

LET REGULAR ORDER PREVAIL ON AIR FORCE TANKER SELECTION

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

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today one of our colleagues introduced the KC–X Recompete Act, and its message is clear: If the warfighter wants a new tanker to replace its aging fleet anytime soon, it has but one choice, the Boeing KC–767. This act would tell the warfighter to take the 767; take it or leave it, or face years of delay if you have to have a new competition.

Boeing's 767, mind you, is judged second best to the more capable, more modern, Northrop aircraft, an aircraft that I am proud would be built in my home State of Alabama.

Yes, the GAO noted procedural errors in the source selection process, but it did not rule on the merits of these two aircraft. And there is no equivocation in terms of which plane the Air Force wants and desperately needs, the KC–45.

Some have tried to preempt regular order and take this decision away from the warfighter. Let's not preempt the voice of the men and women who will take this plane into harm's way. We owe them that much.

INVOLVE ALL IMPACTED BY MASS TRANSPORTATION DECISIONS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to rise again today to again commend the Transportation Committee, the full committee Chair Mr. OBERSTAR and Ranking Member MICA on H.R. 6052. I wanted to discuss very briefly an amendment that I offered, part of which was included in the manager's amendment, and it has to do with promoting education, but as well to address the question of involving all of those impacted.

It reads that ''public transportation stakeholders should engage local communities in the education and promotion of the importance of using public transportation in cities and counties, and in the planning, development and design of transportation routing lines.''

This is particularly of interest to constituents in Houston as we build a new metro system. Today they broke ground in the east end. I congratulate them. But as we look to make sure that we are involving all of the participants, the stakeholders need to address the question of routing.

The only way that you will provide mass transit as a system for all the people is they must buy into it. We have a situation in Houston where we are looking to reroute from Wheeler, and I hope that this bill will get this understanding. Promote education of mass transit and get the stakeholders and communities to buy into it.

EXPRESSING PLEASURE THAT THE USE-IT-OR-LOSE-IT BILL DID NOT PASS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased that the Democrats' use-it-or-lose-it bill did not pass this House this afternoon. We have been saying for weeks that this is a sham. Use-it-or-lose-it is already the law of the land. Thankfully, enough people here, including 19 Democrats, voted with almost all the Republicans to turn back this sham against the people of the country.

What we need to be doing is we need to be producing more oil and gas for the American people, bringing down the price of gas. The Democrats are trying to pull the wool over the eyes of the American people, and, thankfully, they are not going to be able to do that since this bill did not pass. They wouldn't put it in committee to let it be debated. They put it on the suspension calendar, and it failed.

The American people during this 4th of July work period need to tell their Members, we want you to fulfill the promises you made 2 years ago. Bring down the price of gas.

CONGRATULATING PLANO WOLVES

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the new high school baseball national championship team. It is from Plano West Senior High School. They are called the Wolves. Go Wolves.

Maxpreps.com ranked the Texas State champs, the Plano West Senior High School varsity baseball team, number one in the Nation on June 22.

Under head coach Kendall Clark, this year the Wolves played a perfect season, won the district title with 14 wins and won 28 straight in 2008. This is the first time since 1987 that Plano Independent School District has had a team crowned national champions, and this year marks the first time a baseball team in Plano has captured the prestigious national title.

Congratulations to the Wolves. We are proud of you. Your parents are proud of you, Plano is proud of you, and America is proud of you. I salute you. God bless you, God bless America.

I include the names of the players and coaches in the RECORD, and congratulate them one and all.

ALPHABETIZED ROSTER

Name	C	#	Position	Ht	Wt	Throws/bats
Chris Ard	Sr	17	P/C/IF/OF	5'8"	160	R/R
Barrett Beck	Jr	11	CF/P	5'8"	165	R/R
Andrew Blum	So	14	P/OF	6'1"	175	R/R
Garrett Brown	Jr	18	P/OF	5'11"	160	R/R
Tyler Bruce	Sr	4	C	5'11"	185	R/R
Jason Coats	Sr	15	OF	6'2"	190	R/R
Reed Dillard	Jr	1	C/IF/OF	5'10"	175	R/R
Ben Flora	Sr	5	P	5'11"	165	L/L
Ryan Ford	So	24	1B	6'3"	230	L/L

ALPHABETIZED ROSTER—Continued

Name	C	#	Position	Ht	Wt	Throws/bats
Harrison Holmes	Sr	10	SS	6′1″	185	R/R
Robert Huber	So	16	P/IF	5′10″	150	R/R
Ryan Hughes	Sr	13	OF	5′9″	175	R/R
Drew Johnson	Sr	9	P	5′10″	185	R/R
Jeffrey Kahn	Jr	12	OF/DH	6′4″	185	R/R
Kale Kiser	Sr	2	2B	5′11″	180	R/Switch
Will Moran	Sr	7	OF/IF	5′9″	170	R/R
Jason Palmatary	Sr	22	IF/OF	6′3″	175	R/R
Blake Parker	So	8	OF	5′8″	155	R/R
John Peloza	So	21	P	6′5″	215	R/R
Donald Plant	Jr	3	3B/P	6′2″	185	R/R
Eric Wald	Jr	23	P	6′2″	230	L/L
Kevin Weissenborn	Sr	19	SS/2B	5′9″	155	R/R
Jim Worth	Sr	6	P	5′9″	160	L/L

Coaches: Kendall Clark, Varsity Head Coach; Kevin Clark, Varsity Assistant Coach; Richard Zastoupil, Pitching Coach; Ralph Hinds, Junior Varsity Head Coach; Nathan Leraas, Junior Varsity Assistant Coach; and Gregory Pierce, Shepton Head Coach.

□ 1800

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for Special Order speeches without prejudice to resumption of legislative business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

RECOGNIZING FRESNO STATE'S WINNING THE COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

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

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my good friend from California (Mr. COSTA) to recognize something very important that happened in the San Joaquin Valley, for all the people of the San Joaquin Valley, and that is that yesterday the Fresno State Bulldogs won the college series. This is very special for all of us.

At this time, I yield to my good friend, the distinguished gentleman from California, an alumnus of Fresno State, Mr. COSTA.

Mr. COSTA. I thank the gentleman from California, a colleague, a good friend and an avid supporter of the California State University of Fresno, as we all are in the Valley delegation.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud to recognize the Fresno State baseball team, the Bulldogs, the Bulldogs on the West Coast, on their victory of the University of Georgia last night, the other Bulldogs, to claim the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Division Championship I–A Baseball National Champions. Obviously, as my good friend Congressman NUNES indicated, I am a proud alumnus today.

The Dogs came into the tournament as the fourth seeded team and along the way beat Rice University, had two big wins over the University of North Carolina, and they are the first number four seed to reach the finals of the NCAA championship in any sport. It is truly historic in collegiate athletics. They went from the underdogs to the wonder dogs, and they accomplished this after spending over 40 straight days away from home. Leaving Fresno on May 14, they finally came home today.

They won five elimination games, including a 19–10 win over Georgia during the championship series.

This team was a pure joy to watch on the field. We saw outstanding defensive plays, 15 home runs by the offense, and they had American riveted to their televisions and radios to hear them win last night's game. It was an exciting month for anyone who is attached to the University or our San Joaquin Valley, or those who just happens to love our Nation's pastime, baseball.

The character, camaraderie, preparation, and ultimately the performance and success of the team flows from their head coach Mike Batesole and his wonderful staff. This year he was chosen 2008 Collegiate Coach of the Year in baseball.

One unique thing about this team is that every player is from California. In fact, many of the players come from surrounding communities; in my colleagues' districts, NUNES, RADANOVICH, and CARDOZA, and the like, they came from Clovis, Hanford, Bakersfield, and Turlock. Fresno State athletics takes pride in recruiting local talent from high schools and junior colleges.

These young men are models for student athletes around the Nation. Seven seniors and one junior will graduate within nine semesters. Steve Susdorf was given the Western Athletic Conference All-Academic awards four times in his career with the Bulldogs. These classroom accomplishments should be commended. These are truly student athletes at their finest.

There were five Bulldogs who made this year's College World Series All-Tournament Team. They are Erik Wetzel, Steve Susdorf, Steve Detwiler, Justin Wilson, and Tommy Mendonca. Congratulations to them.

Tommy Mendonca from Turlock was also named the Collegiate World Series Most Outstanding Player, and was recently named to the 2008 National Collegiate Team. He comes from strong Portuguese Valley roots, and we enjoyed watching him play.

Finally, we again want to congratulate the Fresno State team on a season well played. We tip our hat to the University of Georgia for an outstanding series, and all the teams that played this season.

Mr. NUNES. As you can see, Mr. COSTA is a very proud alumni, Mr. Speaker. Also, I would be mistaken not to mention my chief of staff, Johnny Amaral, is also a proud alumni of Fresno State. I know that he was really rooting for the team. This is going to be a very important victory for the San Joaquin Valley tonight. I know they are going to be welcomed home by probably thousands of fans in Fresno; and I know that Mr. COSTA and I can't wait to hopefully greet the team here and invite them to our Nation's capital and possibly even get a White House visit.

Does my colleague have anything else?

Mr. COSTA. I just want to thank the gentleman for yielding. We want to congratulate all of those who are a part of the University and these fine students athletes for a job well done.

Mr. NUNES. Thank you.

FRESNO STATE WINS COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fresno State baseball team, the Bulldogs, on their victory over the University of Georgia last night to claim the 2008 NCAA Division I Baseball National Championship. I am a very proud alum today.

The "Dogs" came into the tournament as a 4th seeded team . . . and along the way, beat Rice University and had two big wins over the University of North Carolina. They are the first number four seed to reach the finals of an NCAA championship in any sport. This is truly historic in collegiate athletics. They went from the underdogs, to the wonder "Dogs".

And they accomplish this on the road, away from home for forty straight days, and won five elimination games, including a 19–10 win over Georgia during the championship series.

This team was a pure joy to watch on the field . . . we saw outstanding defensive plays, 15 home runs by the offense, and they had America riveted to their televisions and radios to hear them win last night's game. It has

been an exciting month for anyone with an attachment to the University our San Joaquin Valley, are those who happen to love our Nations pastime, baseball.

The character, camaraderie, preparation, and ultimately the performance and success of the team flows from Head Coach Mike ''Bait-Soul'' Batsole and his wonderful staff. He was chosen this year 2008 Collegiate Coach of the Year.

One very unique thing about this team is that every player is from California. In fact, many of the players come from surrounding communities like Clovis, Hanford, Visalia, Bakersfield, and Turlock. Fresno State athletics prides themselves in recruiting local talent from Valley high schools and junior colleges.

And those young men are the models for student-athletes around the Nation. Seven seniors and one junior will graduate within 9 semesters, and Steve Susdorf was given Western Athletic Conference All-Academic awards four times in his career with the Bulldogs. These classroom accomplishments should be commended. Student athletics at their finest.

There were five Bulldogs who made this year's College World Series All-Tournament Team, and they are Erik Wetzel, Steve Susdorf, Steve Detwiler, Justin Wilson, and Tommy Mendonca. Congratulations.

Tommy Mendonca, from Turlock, CA, also was named the College World Series Most Outstanding Player and was recently named to the 2008 National Collegiate Team. He comes from strong Portuguese Valley roots, and I enjoyed watching him play this season.

Finally, we again want to congratulate the Fresno State baseball team on a season well played, and tip my hat to the University of Georgia and all the teams that participated for an outstanding series and season.

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

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

H. CON. RESOLUTION 362

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

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak today on Resolution 362 that is circulating in the House and its impact on policy in the Middle East.

As a result of Resolution 362 and its tightening of sanctions on Iran in a more broader way, will that have a positive impact on America's policy in the Middle East? Will it have a positive impact on the politics in the Middle East? Will it have a positive impact on Iran as far as the conflict between our two nations is concerned?

I will say, in my judgment, Mr. Speaker, that Resolution 362 will exacerbate, make much more difficult, the problems in the Middle East, the relationship of Iran with its neighbors in the Middle East, and the relationship of Iran with the United States, and the relationship of Iran with the country of Israel. Let me try to explain why.

If we look at the Middle East right now in a very objective fashion, what is going on in the Middle East right now?

The geopolitical balance of power in the Middle East right now is fractured. We are focusing on the conflict in Iraq. We need as a Nation to focus objectively on the Palestinian-Israeli question, to resolve that issue, to reduce the number of recruits for al Qaeda and the Taliban.

We need to understand that Saudi Arabia, a Sunni country, does not want Iraq, a Shia country, to become an Iranian satellite.

We need to understand that Iran, who lost more men dead in a conflict with Iraq just a few years ago than we lost in World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam combined, wants to have some influence in the Middle East and certainly with what will go on in Iraq.

What will influence the direction the Middle East will take in the decades to come? There is violent conflict there. There is political conflict there. There is mistrust in the Middle East.

Let me use a quote from Sam Rayburn, former Speaker of the House. ''Any mule can kick a barn door down, but it takes carpenters to rebuild that door and that barn.''

We need carpenters. We need diplomats. More conflict, more restrictions, more sanctions is going to further exacerbate the problem in the Middle East and its relationship with the country of Iran.

One other quick comment. Iran is not an Arab country. Iran is a Persian nation that speaks Farsi, that does not speak Arabic. It is a nation of Shias with their own brand of Islam.

Knowledge and an informed policy in the Middle East, a surge of diplomacy, can make a key difference. Let me go back and express some precedence of the past about diplomacy and where it worked.

When Nikita Khrushchev said he was going to bury the United States, what was Eisenhower's response? He invited Nikita Khrushchev to the United States to tour the Nation, and it began to lessen the conflict between the two countries.

What did President Kennedy do when there were deployable nuclear weapons in Cuba aimed at the United States? He negotiated his way out of that conflict and saved a catastrophe.

What did Nixon do after Mao Zedong said it would be worth half the population of China being destroyed if we could destroy the capitalists in America? What did Nixon do? He had a dialogue. He went to China.

What happened when we did not have a dialogue, some understanding of Ho Chi Minh? A million people died.

Today in the Middle East we certainly need a strong military, we need a strong intelligence. But the aspect that is missing in the Middle East is what Eisenhower said was so critical in foreign policy; that is, consensus and dialogue.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of Members in this house that have started a long time ago, a couple of years, beginning a dialogue with the Iranians. Just last fall, 58 Members of this House on both sides of the aisle signed a letter to the parliament in Iran asking for a parliamentary exchange; 58 Members of Republicans and Democrats. That letter was hand-delivered by some of us in Lisbon to Iranian parliamentarians. They took it to Iran. And what is their response to us? They want a dialogue. There are members of the Iranian parliament that want a dialogue. Consensus and dialogue.

We need more carpenters. Vote against Resolution 362.

H.R. 5925, RECONCILIATION FOR IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, there is an old saying: Everybody complains about the weather, but no one ever does anything about it. That is pretty much what we are doing in Iraq.

In testimony before Congress and from press conference to press conference, administration officials have said that the most important item on our agenda for Iraq, right after security, is reconciliation. In fact, U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker said before the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Armed Services Committee that reconciliation is perhaps the most critical challenge that Iraq faces right now. Even the Iraq Study Group, a bipartisan panel of recognized leaders in foreign policy and governing, wrote that: National reconciliation is essential to reduce further violence and maintain the unity of Iraq. And its report recommended that diplomats work to energize countries to support national political reconciliation in Iraq.

But this is not just the goal of the United States, Madam Speaker. The Iraqis themselves are calling for reconciliation. Before a meeting of the United Nations, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said, and I quote him, he said, ''Reconciliation lays the foundation for political, social, economic progress, and the security that we strive for.''

This is not a Democratic or a Republican issue, Madam Speaker. It isn't a Sunni or a Shia or Kurd issue. It isn't an American or Iraqi issue. Reconciliation is an issue that has something to do with all of us. It is the pathway for stability and peace in Iraq, and it is the pathway throughout the region.

One news agency has dedicated itself to providing real resources, training, and assistance for reconciliation in Iraq. Since the year 2004, the United States Institute of Peace, the USIP, has been working in Iraq at the national and local level building peace

community by community and neighborhood by neighborhood. USIP has focused on preventing sectarian violence at the local level, developing leaders in schools, universities, government, and civil society, promoting the rule of law, engaging women in public life, and increasing regional stability. All this with a tiny staff, only three USIP staff members and eight Iraqi staffers.

Despite the scarcity of resources, 120 Iraqis have been trained to be reconciliation facilitators. They will go into communities to help to work towards real solutions, making neighborhoods safer, promoting transparency and accountability, and so much more. The work they do is amazing and it is awe inspiring.

Sadly, the resources available are meager in comparison to what we are spending to wage war. That is why it is time to bring our troops and private contractors home, to give Iraq back to the Iraqi people. And that is why I, along with my colleague from Connecticut, CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, introduced H.R. 5925, International Partnership for Reconciliation in Iraq Act of 2008. This legislation will ensure that USIP will have the funding and support it needs to continue and to expand.

I urge all of my colleagues to do something: Cosponsor the bill, H.R. 5925, so that we can work with the Iraqi people, so we can work within the international community, and we can reconcile that area. I urge you to cosponsor H.R. 5925. Enough talking about the problem. It is time to do something.

□ 1815

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RAPE OF A LITTLE GIRL

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, she was 8 years old. She was asleep in her own room, in her bed dreaming about whatever little girls dream about. She thought she was safe in her home. Suddenly she was awakened by the demon from the night. Patrick Kennedy of Louisiana was on top of her, having his way with her, this petite little angel. Kennedy was someone the little girl supposedly could trust; after all, he was her stepfather.

This little girl was raped. So violent was the rape she fainted and the next thing she remembered she woke up in an ambulance speeding to Children's Hospital.

Official court records state, ''When police arrived, they found the victim on her bed wearing a T-shirt and wrapped in a bloody blanket. She was bleeding profusely from the vaginal area. The victim was transported to Children's Hospital. An expert in pediatric forensic medicine testified that the victim's injuries were the most severe he had ever seen from a sexual assault in his years of practice. A laceration to the left wall of the vagina separated her cervix from the back of her vagina, causing her rectum to protrude into the vaginal structure. The injuries required her to have emergency surgery.''

The little girl survived this attack by the barbarian and lives, even though she has been sentenced to a life of mental torture, physical pain and emotional trauma that she may not ever recover from. Her physical scars will never disappear.

The child rapist was tried under Louisiana's law that specifically allows for the death penalty for criminals that choose to rape the most innocent among us, children. The law was passed by the legislature, signed by the Governor and is the wish of the people of Louisiana. A jury of 12 citizens heard the facts and they all agreed that Kennedy should die for his decision to rape his daughter. Several other states, including Texas, have the death penalty as a possible punishment for child rapists.

This case has been reviewed by numerous courts, and has taken 5 years to reach our Supreme Court.

In a decision this week by Justice Anthony Kennedy—no relation—the Supreme Court said the Louisiana law is just too severe and overruled the will of the people of Louisiana and a unanimous jury when he imposed his own moral code saying no one can be executed under these circumstances unless the villain also kills the child, otherwise it is a violation of the cruel and unusual provision of the United States Constitution.

Although the jury was unanimous in ordering the death penalty, the Supreme Court split in its decision 5–4 with the majority siding with the evildoer.

Justice Kennedy focused on the fact that the victim survived the assault as the reason not to execute the rapist. In other words, the defendant got a break because the little girl had the will to survive.

When I was on the trial bench in Texas, I had a rape victim once tell me that rape was a fate worse than death. In the eyes of this little girl, she probably agrees.

When the ''cruel and unusual'' phrase was put in the Constitution, it was put there and based on constitutional history to outlaw torture and maiming of criminals. As history reflects, States decided what was appropriate punishment based upon these guidelines.

The five justices who sided with the rapist don't seem to have lived in the real world or have real life experiences. They don't seem to provide justice for victims, only leniency for criminal defendants.

I spent 22 years on the felony trial bench in Texas and heard over 20,000 cases. The Constitution was the basis for every decision I made. I saw those charged with the worst acts people can commit, and I saw the brutalized victims of crime. I only mention this experience because trial judges see the world as it really is, not how we wish and hope it to be. Trial judges see real people every day.

Unfortunately, eight of our nine Supreme Court justices do not have the benefit of this experience and have never been a trial judge and seen the effects of crime on people. They have spent much of their time in elite ivory palaces as law school professors and appellate judges removed from the world, second-guessing legislatures, trial judges and juries.

I doubt if Justice Kennedy has ever been to Louisiana or talked to a rape victim or a rapist, or a jury, for that matter. Now Justice Kennedy says the verdict of death is just too cruel and unusual for us that live in a sophisticated society to allow. His ruling is a misinterpretation of the Constitution.

Justice Alito said in his dissent that the death penalty laws should be allowed for child rape ''if they reflect society's evolving standards of decency.'' The State of Louisiana set the evolving standard for child rapists in Louisiana, and said leave our children alone or face the death penalty.

Society's standard was trumped by five black-robed justices who want it their way. They are wrong.

And that's just the way it is.

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

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WHO WILL SAVE ZIMBABWE?

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, we are about to see the world sit by silently, not silently perhaps, but ineffectively, and allow one of the most outrageous abuses of human rights that we have seen in a long time to go forward.

The president of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, is engaging in a pattern of oppression and tyranny and thuggery and despicable conduct towards his own people. He lost a preliminary election for the presidency despite every effort he could make to rig the election. Rather than allow the second round to go forward, he has ramped up the terror to the point where the man who got more votes than he in the first round understandably said he wouldn't participate in a run-off election which

would not only be a fraud but which has already led to the murder and abuse of many innocent people.

Robert Rotberg, a very distinguished scholar of Africa, wrote an article that was published in yesterday's Boston Globe. The headline is, ''Who will have the courage to save Zimbabwe?''

He starts with a little history. He writes, ''After Idi Amin terrorized and killed his own Ugandans throughout the 1970s, President Julius Nyerere of neighboring Tanzania finally sent his army across the border to end the mayhem and restore stability. Who will now do the same for beleaguered Zimbabwe? Who will remove despotic Robert Mugabe from his besmirched and exposed presidency?''

He is not calling for an army to go in, although there is certainly far stronger justification for an army to go there than a lot of places armies have been sent recently, but he has a program which he believes could be helpful. But as he points out, it has to be African nations that do this.

This is a situation given the colonial history where the United States and Britain and France and others would not have the moral authority to act. But Africans should.

Madam Speaker, I led a congressional delegation to Africa in April, and I was honored to be in the presence of the current president of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, a man who was one of the leaders in overturning one of the worst oppressions we have seen, apartheid in South Africa. I was honored to be in his presence. I was delighted when he presented a very high honor from South Africa to our colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

But I have felt terrible disappointment at President Mbeki's passivity in the face of the terrible repudiation of democracy by President Mugabe. I wish that President Mbeki would have understood the right of the people of Zimbabwe to receive the same kind of sympathy and help that many of us tried to extend to the people of South Africa when they were victimized.

I will include for the RECORD the article by Mr. Rotberg making an argument for an African initiative to protect the people of Zimbabwe from the tyrant, the degenerating tyrant who so viciously oppresses them.

Mr. Rotberg closes with this: ''Zimbabwe is in shambles. The United States and Britain would doubtless like to act unilaterally, but dare not. Only Africans and the U.N. have unquestioned moral authority.'' And he notes here that the former Secretary General Kofi Annan did a great job when Kenya had troubles and helped to pacify and restore democracy and stability to Kenya. So he says, ''Only Africa and the United Nations have unquestioned moral authority. Which African leaders will now emulate Nyerere's profile of courage in Zimbabwe's dire time of need?''

As one who has strongly supported the rights of the people of Africa to be free from colonialism, one who has strongly supported the need to provide the appropriate economic support so we can seriously diminish poverty, as a great admirer of President Mbeki and his colleagues, I implore them to save the good name of African democracy. And I understand the difficulty, and they certainly aren't the ones perpetrating this. But if the world, if Africa allows Mugabe to continue this terrible reign of terror, it will be a source of shame to us all.

WHO WILL HAVE THE COURAGE TO SAVE ZIMBABWE?

(By Robert I. Rotberg)

After Idi Amin terrorized and killed his own Ugandans throughout the 1970s, President Julius Nyerere of neighboring Tanzania finally sent his army across the border to end the mayhem and restore stability. Who will now do the same for beleaguered Zimbabwe? Who will remove despotic Robert Mugabe from his besmirched and exposed presidency?

Presidential contender Morgan Tsvangirai's courageous decision to boycott Zimbabwe's runoff election on Friday—after Mugabe's thugs broke up yet another opposition rally by swinging iron bars and sticks at potential Tsvangirai voters—compels the African Union, the UN Security Council, and major powers finally to act. Tsvangirai said that he and his supporters were facing war, not an election, and they would ''not be part of that war.'' Serious UN sanctions are a first step.

Second, since South Africa shows no appetite for an intervention and Tanzania, Botswana, Mozambique, and Zambia—Zimbabwe's neighbors—are unlikely to act militarily without South African agreement an African stained Zimbabwe's tyranny should: demand that Friday's poll be postponed until Africans can patrol the country and oversee a free and fair real election; demand compulsory mediation by former UN secretary general Kofi Annan, who pacified Kenya earlier this year; denounce despotism in Zimbabwe; and ban all Zimbabwean aircraft from flying over neighboring airspaces, thus effectively keeping Mugabe and his henchmen bottled up inside their decaying country. Neighboring countries could also squeeze land-locked Zimbabwe's electricity supplies and slow rail traffic.

Time is short. Mugabe is clearly still intent on ratifying his usurpation of power on Friday. Tsvangirai officially led Mugabe in the initial presidential poll in March. In recent weeks Mugabe's military have unleashed a relentless wave of intimidation against Tsvangirai's Movement for a Democratic Change and its supporters, killing 86, maiming at least 10,000, and assaulting thousands more. Tsvangirai was detained seven times before Sunday and his key deputy was imprisoned last week without trial on a bogus treason charge. Yesterday, the house of another key deputy was trashed and his elderly relatives assaulted.

Unless Africa and the UN act courageously, Mugabe will get away with his brazen attempt to cling brutally to power and impoverish his own people despite broad global contempt.

Mugabe has also refused to summon Parliament, which is dominated by the Movement for Democratic Change and was elected overwhelmingly in March. As a result, many of Mugabe's cabinet ministers and loyalist remain in office, drawing salaries, despite having lost their seats. Several times, Mugabe and close associates have publicly declared that the Movement and Tsvangirai would never be allowed to take office or govern. ''Only God will remove me,'' Mugabe defiantly declared Monday.

Conditions in Zimbabwe, where more than 80 percent of adults are unemployed and nearly everyone is hungry; where there are startling shortages of staple corn, wheat and bread, sugar, oil, milk, and gasoline; and where brutality is always around the next corner are even more horrific today than they were in Uganda in 1979, when Nyerere invaded. Famously, Mugabe told a BBC interviewer in 1999 that he was ''no Idi Amin.''

Mugabe's men have also continued to use food as a political weapon, first stopping the supply of grain by international relief agencies and last week physically stealing relief shipments to give to their own supporters. Mugabe's thugs have also harassed British and American diplomats at roadblocks, in one case threatening to burn them alive in their cars.

Zimbabwe's inflation now exceeds 160,000 percent a year. One U.S. dollar buys 4 million Zimbabwe dollars at the unofficial street rate. Mugabe and his close associates exploit differences between official and unofficial exchange rates to prosper while ordinary Zimbabweans go hungry or are attacked.

Zimbabwe is in shambles. The United States and Britain would doubtless like to act unilaterally, but dare not. Only Africans and the UN have unquestioned moral authority. Which African leaders will now emulate Nyerere's profile of courage in Zimbabwe's dire time of need?

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

(Mr. CALVERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PHARMACISTS FIRST LINE OF HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, pharmacies play a critical role in delivering health care in America. Local pharmacists are the first line of defense in recognizing health problems and providing medical advice. Unfortunately, it is becoming more and more difficult to find and retain pharmacists who will practice in rural areas. With the impending retirement of the baby boomer generation, this problem only becomes worse. It is estimated that over the next 20 years, there will be a shortage of 150,000 or more pharmacists nationwide.

We are already experiencing this problem in Kansas. Seven counties in our State do not even have one single pharmacist; and 30 other counties have only one pharmacist in the county.

During my time in Congress, I have advocated for community pharmacies, and I currently co-chair the Congressional Community Pharmacy Caucus.

I was pleased that this week the House chose to address several important issues related to the issue of pharmacists in H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Provider

Act. This legislation includes provisions that community pharmacists from across my State have been tirelessly advocating for and that are important to keeping them in business.

The Congressional Community Pharmacy Caucus worked hard to get these necessary fixes included in this legislation, and I am gratified that they were included in H.R. 6331. These provisions are included in bills that I have sponsored, and they include prompt pay. The bill requires pharmacies to be reimbursed within 14 days if clean claims are submitted electronically and 30 days if submitted in other ways.

The AMP delay, this is the average manufacturer's price, the bill delays the implementation of the provisions creating the average manufactured price that was developed by CMS and which in my opinion is a terribly flawed system. The bill delays the implementation of the AMP system until after September 30, 2009.

Finally, the bill suspends the competitive bidding requirements in the durable medical equipment program for 1 year as well, as well as exempting diabetes test supplies from being subjected to the competitive bidding process.

It is important to the health of Americans and certainly to the health of rural Kansans that the Senate promptly adopt this legislation.

Also this week, it was my pleasure to participate in a ceremonial signing of the Kansas legislation that will allocate $20 million in funding to help the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy increase the school's ability to conduct more pharmaceutical research and expand the size of the entering class at the school. Under this proposal, nearly 200 students would be able to enter the program through a satellite campus in Wichita in a new building being built on the main campus in Lawrence.

The University of Kansas has a strong reputation for retaining graduates within our State. Sixty-three percent of KU pharmacy graduates live and work in Kansas. Increasing the educational capacity will give students an opportunity to learn, and will help address pharmaceutical shortages in our State.

I would like to commend the leadership of the university, especially the dean of the School of Pharmacy, Ken Andus; Executive Vice Chancellor Barbara Atkinson; Provost Richard Lavalare; and Chancellor Robert Hemenway. I would also like to thank the legislature of our State for seeing the importance of this expansion.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to commend the investment in this worthwhile project, and I ask that Congress continue to do its part to see that pharmacies remain an important component of delivering health care across America.

□ 1830

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

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Johns Hopkins University located in the Seventh Congressional District in the great State of Maryland for its continued commitment to excellence and its monumental contributions to the advancement of our society and to the health and wellbeing of people throughout the world.

Johns Hopkins is a stalwart not only in my hometown of Baltimore City but the entire State of Maryland and this Nation. The university currently supports more than 85,000 Maryland jobs. More than 3 percent of the people receiving paychecks in Maryland either work for Johns Hopkins or have a job because of the money.

Additionally, the institution adds at least $7 billion a year of income to the Maryland economy. However, the University's groundbreaking research and contributions that can be felt throughout the entire world. The advancements that have been made in research and technology since the University's establishment in 1876 have been critical in keeping our Nation on the cutting edge.

The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine is one of the best in the world, receiving more research grants from the National Institutes of Health than any other medical school. The Bloomberg School of Public Health, renowned for contributions worldwide to preventative medicine and the health of large populations, ranks first among public health schools in Federal research support.

Madam Speaker, the medical breakthroughs made possible through Johns Hopkins research are saving lives every single day, and the University continues to make great strides in helping men, women, and children who suffer from illness. Just the other day in the Baltimore Sun, for instance, there was an article reporting new, unprecedented success by Johns Hopkins researchers in the treatment of multiple sclerosis.

MS is a chronic and often disabling, degenerative condition in which the body's immune system attacks the central nervous system. Symptoms of this disease range from numbness in the limbs to paralysis or blindness, and the programs and severity of this disease is unpredictable.

According to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, approximately 40,000 Americans are currently suffering from MS and an additional 200 people are being diagnosed each week. Although there are apparently a variety of treatments approved by the Food and Drug Administration that can lessen the frequency and severity of MS attacks, there is not yet a cure for this debilitating disease.

However, this new research from Johns Hopkins offers a giant leap forward in the search for a cure. In a small college study, nine people were chosen to receive a single infusion of cyclophosphamide over 4 days and were followed for 4 years. Madam Speaker, these nine patients have experienced the most severe symptoms of MS, and most of them had failed to respond to other treatments.

At the completion of the 2-year period, researchers found that the treatment not only slowed the progression of MS, but it also restored neurological function that had previously been lost to the disease. Seven of the nine patients showed a decrease in the number of brain lesions in MRIs, and some even began walking, controlling bladder function, and returning to work for the first time in many years.

One of the patients in the treatment program, 30-year-old Richard Bauer, summed up succinctly what this research has the potential to offer those who are suffering from MS. And he said, ''I was falling apart . . . trapped in my own body,'' and he continued, ''I'm a regular person again. I've gotten my life back.''

Madam Speaker, there are countless other patients who have benefited tremendously from Johns Hopkins research and who credit this great university for giving them back their lives. I am proud to applaud the work of this great institution and to recognize its contributions to the State of Maryland, to our Nation, and indeed the world.

DO NOT BELIEVE THE U.S. FEAR FACTOR PROPAGANDA AS IT RELATES TO OUR FOREIGN POLICY

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

(Mr. PAUL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, today we saw some financial fireworks on the markets. The Dow Jones average was down 350-some points, gold was up $32, oil was up another $5, and there's a lot of chaos out there; and everyone is worried about $4-a-gallon gasoline. I don't think there is a clear understanding exactly why that has occurred.

We do know that there is a supply and demand, there's a lot of demand for

oil. The supplies may be dwindling. But there are other reasons for high costs of energy. One is inflation. For instance, to pay for the war that has been going on and the domestic spending, we have been spending a lot more money than we have. So what do we do? We send the bills over to the Federal Reserve to create new money. In the last 3 years, our government, through the Federal Reserve and our banking system, created $4 trillion of new money. That is one of the main reasons why we have this high cost of energy in $4 gallon gasoline.

But there is another factor that I want to talk about tonight. And that is not only the fear of inflation and future inflation, but the fear factor dealing with our foreign policy.

And in the last several weeks, if not for months now, we have heard a lot of talk about the potentiality of Israel and/or the United States bombing Iran. And it is in the marketplace, and it's being bid up. The energy crisis is being bid up because of this fear. It's been predicted if bombs start dropping, that you're going to see energy prices double or triple. It's just the thought of it right now that helps to push these prices, the price of energy, up. And that is a very real thing going on right now. But to me, it's almost like déjà vu all over again, as has been said.

We listened to the rhetoric for years and years before we went into Iraq. We did not go in in the correct manner. We didn't declare war. We're there. It's an endless struggle. We're in Iraq. We're endlessly struggling there, and I cannot believe that we may well be on the verge of initiating bombing of Iran.

Leaders on both sides of the aisle and the administration have all said so often that no options can be taken off the table, including a nuclear first strike on Iran. The fear is, they say, maybe some day they're going to get a nuclear weapon, even though our own CIA and our NIE, National Intelligence Estimate, has said they have not been working.

The Iranians have not been working on a nuclear weapon since 2003. They say they're enriching uranium, but there's no evidence whatsoever that they're enriching uranium for weapons purposes. They may well be enriching uranium for peaceful purposes, and that is perfectly legal. They have been a member of the nonproliferation treaties, and they are under the investigation of the IAEA, and Alberidy last verified in the last year there have been nine unannounced investigations and examinations of the uranium nuclear structure, and they have never been found to be in violation. Yet this country and Israel are talking about a preventive war starting bombing for this reason without negotiation, without talks.

Now, the one issue that I do want to mention tonight is a resolution that is about to come to this floor, if our suspicions are correct, after the July 4th holiday. And this bill will probably be brought up under suspension, it will probably be expected to pass easily, and probably will be, and it's just more war propaganda, more preparation to go to war against Iran.

And this resolution, H.J. Res. 362, is a virtual war resolution. It is the declaration of tremendous sanctions and boycotts and embargoes on Iran. It's very, very severe.

Let me just read what is involved in this, if this bill passes, what we're telling the President he must do. This demands that the President impose stringent inspection requirements on all persons, vehicles, ships, planes, trains, and cargo entering or departing Iran and prohibiting the international movement of all Iranian officials. I mean, this is unbelievable. This is closing down Iran. Where do we have this authority? Where do we get the moral authority? Where do we get the international legality for this? Where do we get the constitutional authority for this?

This is what we did for 10 years before we went into Iraq. We starved children. 50,000 individuals that were admitted probably died because of the sanctions on the Iraqis. They were incapable at the time of attacking us, and all of the propaganda that was given for our need to go into Iraq wasn't true.

And it's not true today about the severity. And they say, Yeah, but Ahmadinejad, he's a bad guy. He's threatened violence. But you know, us threatening violence is very, very similar. We must look at this carefully. We just can't go to work again under these careless, frivolous conditions.

SOLUTIONS FOR HIGH ENERGY PRICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, tonight I rise because my constituents in my district are sick and tired of paying record-high gas prices while Congress does nothing to increase domestic energy production. Imagine for a moment that you are a regular working mom struggling to make ends meet. You need to get the kids to and from school, you need to get to work, you need to buy groceries, you need to do all of the things that millions of working parents do every day. Then at the end of the week, you stop by the gas station only to find that prices are so high that you can't even afford to fill your tank. What do you think she would want from her representative in Congress?

I know what my constituents want us to do. Everything. We should allow exploration of America's own energy reserves in places like ANWR and the Outer Continental Shelf waters. We should bring new carbon friendly nuclear reactors online and begin the reprocessing of nuclear energy. We should invest in clean coal plants with carbon sequestration technologies. We should invest in research and development of alternative energy technologies, be that wind, hydro, geothermal, solar, and we should provide the tax incentives necessary to accelerate their deployment.

In short, we should do all of the above and more. America can neither drill nor conserve its way to cheaper energy. We must have a comprehensive approach that does have both short- and long-term solutions.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Science and Technology Committee, I have been a long-time advocate for research development for energy technologies like hydrogen, cellulosic fuels, solar, wind, and green buildings. In my own district, scientists at Argon National Laboratory are leading the way on the development of specialized batteries for special hybrid vehicles. They will allow motors to drive 40 miles before using a drop of gas. That's more than enough to cover Americans' commute to work and back. Then they can just plug the car into a regular electric socket and recharge it for another 40 miles.

I believe that the significant advances in these energy technologies are just around the corner, but in the meantime, we must provide relief to hardworking Americans being squeezed by soaring gas prices, and that means increasing the domestic supply of energy.

America is the only industrialized Nation in the world that prohibits oil and glass exploration in its Outer Continental Shelf waters. Foreign nations, like Cuba, are permitted to drill closer to our shores than the American companies; and yet instead of opening America's vast energy reserves, Congress forces us to rely on expensive oil from the Middle East.

I agree that examining futures markets for excessive speculation and exercising proper oversight is fine and good, but if we want to effectively curb speculation in the oil market, we should show that we are serious about developing our own energy reserves. When more supply is on the horizon developing our own energy reserves, speculators will have much less incentive to invest in oil commodities.

This debate isn't just about the price that Americans are paying at the pump. It's about the growing threat to our economy and our security. Last year alone, America increased its dependence on foreign members of OPEC by an additional 7 percent. How much more money and control are we willing to turn over to nations in these unstable regions of the world? And yet despite this growing threat, Congress is still debating legislation that holds zero potential to increase domestic energy production or help break our addiction to foreign oil.

Madam Speaker, I'm glad that the House leadership has finally realized that we need to bring bills to the floor

to address America's energy needs. I just wish the legislation considered today was up to the task.

□ 1845

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, you know, Americans are beginning to pressure the Democrats to face up to the basic law of economics: supply and demand. They understand that, despite all the rhetoric on the part of the Democrats, what we need is more supply to meet the demand for petroleum products.

The Democrats refuse to respond in the appropriate manner. What they continue to do is bring up sham bills, avoid the issue, and try to take away people's attention from the real issue.

So what they did today was bring up a bill under suspension of the rules, H.R. 6251, which they called use-it-or-lose-it. This has been their mantra for the past few days, trying to say again that the oil companies—and they love to beat up on the oil companies—have all the means at their disposal to meet the supply needs in this country.

However, the American people understand that's not true. Even 19 Democrats understood that that's not true, and thankfully, the bill did not pass because it required a two-thirds majority vote, and it didn't get that.

What H.R. 6251 would have done was threaten increased American energy production. It would do nothing to lower the price at the pump, and it would breach existing oil and gas contracts. But of course, what we've seen from this Democratically controlled Congress, they don't care much about the law. They don't care much about contracts, the basic part of our law in this country.

I want to share with you some editorials that have been written about this harebrain scheme on the part of the Democrats, but it's not just the Republicans who feel this way, and as I've said, 19 Democrats voted against the bill today. I'm very proud of them for standing up to their despotic leadership and voting ''no'' on this bill.

But here's some of the editorials that have come out about this legislation. The Charleston, West Virginia, Daily Mail, the hometown paper of Congressman NICK RAHALL, one of the main sponsors of the bill: ''Now comes a new wrinkle, another attempt to dodge sensible policy—this one from West Virginia's Representative NICK RAHALL. He proposes to give big oil companies an ultimatum: Unless they drill on the 68 million acres of inactive land they now lease from the Federal Government—or give up those leases—they would be barred from getting new leases.

''Oh, for pity's sake. It may not be possible to produce from some reserves at the current price. Huffing and puffing around that American companies shouldn't have access to any new reserves until they have made full use of the reserves they have would unnecessarily delay the identification of new domestic sources, and production from those sources.

''Rahall's bill is yet another pitiful attempt to avoid doing what clearly needs to be done—make more U.S. reserves available to U.S. companies.'' That's in the Charleston Daily Mail editorial, 6/18/08.

The New Hampshire Union Leader: ''Of all the dumb ideas to come out of Washington in recent memory, last week Representative CAROL SHEA-PORTER embraced what might be the dumbest of them all. SHEA-PORTER has cosponsored legislation to force oil companies that hold leases on Federal land to commence developing that land or lose the lease. Simply put, SHEA-PORTER hasn't the slightest idea what she's talking about.''

Another one. ''Furthermore, AAPG's Nation says, current leases already require oil companies to take certain steps to use the land. The premise behind the bill Representative CAROL SHEA-PORTER is cosponsoring—that oil companies have huge reserves of untapped oil wells sitting beneath already leased Federal land, which they can tap right away if only Congress orders it—is unsupported by the facts. Nation called it 'laughable.' ''

It is a great day when the American people can prevail, when they will convince the Democratic leadership—and it's important that we say over and over and over and over again that it's the Democrats who are in charge of the Congress. They are the ones in charge of bringing bills to a vote. Republicans have common sense answers to this. We will increase American-produced energy sources, and it's time to bring those bills for a vote.

IRANIAN CONFERENCE IN PARIS: 2ND ANNUAL WORLD DEMOCRACY CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for those who promote democracy in Iran and stability in Iraq. In Paris, thousands of Iranians have gathered to celebrate a big victory today. It is a great day for the Iranian people and their resistance.

On Monday, the government of the United Kingdom formally removed the Iranian opposition from the U.K.'s Terror list. This happened after many years of campaign by the organization. Legislators approved the decision of the Proscribed Organization Court of Appeal, which ruled in May that the People's Mujahedeen of Iran (MEK) should no longer be listed as a proscribed group.

It is a great day for the Iranian people, for all freedom loving people of Iran who have been forced to leave Iran, and for their just resistance. It was great to hear that the British government formally removed an Iranian opposition group from the U.K.'s Black list on Monday, after many years of campaign by the organization.

As a Representative of the 18th Congressional District of Texas, I have had the pleasure, of working with a strong and vibrant Iranian population in Houston. They have contributed immensely to the cultural diversity, economic and political dynamic of Houston. As a Member of Congress, I find Iran's support of terrorist organizations, pursuit of nuclear weapons, and dismal human rights record to be extremely worrisome. However, I am also concerned by what appears to be precipitous movement by this Administration toward yet another war in the Gulf region, without having first exhausted diplomatic means of addressing any conflicts.

I have long been an advocate of a free, independent, and democratic Iran. I believe in an Iran that holds free elections, follows the rule of law, and is home to a vibrant civil society; an Iran that is a responsible member of the region and the international community, particularly with respect to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. An Iran that, unfortunately, we do not see today.

Today, the Bush Administration announced a set of new sanctions against Iran. The Administration labeled the elite Quds division of the Revolutionary Guard Corps as supporters of terrorism, and stated that the entire Revolutionary Guard Corps was engaged in proliferating weapons of mass destruction. These designations trigger unilateral sanctions designed to impede the Revolutionary Guard, and any who might do business with it. These new sanctions mark the first time that the United States has taken such a step against the armed forces of any sovereign government.

The only effective way to achieve lasting peace and prosperity in the region, along with bringing about reforms in Iran's policy, is to assist the Iranian people in their quest to achieve political, social, and religious liberty. Every government can be judged by the way in which it treats its ethnic and religious minorities, and the current Iranian government gets a failing grade for its treatment of its many and diverse minorities.

Given the government's poor record for transparency and accountability, the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) inability, despite intensified inspections since 2002, to verify that Iran's nuclear program is not designed to develop a nuclear weapon is cause for great concern. While Iran states that the intention of its nuclear program is for electricity generation which it feels is vital to its energy security, U.S. officials challenge this justification by stating that ''Iran's vast gas resources make nuclear energy programs unnecessary.''

The controversy surrounding Iran's procurement of nuclear energy is cause for great concern, however, the Administration's avoidance of any and all diplomatic relations with Iran are cause for greater alarm. Moreover, the current rhetoric from the Bush Administration regarding war with Iran is both counter productive and highly inflammatory. While full diplomatic, political, and economic relations between the U.S. and Iran cannot be normalized unless and until enforceable safeguards are put in place to prevent the weaponization of Iran's

nuclear program, these policy objectives should not constitute pre-conditions for any diplomatic dialogue.

Establishing a diplomatic dialogue with the Government of Iran and deepening relationships with the Iranian people would help foster greater understanding between the people of Iran and the people of the United States and would enhance the stability the security of the Persian Gulf region. Doing so would reduce the threat of the proliferation or use of nuclear weapons in the region while advancing other U.S. foreign policy objectives in the region. The significance of establishing and sustaining diplomatic relations with Iran cannot be overemphasized. Avoidance and military intervention cannot be the means through which we resolve this looming crisis.

I am planning to introduce important legislation that will call for human rights and religious freedom in Iran. The Iranian people have continued to ask for democracy to reign free in their country and I intend to support the Iranian people in that endeavor. As you know, over the past few months, the people of Iran have been standing up to Iranian government. I am aware that at least 5000 acts of protest took place last year. I applaud your efforts to encourage those who have raised their voices against the extremists in Iran.

The United Nations has condemned Iran 54 times for its atrocious human rights record. Inhumane treatment of youths, women and workers by the government of Iran is further evidence of the regime's intolerance. Iranian women have shown they play a pivotal role in establishing democracy and ensuring human rights in Iran.

We all must work together for a stable and democratic Iraq. Today, there is undisputable evidence that Iran is the main contributor to the violence in Iraq which causes American casualties. The extremist government in Iran has acted to ensure the failure of Iraqi reconciliation. Iran is part of the problem in Iraq and does not wish to be part of the solution. But Iraq's tribal leaders are standing up to the Islamic extremism coming from Iran. I know that over 3 million Iraqi Shiites have signed a declaration this month rejecting Iran's meddling. They have also shown support for the Iranian opposition MEK living in Ashraf. I support their invaluable efforts for peace and stability in Iraq.

Although many disagree with the current status of this war in Iraq, all agree that we must collectively work to stop Iranian-style fundamentalism from taking root in Iraq. Let me here recognize your actions in support of democracy in Iraq as well as in Iran. With many continuing to suggest that military action in Iran is the best way to deal with our political discrepancies, it is now time to renew our efforts in strengthening our diplomatic policies in the Middle East. The same people who called for attacking Iraq now are raising the drumbeat for military action against Iran.

Despite the November 2007 U.S. National Intelligence Estimate concluding that Iran had halted its nuclear weapons program, the Bush administration is bolstering its case for war by labeling Iran one of the greatest threats to American security. Bombing Iran would bring disastrous consequences. The entire Middle East likely would descend into further violence putting the well-being of innumerable civilians at risk. U.S. standing in the world would plummet and oil prices would soar. A U.S. attack would only strengthen hardliners in Iran.

Supporting the efforts of the Iranian people who want democracy is especially important now that the UK government confirmed on June 24, that the MEK was no longer "Concerned in terrorism", and officially took the name of the organization off their black list. This is a great victory for the cause of democracy in Iran. In light of the recent developments, the United States must seriously consider the court's findings and also remove the limitations it has placed on the MEK.

The world community must strengthen the sanctions on the clerical regime. It must also immediately recognize and support the Iranian resistance as the democratic alternative to the regime in Iran.

Today, the mullahs are increasingly using oppression inside and terrorism outside of Iran as a foreign policy tool. The solution to the current crisis is often perceived to only have two solutions—war or appeasement. I disagree. There is a third option. The Third Option introduced by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi relies on the strength of the Iranian people and their organized resistance. This is the best and least costly alternative. Let us not continue to make the mistake of appeasing Iran. As a viable alternative, we must move to support the Iranian people and their resistance. Only you can bring about democratic change in Iran.

I have come to know the people of Iran and appreciate their thirst for freedom. My message to them is this: rest assured that it is attainable. I wish you the best in your struggle for peace, freedom and democracy.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA V. HELLER

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today the Supreme Court made a strong move in support of individual gun rights in their decision in District of Columbia v. Heller.

Since 1975, the residents of Washington, D.C., have had their second amendment rights to bear arms stolen from them by the D.C. government. The second amendment to the U.S. Constitution declares that: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Our Founding Fathers knew that without the second amendment, an oppressive government would eventually try to tear away our rights. They could not trust the government to always protect our rights, and so they wrote the second amendment. As James Madison later wrote: "Who are the best keepers of the people's liberties? The people themselves. The sacred trust can be nowhere so safe as in the hands most interested in preserving it."

The second amendment protects the fundamental, individual right of law-abiding citizens to own firearms for any lawful purpose. Further, any law infringing on this freedom, including a ban on self-defense and handgun ownership, is blatantly unconstitutional. Every study has shown that gun control is not effective in curbing crime. Rather, these types of restrictions only leave law-abiding citizens more susceptible to criminal attack. Other than law enforcement, only criminals have had handguns in the District of Columbia.

The Supreme Court took a strong step forward today to protect the individual gun rights of Americans, and I applaud them for doing so. As Justice Scalia stated, "The Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia, and to use that arm for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home."

Though the Supreme Court's decision does champion the individual right to bear arms, it also allows restrictions based on type, manner of carrying, purpose, sensitive location, and commercial sale of handguns.

Most alarmingly, the Court irrationally envisioned that their holding may completely detach the second amendment right from its purpose. Regarding the purpose of the right, United States General George Washington Stated, "A free people ought not only be armed and disciplined, but they should have sufficient arms and ammunition to maintain a status of independence from any who might attempt to abuse them, which would include their own government."

Recognizing an evolving standard that limits the right to weapons to only those "in common use at the time" and accepting prohibitions of "dangerous and unusual" weapons, the Court gives short shrift to the fact that modern laws, of the very sort it strikes down today, have prevented the common use of "sufficient arms and ammunition to maintain a status of independence from any who might attempt to abuse them, which would include their own government," as George Washington envisioned.

The ruling outrageously claims that, "the fact that modern developments have limited the degree of fit between the purpose and the protected right cannot change our interpretation of the right." The truth is that our second amendment right must fit the purpose, and this Court has separated the two. This Court wrongly leaves loopholes for prohibition of weapons that would be necessary for today's militia duty. Militia, at the time of our findings, included every male 18 years of age or older.

I am an avid hunter and outdoorsman and proud owner of numerous firearms. The National Rifle Association, Safari Club International, and Gun Owners of America are just some of the numerous sporting associations that I am a life Member of. A full-body-mounted African lion and Kodiak grizzly bear are just a few of my prized trophies that visitors see when they come to my D.C. office.

I strongly support the Constitution's second amendment right to bear arms and will defend the rights of law-abiding citizens to purchase, use, carry,

and keep firearms. I vigorously oppose all attempts to restrict the second amendment.

I believe that any law, whether at the local, State, or Federal level, which restricts or infringes upon law-abiding citizens' ability to own a firearm is unconstitutional and should be repealed.

The plain language of the Second Amendment clearly indicates that it was written to protect an individual's right to keep and bear arms. I believe, as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, John Adams, and other founding fathers believed, that the individual right to bear arms is a representation of freedom and independence and I will always defend that right from abusive regulations and licensing.

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

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR LOWER GAS PRICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I just wanted to start out by saying that I know that I can't talk directly to the American people, but I hope that if anyone is out there listening that they would listen to my comments that I make to you.

Madam Speaker, I guess about 2 weeks ago probably I started getting some phone calls about different petitions on the Internet and other places about the prospects of America becoming more energy independent, that we would not be dependent on foreign oil sources, and that we would be able to use our own natural resources to meet our energy needs.

And people began to ask if I had gone and signed them or had seen them. One was on americansolutions.com, which offered to increase domestic oil drilling. There was one about a gas holiday. There were several about developing alternative energy sources. But there were some interesting petitions against drilling by Democratic Senator Ms. BOXER, the Sierra Club and Greenpeace.

As I walked into a service station in my district, there was a petition on the counter, Madam Speaker, that said: Sign here if you want to let your representatives know that you're for lowering gas prices. And I'm assuming that the proprietor of that station had it there to keep people from talking bad to him about the price that was on his pump.

But what I decided after looking at all these different petitions is that I would come up with a petition so the American people could understand where their representative was at. We know where our constituents are. I think on the American Solutions petition they are at like 1.7 million people. So we can kind of understand where the American people are at. They want us to be independent. They want us to increase our U.S. oil production.

So what I decided to do was come up with a petition, and what this petition says is: American energy solutions for lower gas prices. Bring onshore oil online; bring deepwater oil online; and bring new refineries on online. Realize, we have not built a refinery in this country since the late 1970s.

□ 1900

And you may not realize this, because we're always talking about crude oil, but you might not realize that the United States imports 6.2 billion gallons of gas and 4.6 billion gallons of diesel every year. We import these from the United Kingdom, U.S. Virgin Islands, France, Canada, Netherlands, Norway—which, by the way, Norway is now the third largest exporter of crude oil, and back in 1965 they were energy dependent on foreign oil and they decided that they would open up to drilling in the North Sea. They are now the third largest exporter of crude oil. But we import refined gas from them—Germany, Russia, Italy, and of course the OPEC countries, which don't even really have that much refining capacity, Madam Speaker, but yet we buy refined gas from them.

So I got a petition, I've had it over here on the wall, Madam Speaker, for probably about 2 weeks now. There are 435 spaces for the Members, and then there are seven spaces for the delegates from the U.S. territories. And I'm happy to say that we've had 191 signatures. Now, this may be too simple for some people because all it says is, ''I will vote to increase U.S. oil production to lower gas prices for Americans.'' And so we need your help, Madam Speaker. We need you to sign. I don't think you're on it, Madam Speaker.

But we've got a Web site, and it's our Web site at house.gov/westmoreland. And on there we have everybody that has signed, and we have everybody that we've talked to that said they would not sign. So we've got two columns, we've got a signers and a non-signers. And then also, just to let you know, we have notified every office here at least once, we will do it again next week. And some people said have, well, Congressman, they ask me how long have you been working on this? And I say, well, about almost 2 weeks. Well, how come you only have 191 signatures? Well, Madam Speaker, I'd ask people that ask me that question, Sunday, when they're at church, try to talk to 450 people on a Sunday, it's almost hard to do, especially when you get in different conversations with folks. So if you want to understand, house.gov/westmoreland, Madam Speaker, that's where somebody would go if they wanted to see where their Congressman was at on this simple petition that basically just says, ''I will vote to increase U.S. oil production to lower gas prices for Americans.''

I would like to yield some time to my friend from Indiana.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Let me just say to my good friend, Congressman WESTMORELAND from Georgia, I am so happy that you are going to all this trouble to get all of our colleagues to sign this petition. And if you're at 191, you're not too far short of 218. And when you get 218, I will join with you to go to the Speaker and show her that we have 218 signatures—or you do—and that they ought to bring this to the floor for a vote because a majority of the House wants this done.

You know, we passed another week. A week has gone by since you and I, I think, last were on the floor. And everybody's going home for the 4th of July recess—they're going to be in parades, they're going to be on radio, they're going to have town meetings—and we haven't done anything about reducing the price of gasoline or moving toward energy independence. And so I, like you, if I were talking to the American people right now, I would say, when your Congressman or your Senator is in that parade, I want you to talk to them strongly and say, we want you to drill in America. We want you to move us toward energy independence. We've been talking about it since Jimmy Carter was President 30-something years ago, and we aren't doing anything. And that's why we're dependent on foreign oil and that's why gasoline prices are over $4 because we aren't producing the oil here, we're sending it overseas.

We're sending over $400 million a day to Saudi Arabia to pay for oil that we're using. We could use that money right here in America, and it would help create jobs and expand our economy. We're sending $125 million a day to President Chavez in Venezuela, who's trying to move every country in this hemisphere toward communism and who is a good friend of the Castro brothers, Fidel and his brother Raul.

We have big problems here because we aren't drilling in America. And we need to have everybody in this country contact their Congressman and Senator and say, hey, listen, get with the program, it's time for us to move toward energy independence. We can't have this economy of ours suffer anymore.

I would like to enter into the RECORD, Madam Speaker, if I might, a

letter that was sent by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. These are the experts that say there is oil here, we ought to drill here, and here's how we ought to do it and here's how we ought to explore. And when you read this letter—which is now going to be put in the record—it tells very clearly that drilling costs for one well onshore costs a half a million dollars, and offshore it can cost up to $25 million. And so these geologists, when they get these permits to drill in a certain area, they go out to make darn sure that there's oil there before they sink a well that's going to cost $25 million. And that's an exploratory well. And it's a half million dollars if you drill onshore. So we're talking about big money. And when you realize that 68 percent of the people who drill for oil are independent drillers, they're not the big oil companies, and 87 percent of the people who drill for gas are not the big oil and gas companies, they're individual people who have small companies, and if they find oil they're going to get it, and if they find gas they're going to get it. And so this idea that these permits are not being researched and looked at is just crazy.

And when you read what the American Association of Petroleum Geologists said, and the President is a Mr. Willard Green, you realize that these people want to get oil and gas out of the ground, they want to get it out of the offshore sites on the Continental Shelf, and they can't do it simply because they don't have the ability to pursue these permits.

Only 3 percent of the area offshore is available for permitting and for drilling for oil; 97 percent of the Continental Shelf isn't being touched. And we have about 80 percent onshore that's not being touched. We ought to explore every place we can to move this country toward energy independence. We ought to remove ourselves from being dependent on Saudi Arabia, who isn't really a friend of ours, and on Venezuela, which really isn't a friend of ours, and other countries that aren't friends of ours. We ought to really move towards energy independence. And the minute we announce we're going to do that, we're going to drill on these sites, I'm sure the American people realize the price of oil is going to go down. The competitive nature of the free enterprise system and supply and demand will force the price of oil down, and it means the price of gasoline will go down as well.

JUNE 3, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. STENY HOYER,
Majority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, MAJORITY LEADER HOYER, AND MINORITY LEADER BOEHNER: Given the on-going debate about access and leasing activity on federal onshore lands and the Outer Continental Shelf, I would like to offer some perspective, on behalf of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), on the science and process of finding oil and natural gas.

AAPG, an international geoscience organization, is the world's largest professional geological society representing over 33,000 members; The purpose of AAPG is to advance the science of geology, foster scientific research, promote technology and advance the well-being of its members. With members in 116 countries, more than two-thirds of whom work and reside in the United States, AAPG serves as a voice for the shared interests of energy geologists and geophysicists in our profession worldwide.

AAPG strives to increase public awareness of the crucial role that the geosciences, and particularly petroleum and energy-related geology, play in our society.

Finding and developing oil and natural gas blends science, engineering, and economics. It has distinct phases: exploration, development. and production. And it is risky, because finding oil and natural gas traps, places where oil and natural gas migrate and concentrate, buried under thousands of feet of rock is like finding the proverbial needle in a haystack. Talent and technology increase our chances of a discovery, but there are no guarantees.

What is exploration? Well, the grid pattern on a block map makes it tempting to think of exploration as a process of simply drilling a well in each grid block to determine whether it contains oil. But because of the natural variation in regional geology, one cannot assume oil and natural gas are evenly distributed across a given lease or region, Rather, exploration is about unraveling the geologic history of the rock underneath that grid block, trying to understand where oil or natural gas may have formed and where it migrated. If the geology isn't right, you won't find oil or natural gas.

Legendary geologist Wallace Pratt once observed, ''Where oil is first found is in the minds of men.'' When preparing a lease bid, geologists use their knowledge to identify the specific areas in a region that they believe have the highest likelihood of containing oil and natural gas traps. Successful exploration begins with an idea—a hypothesis of where oil may be found.

Since exploration is about developing and testing ideas, some acreage available for leasing is never leased. That is because no one develops a compelling idea of why oil or natural gas should be there. Similarly, some acreage is leased and drilled repeatedly with no success. Then, one day, a geologist develops an idea that works, resulting in new oil or natural gas production from the same land that others dismissed as barren.

Once a lease is awarded, geologists begin an intensive assessment. They collect new geological, geophysical, and geochemical data to better understand the geology in their lease area. They use these data to construct a geological model that best explains where they think oil and natural gas were generated, where it may have been trapped, and whether the trap is big enough to warrant drilling.

If there is no evidence of a suitable trap, the explorer will relinquish the lease and walk away. If they see a trap that looks interesting, they schedule a drill rig to find out if they are right. Drilling is the true test of the geologists' model, and it isn't a decision to be made lightly. Drilling costs for a single well can range from $0.5 million for shallow onshore wells to over $25 million for tests in deep water offshore.

As the well is drilling, geologists continually collect and evaluate data to see whether they conform to their expectations based on the geological model. Eventually, they reach the rock layer where they think the trap is located.

If there is no oil or natural gas when the drill reaches the trap they were targeting, they've drilled a dry hole. At this point the explorers will evaluate why the hole is dry: was there never oil and gas here; how was the geological model wrong; and can it be improved based on what they know from the drilled well? Depending on the results of this analysis, they may tweak the exploration idea and drill another well or decide the idea failed and relinquish the lease.

If there is oil and/or natural gas, they've drilled a discovery. Typically, they will test the well to see what volumes of oil and/or natural gas flow from it. Sometimes the flow rates do not justify further expenditures and the well is abandoned. If the results are promising, they will usually drill several additional wells to better define the size and shape of the trap. All of these data improve the geological model.

Based on this revised geological model, engineers plan how to develop the new field (e.g., number of production wells to drill, construction of oil field facilities and pipelines).

Using complex economic tools, they must decide whether the revenue from the oil and natural gas sales will exceed the past and continuing expenses to decide whether it is a commercial discovery.

The process of leasing, evaluating, drilling, and developing an oil or natural gas field typically takes five to ten years. Some fields come online sooner. Others are delayed by permitting or regulatory delays or constraints in the availability of data acquisition and drilling equipment and crews. Large projects and those in deep water may require a decade or more to ramp up to full production.

As you can see, oil and natural gas exploration is not simple and it is not easy. It requires geological ingenuity, advanced technologies, and the time to do the job right. It also requires access to areas where exploration ideas can be tested—the greater the number of areas available for exploration, the higher the chance of finding oil and natural gas traps.

U.S. consumers are burdened by high crude oil prices. Conservation and efficiency improvements are necessary responses, but equally important is increasing long-term supply from stable parts of the world, such as our very own federal lands and Outer Continental Shelf.

As Congress considers measures to deal with high crude oil prices, I urge caution. Policies that increase exploration costs, decrease the available time to properly evaluate leases and restrict access to federal lands and the Outer Continental Shelf do not provide the American people with short-term relief from high prices and undermine the goal of increasing stable long-term supplies.

I am happy to further discuss these ideas. Please contact me through our Geoscience & Energy Office in Washington, D.C. at 202–684–8225 or 202–355–3415.

Sincerely,

WILLARD R. (WILL) GREEN,
President, American Assoication of Petroleum Geologists.

And when they talk about these speculators, there are people that speculate in gas futures and oil futures, there is no question about that. But the minute we say we're going to drill here in this country, you watch those prices drop; you watch those speculators start getting out of the market and selling what they have. And that will force the price

down on oil, it will force down the price of gasoline, and it will help this country.

And let me just say to my colleague—and I really appreciate him yielding to me—if we don't get with the program, if my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and the Senate and the House don't work with us on this side of the aisle, we're going to end up with gasoline prices being $5 or more per gallon. And if we have a conflict in the Middle East, as we've heard talked about here tonight, it could go much higher than that. That will put extreme pressure on this economy.

And I hate to predict this, but I really believe that if we don't get control of this situation and start drilling onshore and offshore in our territory, I think we could have a severe economic recession in this country. And when I say severe, I mean severe. The price of food is going up rapidly, the price of gasoline is going up rapidly. The price of products that are shipped across this country, which is almost—everything is going up very rapidly, and we're not doing a darn thing about it because we're depending on the Saudis.

We had Senators go over to the Saudis just recently and ask them to open up more oil fields so we can buy more of their oil. Why are we doing that? Why aren't we drilling in America so we don't have to depend on foreign oil? It makes absolutely no sense to send billions and billions and billions of dollars overseas and to other countries that don't even like us when we won't even drill here in the United States.

And so I am so happy that my colleague has taken the time and the effort to get the message out to our colleagues that they ought to sign onto this petition. And I know he feels like I do—and we come down here night after night talking to each other—that we would like, if we could talk to the American people, to put pressure on their Congressmen and Senators to sign onto this policy of drilling in America, to sign this petition so we can move toward energy independence. If we do that, and I would say this to my American friends all across this country, if we do that, you watch the price of gasoline go down. It will go down like a rock. You will see gasoline below $3 before you know it. But we have to say that we're going to drill for oil in this country, onshore and offshore. The minute we do that, America, just watch these prices go down. But first of all, we have to get this body and the other body, the House and the Senate, to get together and say, okay, we're going to drill. And we can't do that unless the American people put pressure on their Congressmen and Senators to sign on.

You have done yeoman service to this country, Congressman WESTMORELAND, because you've got 191 Members that have already signed that. And I'm going to work with you to get 218. And as I said before, the minute you get 218, I will walk with you to the Speaker's office and say, hey, it's time to bring this to the floor.

You're doing good work. I'm proud of you.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I want to thank my friend from Indiana. And I want to get 300 signatures because I would like for the American people to know that way more than just a simple majority is behind them for making sure that, not necessarily those of us that are our age, but our children and our grandchildren will not have to go through the things that we're going through today. Because in 1995, this Congress passed drilling in ANWR and President Clinton vetoed it. And by all estimates today, 13 years later, we would be getting one million barrels of oil a day.

And as Senator SCHUMER said over in the Senate about 2 weeks ago, if we could get OPEC to increase oil production by one million barrels a day, it would lower the price of gas 50 cents a gallon just like that.

We don't need to be sending our President over to foreign countries—and especially those that are not that friendly to us—with hat in hand on bended knee asking them to use more of their natural resources to provide us with oil when we won't use our own natural resources.

In talking about that, because this is the one thing that gets people fired up, Madam Speaker, and really gets those lines hot, that they want to find out if their Congressman has signed this very simple one sentence, is that it says, ''In a recent interview on al Jazeera, Chavez''—now this is Hugo Chavez from Venezuela—''Chavez called for developing nations to unite against U.S. political and economic policies. What can we do regarding the imperialist power of the United States? We have no choice but to unite,'' he said. ''Venezuela's energy alliances with nations such as Cuba, which receives cheap oil, are an example of how we use oil in our war against neoliberalism,'' he said. Then there was another date, on March 15, 2005, in the Washington Post, Mr. Chavez says, ''We have invaded the United States, but with our oil.''

Now, that would make your blood kind of boil, Madam Speaker, but this is what really gets people off is the fact that every day American families and businesses in this country write Hugo Chavez a check for $170 million. That $170 million could be going to our country. It could be going to provide energy independence. It could be going to provide jobs and build an industry, put into infrastructure; $170 million a day to Mr. Chavez.

Now, what we've been doing this week with the Democratic majority—and let me remind you, Madam Speaker, that it was back in April of 2006 that then Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI made a statement, and she said, ''Democrats have a commonsense plan to bring down the skyrocketing price of gas.'' And at the time it was about $2.06 a gallon. We are waiting on that commonsense plan to be unveiled. We're waiting on it. And we heard that there were going to be about four energy bills this week. And Madam Speaker, the energy bills that were brought out this week was kind of like putting lipstick on a pig.

H.R. 6377, the speculation bill, this is what it says, ''to direct the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to utilize all its authority.'' In other words, we passed something that's already existing law. That's what we did, we passed something that was already existing law.

I want to read to you what happened in some quotes from H.R. 6. H.R. 6, Madam Speaker, was a bill that the new majority passed in January—I believe it was January 18, 2007—shortly after taking over, after they had promised the American people that they were going to lower gas prices. And I do want to read this one quote before I start reading these others. This is from PAUL KANJORSKI, and this was about 2 weeks ago. It said, ''A man was trying to question Mr. KANJORSKI about his remarks that Democrats had overpromised during the 2006 congressional elections by implying that they could end the war if they controlled Congress.''

□ 1915

''Now, anybody who is a good student of government would know that that wasn't true,'' Mr. KANJORSKI said at an Ashley town hall meeting in August, ''but you know the temptation to want to win Congress back. We sort of stretched the facts, and people ate it up.''

Yep, they ate it up. And right now they're paying a price for it.

I want to read you some quotes. These are from January 18, 2007, when we were debating H.R. 6:

Mr. PETER DEFAZIO: ''It is sad to see the Republicans come to this. Now they laughingly say that this will lead to higher gas prices.''

Well, gas was $2.23 a gallon on the day Mr. DEFAZIO made his statement. It's about $4.08 today. So we were probably right. This was no way to lower gas pries.

The same day, January 18, 2007, Mr. JIM MCGOVERN said: ''What we are doing today really is responding to the outcry of the American people who are outraged by the fact that in the midst of being gouged by Big Oil . . . ''

Well, we have had seven investigations into price gouging, and it hasn't lowered the price of gas. In fact, it has gone up almost $2 a gallon since that statement was made.

The same day, JOHN HALL: ''Today we are going to take back the tax giveaways to Big Oil so we can give the American people a break at the pump.''

January 18, floor statement, KATHY CASTOR: ''Instead of giving away billions of dollars to big oil companies which made multimillion dollar profits last year, the new Congress intends to

chart a course in a new direction by investing in alternatives for the American people. This will help America become energy independent and ultimately lower the utility costs for average Americans.''

I would like to tell the gentlewoman that the price of natural gas is twice what it was.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Will the gentleman yield for a moment?

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I yield.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I just want to follow up the train of thought that you have.

These taxes that they want to put on Big Oil, if there are excessive profits made and there is collusion or something like that, if there is criminal behavior, obviously everybody wants to make sure that doesn't take place. But whatever they're promising, everything that I have seen the opposition party promise, is that they are going to hit Big Oil with more taxes. That isn't going to get one more drop of oil to the——

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Reclaiming my time, evidently taking these tax breaks away is not lowering the price of oil either.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. No. That's right. They want to take tax breaks away. They want to increase taxes. And when you pass a tax increase on to a business or industry, oil or automobiles or whatever it is, it's passed on to the consumer in the form of price increases. So if they raise taxes, it won't give us one more drop of oil, which we ought to be drilling for right now, but it will make more expenses for the companies, and unless they can prove wrongdoing, those expenses will passed on to the consumer in the form of another price increase. So raising the taxes on the oil companies is only going to exacerbate the problem and make the cost of oil go up more. And I don't understand why my colleagues don't understand basic economics and the law of supply and demand. It makes absolutely no sense whatsoever.

We need to pass legislation that will get more oil to the refineries, build more refineries, as you've said, and start getting the price of oil down because we are energy independent. And just talking about, okay, we're going to hit Big Oil, that may resonate with a lot of people. Some people say, oh, my gosh, they are not paying enough taxes. They ought to be taxed more. They are making too much in profits. That's not going to bring any oil to the market, not a drop.

So I just say to my colleagues, quit beating on a dead horse. We have got to become energy independent. We have to drill here in America. And I hope everybody in the country who may be looking at this, and we can't talk to them, but everyone in the country who is looking at this tonight ought to ask their Congressmen and Senators, Is what you're talking about in Washington going to bring one more drop of oil to the marketplace? Is it going to move us toward energy independence? And if it isn't, they ought to sign that petition. They ought to get on with the program in making us more energy independent.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I thank you for saying that because that's exactly true, and the petition is actually so simple, one line: ''I will vote to increase U.S. oil production to lower the price for Americans.'' And you can go to house.gov/westmoreland and see if the Congressman is there.

Madam Speaker, you would really have been intrigued at some of the things that I heard about why they couldn't sign it.

But I want to continue on. These are quotes from the H.R. 6 debate, which was on January 18 of 2007, after the new majority, the Democrats, had overpromised the American people, as admitted, and now they were coming up with something that was satisfying that radical environmentalist base of theirs, whom they felt like they owed their victory to, at least in part. So they were going to take away the tax breaks and other things.

I'm not a big fan of Big Oil. Don't get me wrong. But I had a high school economics teacher, and I didn't pay that much attention in school, but Colonel Wofford at Therrell High School there in Atlanta taught us that taxing manufacturers or producers does not lower the price to consumers. So for whatever that's worth, I will give that to the majority.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. If the gentleman would yield, let me just elaborate on that really quickly.

I hope everybody who may be paying attention to this, our colleagues in their offices, realize that business and industry have a certain margin of profit that they have to make to keep the doors open, whatever it is. And as you have just said, if they are taxed and they have a margin of profit of 8 percent and you raise their taxes, they're going to pass that cost increase on to the consumer in the form of a price increase. And that's what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, your colleagues, don't understand.

We really need to do what's necessary to move toward energy independence, and raising the price of gasoline by taxing these companies is not going to solve the problem.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Thank you.

January 18, and these are quotes from H.R. 6, which was their mantelpiece legislation. This was their commonsense plan, I guess, for bringing down the skyrocketing gas that at the time was $2.23 a gallon:

Ms. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE said: ''The price per barrel of oil is $50 plus.'' Today I think it's about $140.

She goes on to say: ''And so what is this Congress and this leadership doing? It is doing the right thing.''

January 18, floor statement by STEVE ISRAEL: ''This dependence on foreign oil, Mr. Speaker, is a glaring threat to our national security.''

I could not agree with you more. But we are more dependent today than we were when you made that statement.

Mr. JOHN LEWIS, my colleague from Georgia: ''More than ever we need to get our priorities straight. We need to stop dancing while Rome burns and reverse the damage we have done to our environment. The American people need relief from energy costs.''

And I couldn't agree with you more, Mr. LEWIS, but the problem is that gas has almost doubled since you made that statement.

RAHM EMANUEL: ''Mr. Speaker, let's review the score: ''Big Oil, one; taxpayers, zero. Now the score is tied, and we are just getting warmed up.''

Well, I hope you're about as warm as you're going to get, Mr. EMANUEL, because I don't know if we can stand any more of this.

January 18, 2007, floor statement from ALLYSON SCHWARTZ: ''The United States imports 65 percent of the oil we consume. We spend $800 million every day on foreign oil-producing countries. This threatens our economic stability, our environmental security, and our national security, and today we say 'enough.'''

Well, I say ''enough'' too, but if we had said ''enough'' then and started producing our own oil and started using our own natural resources, maybe oil wouldn't have almost doubled since then.

The chairman of the Democratic Congressional Committee, Mr. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, said this: ''This is the time to change direction, to set a new course on energy policy, to say to the country we're not just talking rhetoric, we mean what we say.''

Mr. JOHN YARMUTH: ''Mr. Speaker, my constituent, like yours, paid over $3 a gallon for gas last year. Isn't that enough?''

Absolutely it's enough. But today we are paying over $4 a gallon, and the reason we are is because we refuse to use our own natural resources for the health of this country and, like so many of these other statements said, for the national security of this country.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES: ''Critics of H.R. 6 argue this measure will place an undue burden on oil companies which will lead to higher gas prices.''

Okay. We must have been right because what happened was after H.R. 6, with gas being $2.23 a gallon, today it is $4.08.

What we are trying to do, before I yield to some of my colleagues, we have that petition that my friend from Indiana and I have been talking about, and what it says is ''I will vote to increase oil production to lower the price of gas.'' And what that means is bringing onshore drilling online, offshore drilling online, deepwater oil online, and bring in more refineries online.

If we bring onshore oil online, it will save anywhere from 70 cents to $1.60 a

gallon. To bring deepwater oil online, the Outer Continental Shelf, 90 cents to $2.50 a gallon. To bring new refineries online, and not one has been built since 1976, would save anywhere from 15 to 45 cents. The gas tax holiday, 18 cents. To halt oil shipments to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, a nickel.

Now, I have got some more quotes on that, and, of course, this was passed in the House probably back in May. We stopped those shipments in July, and so we should find out if it's going to bring it down a nickel a gallon. But if you look at what the Democrat plan was, and this is that commonsense plan, I'm assuming, but ''sue OPEC,'' we have had a lot of success with that. ''Launch the seventh investigation to price gougers.'' ''Launch the fourth investigation to speculators.'' Now, we put that lipstick on that pig today with the speculation bill, that we just really passed something that's already on the books.

''Twenty billion dollars in new taxes on oil producers.'' I can hardly wait to see what that does to lower the price of gas. And we've seen that just not even putting the new taxes on them but just taking tax relief away from them has caused gas to almost double.

And then of course they've got ''halt oil shipments,'' which is a nickel.

You can see that if we put our policies in place that gas today would be somewhere around $2.10, and that's using very conservative savings over there. And you can see that if this works, and we don't even know that this is going to work, it would be about $4.03.

So we hope that we will get 300 signatures on this petition to show the American people that we are not going to lie here in a fetal position or just keep doing repetitious things to make you think we are doing something. So if you could just go to the house.gov/westmoreland and look at it. We had 45,000 hits on it, Madam Speaker, last night. And we have had a couple of Members that have come to us and said, We have heard and we want to go from the ''would not sign'' to the ''sign.'' So we can't do it, Madam Speaker, if people aren't going to be involved with us because we don't have that much influence over the majority.

I would like to yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina, my classmate (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Thank you so much, Mr. WESTMORELAND. Thank you for leading this Special Order tonight and for the work that you have been doing for the last several weeks on this issue.

I think it's important that we say over and over and over again that the Republicans do have a plan to lower gas prices. We are doing everything that we can to create new sources of American-made oil because we are in touch with the American people. We go home every weekend. Most of us worked for a living before we came here; so we know what it's like to meet a payroll. We haven't been in government all our lives. We haven't served in the Congress for 53, 54 years.

□ 1930

We are out there every weekend talking to the folks that we represent, and we know how the high prices of gasoline are hurting them. I think the Democrats are in strong denial. They think, again, that they can continue to bash the oil companies and hide their heads in the sand about what is going on.

I want to thank you and our colleague from Indiana and our other colleagues that are going to be speaking tonight who are exposing the Democrats for who they are and what they are. Again, as I said earlier, it's important that we let the American people know it's the Democrats who are in control. The President cannot create new gas sources or new oil sources. Only the Congress has the power to do what needs to be done. So we need to set the record straight.

It seems like the Democrats want to do everything possible to avoid creating new oil and bringing down the price of gasoline. They purport to represent the little person, the common person, the average person in this country, but it's obvious that that's not who they care about. They care about the radical environmentalists and toeing their line.

Now I consider myself an environmentalist. My husband and I are in the nursery and landscaping business. I cherish the earth. I am a big recycler. I am very careful about how I spend things. When you grow up poor, you learn to be careful with money.

But we know that our Speaker is the wealthiest person in Congress. Many of the Democrats are among the wealthiest people in the Congress. This really isn't hurting them at all. Again, I think it's very important that we debunk what they are trying to say to the American people about why their ''use it or lose it'' is what needs to be done. Again, they are good at blaming everybody else in the world for the problems that they create or that they can't solve.

I want to talk a little bit about their comment that all we have to do is get the oil companies to use the leases that are available to them and put out some facts. We had the Truth Squad. The Truth Squad hasn't been active lately, but we need to bring it back. As our colleague says, You're entitled to your own opinion, but you're not entitled to create facts.

So let me say something about why we need to do something more than simply pass legislation that has already been passed. During President Reagan's administration, 160 million acres of onshore land was leased for exploration. Today, only 50 million acres are leased. Only 6 percent of Federal onshore land is available for leasing. ANWR contains 10.4 billion barrels of oil, but is 100 percent closed.

I want to say something about ANWR, and I want to say something—I saw these pictures on TV again tonight. When ANWR is portrayed, it is usually portrayed as this meadow with daisies growing in it, animals grazing. That isn't what ANWR is. ANWR is a frozen desert. The temperature gets to 60 degrees below zero there sometimes. Practically nothing grows there.

I was all over Alaska in 2005. I saw the oil fields. And, you know what? The oil fields don't look like the oil fields they show you on TV either. We have got to get those guys to get up-to-date pictures. You don't have these big cranes going up and down and back and forth like this. The oil wells don't even look like oil wells. They are little boxes with some gauges on them. If somebody didn't tell you that they were drilling oil there, you couldn't possibly know it. So we are not going to be spoiling our scenery, and we are certainly not going to hurt ANWR.

The OCS contains 86 billion barrels of oil, the Outer Continental Shelf, but 97 percent of it is closed. Onshore Federal land contains 31 billion barrels of oil, but only 6 percent of it is open to exploration. Oil shale on Federal land contains 2 trillion barrels of oil, but is 100 percent closed.

The Democrats' claims are wrong. They claim that there are 4.8 million barrels and 44.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day that may be extrapolated from unused Federal leased lands. Stephen Allred, Assistant Secretary of the Land and Minerals Management, wrote that anyone who makes these claims has a ''misunderstanding of the very lengthy regulatory process. Lessees must comply with permit upon permit, often 27 total permits, without any drilling, and a lease does not equal oil. A lease is not a permission to drill, a lease is a permission to explore.''

The Democrats assume that every acre of leased land can produce the exact same amount of oil and gas as the very best producing acres. This argument is not based on science, fact, or even common sense. A lease doesn't guarantee the discovery of oil and gas. A lessee may never actually find oil or gas. Between 2002 and 2007, 52 percent of all exploration wells were dry.

We have got to set the record straight. We can't let the Democrats get by with talking about things that aren't true and trying to fool the American people.

I see my colleague from Georgia has some wonderful maps here. Let me defer to you to talk about ANWR a little bit.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Well, what I wanted to point out, this is what ANWR looks like. It's kind of a frozen tundra. I had some young people up here the other day from a school, and one of them asked me a question, said, Are you for drilling in ANWR? I said, Yes, I am. She kind of frowned. I said, Why? She said, I don't want you to ruin all the beautiful trees up there.

I tried to find a tree. I couldn't find a tree on the place. So there's a lot of

misunderstanding out there about what it is. Then you can look at the size of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and then the ANWR part as compared to the whole State of Alaska. A lot of people don't understand that Alaska—we have got a map of it somewhere—it's bigger than Texas. I know Mr. CONAWAY is here from Texas. Three times the size of Texas.

In fact, I will let Mr. CONAWAY talk about Texas and ANWR and other things, if he would like.

Ms. FOXX. If I might, before Mr. CONAWAY speaks, I want to make one more comment. I have been getting a lot of letters in the last couple of weeks from boy scouts who are talking about their concerns with what is going on. I got one this week that was really heart-rending. He said, If the price of gas keeps going up, we are not going to be able to go on vacation, we are not going to be able to go to the grocery store. We are not even going to be able to go to church anymore.

I think it's a real shame that we have people out there who are being denied the opportunity even to go to church because they cannot afford the price of gasoline. That is a sad state that we have come to in this country, and it's a sad commentary on the Democrats when they want to allow that to continue, when they have the power to do something about it.

I yield back.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Let me say this, that it is a shame that we are having to limit so much of the travel. We need to conserve, but we can't conserve our way out of this. The real shame of this is when winter comes and natural gas is twice what it was. Mr. PETERSON from Pennsylvania was down here the other night and really opened my eyes to it. Not only are people not going to be able to leave their home, they are not going to be able to stay warm in their home when the winter comes and the price of natural gas.

To another one of my classmates and colleagues, Mr. CONAWAY from Texas.

Mr. CONAWAY. Well, I thank my classmate from Georgia for hosting this hour tonight.

We spend an awful lot of time at these microphones, both sides, basically talking past each other. Usually, the rhetoric is heated, and we don't listen. My experience is this is the worst 435 listeners on the face of the Earth because we are clearly more interested in hearing what I have got to say than listening to what you have got to say.

It happens time and time and time again at these microphones, basically because we tend to polarize and take the absolute positions, knowing full well that the best path for America is somewhere in the middle.

The best path for America includes working all the other alternatives and trying to develop those and trying to see as far over the horizon as we can for a day in which crude oil and natural gas will no longer be available, not by choice but by the fact it has all been used up. It is a finite resource. We should be conserving everywhere we get, not on an individual basis but collective as well.

Yes, from our position, we should be exploring and developing and producing American resources; crude oil, natural gas, uranium, nuclear, oil shale, tar sands, the full gamut of these resources.

So if we can actually spend some time and sit together and try to work out our differences, I think there is a solution here that is really best for America.

When I first read the ''use it or lose it'' bill, my first reaction was how can 236 of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and all of their staffs and all of their hired consultants know so little about a fundamental industry that is so vital to our national security, our economic security, and that is the oil business. Then I came to the cynical conclusion that I was wrong; they do know about it.

They do know exactly what they are doing by this bill that was up earlier today on a suspension calendar that we were able to defeat because over a third of us said that is wrong-headed.

Here's a quick basic. When an oil and gas oil company, generally a major oil company because it requires so much money, leases in the Gulf of Mexico, where we have been drilling for a long, long time, they pay a lease bonus, which is a sizable amount of money that is given to the Federal Government, that says for a time certain I get exclusive rights to explore and try to find crude oil and natural gas on this particular parcel of land. That bonus money is a sunk cost because if they find oil, they get to produce it. If they don't find oil, too bad.

This industry, much maligned from these microphones, is a group of dedicated, hardworking, patriotic, honest people who have an incredible tolerance for risk in this environment.

So they put up the lease bonus money, sometimes millions and millions of dollars, just for the right to wade into the bureaucratic morass that we have created around these circumstances, where you have got 27 permits and all kinds of stuff to get to just until you get to start the process. The process includes geological studies, geophysical studies, evaluation to try to find where on that parcel of land the best spot may be. You have got sunk costs, regulatory compliance costs.

Then, once you have decided where you are going to drill, that you decided that you think there are commercial reserves in place under that dirt, under that ocean, then you still don't know it until you drill it. Then you have got the cost of drilling, all the expense there. Then, if you find commercial quantities of crude oil, you have to build a production platform that has got to be uniquely built for the particular formation you have got, and that has got to be moved out into the gulf and anchored.

So what you have is many millions and millions, in some instances, billions of dollars of shareholder equity and debt that's been invested in trying to find crude oil and natural gas. Most of that is sunk cost. The only way they get a return on their investment, the only way they justify to their shareholders that they are making the right decision is to produce whatever crude oil and natural gas is in place.

So there are plenty of incentives already built in to produce. The idea that they would ''sit'' on production in the hopes that this price gets even higher, which they know the price is too high now, is just wrong-headed.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Not only that, reclaiming my time for a minute, did not the Democrat majority in 1992 extend that lease period to 10 years? Was it prior not 5 years or 7 years what it was?

Mr. CONAWAY. The traditional offshore lease needs to be at least 10 years because from start to finish—we have got some graphs here that we can show you the logical, businesslike progression that companies have to walk down. What is not mentioned so far is all the litigation costs that are associated with these leases, particularly in the Rocky Mountains. If a company is able to win a lease, they are immediately sued by environmentalists to prevent their exploring for it. This current price of gasoline and crude oil is a product of supply and demand.

□ 1945

About 86 million barrels a day of production, about 85 million barrels a day of usage, and that varies from day-to-day. Inventories start dropping. That means demand has gone beyond the current production supply.

The most immediate area for quick relief in this regard would be Iraq. The Iraqi government has recently reached out to ExxonMobil, Shell, BP and Chevron to ask them, ask the experts, the folks who have the money to be able to do it, to come into Iraq and help them increase the amount of production that Iraq produces from oil and gas. They are about half of what they were under the Shah. And their fields are on land and the most quickly responsive to getting new oil and gas supplies to the market.

CHARLES SCHUMER, a colleague on the other side of the building, immediately weighed in, said that is wrongheaded and said he wants to find out some way to prevent Iraq from developing Iraq's resources.

It is not good enough that we prevent America from developing America's resources, but now we want to tell the Iraqis how they should be able to do it as well. We are about to run out of time. That is one of the things I wanted to say, and I appreciate getting to weigh in on this.

Here is the bottom line: Post-World War II, we have developed an American lifestyle that was incredibly dependent on inexpensive gasoline, suburbs, rural

America, that requires being able to drive to and from work, to and from recreation. Maintaining these high prices, as our colleagues across the aisle are intent on doing, is, in my view, an attack on that way of life.

You can call it partisan or not, but if you look at where the bulk of the Democratic support is in the Congress, it is in big cities, where they have access to mass transit, trains and buses and those kinds of things. But in rural America, flyover America, where most Republican support is, we don't have access to that.

I can assure you, the folks who live at Lake LBJ, named after Lyndon Johnson, and work in Marble Falls and Llano and Burnet, there are no buses to get to and from work. They have got to drive their cars.

So as we continue to on purpose maintain these high gasoline prices, this is an attack on our suburban way of life, an attack on rural American and the rural way of life and a lifestyle that has served us well since post-World War II.

One final statement: When I go home, this is all my constituents talk about. And if I were to come up here and take the position that I am going to ignore what they are saying, the way our Democrats appear to be doing, I would get tossed out of office, because apparently they are not hearing the same thing that you and I are hearing when we go home. Apparently in Democratic districts the high gasoline prices are not particularly relevant, which begs the question that 71 percent of Americans want to drill.

So I appreciate my colleague letting me speak tonight. We can solve this. We can fix this. But it is going to require some modification on our part, some modification on our Democratic friends' part. But we really do need to start listening to each other and quit demagoging, and particularly with respect to the oil business, considering those folks less than human as we look at what they do for America every day.

I yield back.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I thank my friend. Now I have got to go catch a plane, but I hope that everybody will go to House.gov/westmoreland, Madam Speaker, to find out who is for drilling and who is for not just drilling, but like the gentleman from Texas said, for producing more of our natural resources to lower the price of gas.

Now I want to yield to my good friend from Nebraska, from the heartland of this country, from one of the corn-producing States, another one of my classmates that came in, and that is Mr. FORTENBERRY.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Well, I thank the gentleman from Georgia, my good friend. I am so sorry you have to leave quickly, but I understand. I hoped we could dialogue a little bit and perhaps broaden the discussion slightly. Mr. CONAWAY just gave a great segue by saying I think we can get this done, and I think that is what the American people are hungry for.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. BURTON will dialogue with you.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. You got to go.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. So you have to settle for me.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. That is fine too, my good friend from Indiana. But I believe the American people are hungry for a bold new energy vision.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, I think the American people are hungry for a bold new innovative vision for a sustainable energy future, and I think we have to have an honest conversation about the full range of options in our energy portfolio; looking at the opportunity to increase domestic resources, use of domestic resources in an environmentally responsible way, while also bridging to a sustainable energy future that looks at the full range of opportunities that are presented to us. And one of the things that I don't think is unpacked quite adequately, Mr. BURTON and Madam Speaker, is the issue of how small-scale entrepreneurs can play an increasing role in meeting a sustainable energy policy.

For many years now, by the way, I have powered my home by wind. Now, I don't have a wind turbine in my backyard. I live in the city. But, nonetheless, I used to be on the Lincoln City Council. Nebraska is a public power State. The Lincoln City Council basically has authority over the electric system.

We greatly encouraged them a number of years ago to move forward on wind energy and they integrated wind turbines into their portfolio. Of course, it is a small portion of their portfolio, but nonetheless, I thought it was important to support that. I paid a little bit more than $4 a month extra on my energy bill to help underwrite that new development a number of years ago. Now they have integrated that cost and are sharing it with everyone. But, nonetheless, we have been in front of this trend for some time.

There is a hog farmer in my district, for instance. A couple years ago, Danny Kulthe in Colfax County, he just decided he was going to do something different. He has 8,000 head of hog. He captures that manure in a methane digestion pit, takes that methane, puts into a generator and produces enough electricity to power 40 homes from 8,000 head of hog. And he did this a number of years ago by pulling together the capital through a variety of innovative sources, some grant sources as well.

But a small scale entrepreneur like that is helping lead the way in a whole new energy vision that does several things: He solves an environmental problem, he wedded agriculture and energy policy, and he created additional income for his farm. Small scale entrepreneurs like that I think are yearning to be engaged in this bold, new energy vision to help write the various chapters we are going to need to help solve this.

Mr. CONAWAY said it well. I think we can get this done, but it is going to take bold, new, creative thinking and public policies that I think underwrite this type of vision for a sustainable energy future.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. If the gentleman will yield just for a minute, I would like to say I agree with my colleague. These new forms of energy, these new technologies, are extremely important. I am kind of awed by the fact that you have taken the lead in Nebraska in getting this done.

But while we are doing that, the one problem that I think we have is we have to realize the transition to the new technologies is going to take time, and while that is taking place, we are going to have to have energy. That is why we ought to be able to drill in the United States, and do it in an environmentally safe way, so we can produce natural gas and oil here at home. And while we are doing the transitioning to the new technologies like you are talking about, we won't have to depend so much on foreign oil and what might happen in another part of the world.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. One of the issues regarding our very heavy dependence on foreign oil as well is that it does entangle foreign affairs considerations. That is a very significant issue. It greatly increases trade deficits, it entangles foreign affairs considerations. It leaves us vulnerable, not only economic, but in many other ways.

So I think it is very important as you are saying to look at full range of options in this portfolio we have, potential portfolio, and have a ''both-and'' discussion about how we bridge to that sustainable energy future by looking at, first of all, the easiest and best thing we can do quickly obviously is to think through the issue of conservation, how we become and continue to be and expand our ability to be good stewards of the resources we have, integrate these new technologies, use the resources we have now to bridge to that sustainable future.

Here is another example for you. I was visiting with a small-scale car manufacturer. They have some proprietary battery technology. I am not an expert in these areas, but apparently this vehicle can go 120 miles on a single charge. It takes 10 minutes to refuel it, so-to-speak, if you have the special equipment. If you don't, you can plug it into your 220 volt outlet, like your dryer plugs into, and that takes about six to eight hours. It goes zero to 60 in about 10 seconds, and it has a 5-star safety rating, crash rating. It is like a regular vehicle, except the engine is different.

So let's be clear: This spike in gas prices is causing great duress for families and farmers and small business

owners, particularly in an area like I represent that I think has some similarities to where you represent as well. And I think it compels all of us to begin to think boldly and innovatively about how we can get this done by looking at that full range of options that we have in our energy portfolio and bridge into that energy future.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I want to thank the gentleman for taking this time. I know you have to catch a plane tonight. I think it is important that the people who are watching in their offices and maybe Americans who might be paying attention, that they realize that we are not just talking about oil and gas, we are talking about all forms of energy, and we want to get to that.

But, as you said and as has been said many times, that is going to take a transitional period, and during that transition, while we are trying to encourage more innovation, that we don't sink the ship by not having enough energy to get the job done.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. I really thank you for the opportunity to dialogue on this question and to focus, yes, on the urgency of the moment, while also creatively thinking about where we go. I mean, this is America. This is the land of innovation. We can get that done.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Thank you, Mr. FORTENBERRY. Have a nice trip back, and tell the people of Nebraska we said hi.

Madam Speaker, we are about to wrap this up. I just want to say to my colleagues, I see my colleague from down south is waiting patiently for us to end our Special Hour, I just want to say that we all want to work together. We want to solve this problem for the American people. We want to get the price of gasoline down and we want to go to new forms of energy. But it is going to take time. And during that time for transition, it is extremely important that we start moving toward energy independence. And a main cog in that wheel is drilling here at home for oil and natural gas.

So I hope, if I were talking to the American people, that they would talk to their Congressmen and Senators over this July 4th break. They are going to be there for parades and everything else. And I would say to the American people, if I could talk to them, talk to your Congressmen and your Senators. Tell them you want to be energy independent, you want to move toward energy independence, and we ought to drill here in the United States wherever we can.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM NEEDED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, let me begin by thanking all the men and women who work for the House of Representatives. I know that they are anxious to get out of town and begin their 4th of July holiday. But when we come back in July, it will be what I have considered over the course of my life the beginning of hurricane season, and we still have some unfinished business from Hurricane Katrina that affected my district and could potentially affect over half of all Americans, and that is the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program.

If Congress does not act by September, this program that is of vital importance to people in the Midwest from flooding, the people on the Gulf Coast because of hurricanes, the people in New England because of storms, this program is important to everyone, it may not get reauthorized, and I think it would put a lot of Americans in jeopardy. Therefore, I think it is important that we not only reauthorize it, but fix some of the problems that we have discovered in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

I want to begin with some homes from my hometown. This is one that belonged to Mr. and Mrs. John Hadden in Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi. If you take a look at it, it started about 10 feet off the ground. It had hurricane shutters. It had a low profile roof. It was built to be a hurricane-proof house. It was insured for about $650,000. This is what it looked like the day before Hurricane Katrina. This is what the family came home to when they could get back to Bay Saint Louis.

I mentioned that they had $650,000 worth of insurance with their insurance company, State Farm. Almost 2 years to the day of that, they still had not been paid by State Farm Insurance Company. Corky is a financial planner. He thought he had done everything he should do. What he didn't realize is that he was dealing with a company that instead of saying ''we are your good neighbor,'' went out of its way not to pay him.

This is another home, a much more traditional, older home. In fact, it was one of the oldest homes in my hometown of Bay Saint Louis. It belonged to Jody and Betty Benvenuti. They had it insured for $586,000.

□ 2000

Jody is in the insurance business. He understood the importance of it. He paid his premiums on time. He insured his home for what he thought it would cost to rebuild it. This is what it looked like when he evacuated, as he was ordered to by his Nation, the day before the storm. This is what he came home to. Within a couple of weeks, his good neighbor, the State Farm agent, informed him that he saw no evidence of wind damage, and therefore, he was going to get paid nothing on his homeowner's policy.

Another home in South Mississippi, more of a typical South Mississippi home, belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Pat Street. $250,000 worth of insurance. Prior to the storm, prior to all of the inflation that has taken place since then, that probably would have been a very good amount to be insured for. It certainly should have covered the cost of replacing it should something bad have happened. Again, they were ordered to evacuate. So this is what their home looked like as they were leaving before the storm. That's what they came home to. Again, they were told by the insurance company we see no evidence of wind damage. Notice the tree is knocked over to different angles. So, therefore, we're not going to pay you the $250,000. We're going to pay you $9,000 on this policy.

Madam Speaker, in South Mississippi, we asked the United States Navy to model what happened that day on August the 29th of 2005. What the Navy told us, I found, as a life-long resident of the gulf coast, to be pretty interesting. It's that we've always thought of maximum wind and maximum water occurring at the same time, but in the case of Hurricane Katrina, as you can see, category 2 and 3 force winds, which is up to 140 miles an hour, actually occurred several hours before the water showed up. When I asked the Navy to explain that to me, they said it's pretty simple. You can push air a lot faster than you can push water. The storm was moving ahead of the water.

So, basically, what it translates to is that homes like I just showed you were subjected to anywhere from 2-to-4-hours' worth of hurricane-force winds before the water ever showed up. As a matter of fact, it's not just that area that we're talking about, but as to the entire State of Mississippi, the insurance companies actually paid claims on wind damage all the way from down here on the Mississippi gulf coast all the way up to Memphis, Tennessee. They paid claims in every county in the State of Mississippi.

What was particularly interesting and what should be particularly interesting to the 53 percent of all Americans who live in coastal America is that the claims they chose not to pay were right down here where the winds were the strongest. They somehow would tell people that no, no, no. Your damage was not the result of wind. It was the result of water.

This is in fairness to them. These are the areas in South Mississippi that were affected by both wind and water. This is where the flood went. For those of you familiar with that area, this is I–1 to I–10. It was designed to be a hurricane-proof road, and by and large, the designers did a very good job. They came close to doing that, but there were some areas north of I–10 that flooded.

Our Nation has a plan to help people protect themselves in the event of a hurricane. Most prudent people whom I know, based on the fact that we have had other hurricanes in my lifetime—Hurricane Betsy and Hurricane Camille—don't know whether it's going

to be the wind. They don't know whether it's going to be the water. So a prudent homeowner buys a homeowner's policy. It's supposed to protect you in case of wind damage. If you buy a flood policy, it's supposed to protect you in case of flood.

So the way the claims process should have worked is our Nation should have hired the insurance industry to go out and adjust a claim. If the wind did it, it should have, therefore, been covered under the homeowner's policy. The company would then pay out of its pocket those people who suffered wind damage. If the water did it, then folks who would be covered by the National Flood Insurance Program would have the Nation that would back that program. The Nation would pay the insurance industry to sell the policy. The Nation would pay the insurance industry to go out and adjust the claim. That way, we wouldn't have to have a lot of Federal employees who would be doing all of these things.

Up until Hurricane Katrina, the program worked pretty well. With Hurricane Katrina, though, we saw a very different set of circumstances because what should have happened didn't happen. That insurance company that we were counting on to go out and adjust the claim and to make a fair, proper adjustment of the claim, in many instances, looked after its own best interest against the interest of the homeowner and, by the way, against the interest of the American taxpayer.

Now, why is that?

The law calls on the insurance companies to do a proper adjustment of the claim, and we give them total discretion as to who is going to adjust that claim. Think about it. I can't think of anyone else in America who can send a bill to the United States of America for $250,000 for the cost of that claim, another $100,000 for the cost of the contents, and no one second-guesses it, and no one looks over his shoulder and sees if it's a proper claim. In this instance, it was the case. So some insurers interpreted the law to allow them to blame everything on the water.

What does that mean?

It means that, for starters, a typical homeowner's policy says that, if your—the homeowner's—house gets hit by a meteor tonight or if your house catches on fire tonight or if a trucker loses control of his vehicle and, unfortunately, plows into your living room and your house is uninhabitable, a typical homeowner's policy will not only pay to get your house fixed; it will pay to put you up for up to 24 months until your house can be repaired. But when the insurance company walks onto your property and says, ''We see no evidence of wind damage. We're not going to pay your homeowner's policy,'' then they escape those things. They don't fix your house, and they don't pay the cost of putting you up.

Again, the law calls on them to call for the proper adjustment of a claim, but what had happened in the case of Katrina and what I fear could happen to you if you live in coastal America is that the policy is that the companies do what they did in South Mississippi, which is, within days of the storm, they send their adjusters notices that say, when you see wind and water both occur, blame it all on the water.

What that means is, as I've told you, that there were 4 hours of hurricane-force winds at homes like the Benvenutis' and the Haddens' and at others. They had substantial damage because of the wind, but the insurance company took the policy that if there was one 2-by-4 left standing after 4 hours of hurricane-force winds and then a wave came along and knocked down that last 2-by-4 that they had escaped all liability for what the wind did and that the taxpayer would pay all of the cost of getting this fixed, that they would escape all liability of rebuilding that home, all liability of putting that family up until their house could be repaired. The taxpayer was going to foot the bill. Well, flood insurance doesn't cover cost of living expenses. So, right off the bat, that cost was borne by the taxpayer.

How do they get away with this?

Well, buried in a typical 25-page contract, that was the norm for State Farm Insurance Company. On Page 10 of a 25-page contract, buried in there despite a contract with America that calls for a fair adjustment of the claim, they told folks we do not insure any coverage for any loss which would not have occurred in the absence of one or more of the following excluded events:

We do not insure for such loss regardless of: A, cause of excluded event, B, other causes of the law, C, whether other causes acted concurrently or in any sequence with the excluded event to produce the loss or, D, whether the event occurs suddenly or gradually, involves isolated or widespread damage, arises from natural or external forces or occurs as a result of any combination of these.

If you are confused, don't feel alone. A Federal judge, Judge Lou Guirola in South Mississippi, ended up suing his insurance company because they told him he couldn't read his policy. The former president of the United States Senate, Trent Lott, also an attorney, was told ''We're sorry, Senator. You can't read your policy,'' which leads to the question:

If a U.S. Senator and a Federal judge can't read their policies, what chance do you have? What chance does a high school football coach, a corrugated box salesman or a housewife have if those guys are told ''you can't read your policy''?

That goes back to the conflict between the law that says you can do a fair adjustment of the claim and a company that says, if both things happen, we're not going to pay.

I'm quoting from the National Flood Insurance Program regulations, section 44 CFR. ''The primary relationship between the 'write your own company'' that's your insurer—''and the Federal Government will be of a fiduciary nature; i.e., to ensure that any taxpayer funds are accounted for and are appropriately expended.

''The entire responsibility for providing a proper adjustment for both combined wind and water claims and flood-alone claims is the responsibility of the 'write your own.' ''

In effect, our Nation said we're trusting you, State Farm. We're trusting you, Nationwide. We're trusting you, Allstate, to do a fair adjustment. If the water did it, Nation pays. If the wind did it, you pay.

So how did the insurance industry respond to being given this huge leeway?

Within days of the storm, within about 13 days to be exact, State Farm was writing their adjusters and was saying, where wind acts concurrently with flooding to cause damage to insured property, coverage for the loss exists only under flood coverage. What does that translate to? The homeowner gets screwed out of his policy, and you, the taxpayers, get stuck with the bill.

This is an internal e-mail from an engineering firm, one of the ones that was hired by State Farm to go out and adjust these claims. It had been fired by State Farm for actually doing what the law said to do, which was to say this much wind damage, this much water damage, but now they have reached an agreement with State Farm, saying, ''Okay. We'll go back and revise those things.'' Meaning, we'll scratch out all efforts to say that the wind did it, because we're going to now say the water did it, and the taxpayer pays. So this is from Randy Down to Bob Kochan. This is an internal memo that we've been given access to:

''I have serious concerns about the ethics of this whole matter. I really question the ethics of someone who wants to fire us simply because our conclusions don't match his or hers. In my opinion, we need to find a more rational and ethical client other than State Farm to be dealing with. They have already contradicted themselves regarding the reports, wanting percentages stated, and his counterpart calling a few days later and telling us to resubmit two reports that had shown percentages and saying that SF,'' State Farm, ''absolutely does not want them shown because they would then have to settle for the portion that was reportedly caused by wind.''

In the House of Representatives, we have passed language to try to correct this. The people who have objected to this have been, by and large, from the insurance industry. The insurance industry, in their claims, will tell you that they had settled 95 percent of the Katrina claims within the first year. What they will not tell you is that there were hundreds of thousands of wind-only claims in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, and Georgia where there was no flooding. So in any place they couldn't

blame flooding, in any place they could not put the bill on the government, they had no choice but to pay.

So, yes, they did pay thousands of claims. Disputes over wind and flood damage were confirmed to the portions of the coastal counties and parishes that experienced both flooding and the most severe wind damage.

Bob Hardwick of the Insurance Information Institute testified in Congress: ''A claim was completely excluded, for example, because it was not covered under the policy to begin with, which wouldn't be in these statistics to begin with. We consider a claim when there is some damage that is compensable under the insurance policy. In other words, these statistics don't consider all of the claims filed, only those that the insurer decided to pay.''

To put it simply, the claims of the three folks that I showed you when I first walked in would have been considered by the insurance company to have been settled because they were told ''no.'' Maybe in State Farm's mind that case was closed. It certainly was not in the case of those three families, and it was not just three families. I could bring thousands of similar photos before you with thousands of similar sad stories.

So those families were screwed out of their policies, but the point I want to make to you, to the taxpayers of America, is that you got stuck with bills. The Nation got stuck with bills that the insurance companies should have paid.

I think there was fraud. The insurance companies tell you there was no fraud, but the Government Accountability Office, the GAO, finds ''an inherent conflict of interest exists when the same insurance company is responsible for determining the extent of the flood damage that the National Flood Insurance must pay and the extent of the wind damage that is the responsibility of the company, itself. FEMA, a parent organization of National Flood Insurance, cannot determine the accuracy of flood insurance payments because it does not require companies to explain how they divided wind and flood.

□ 2015

''Property owners with separate wind and flood policies cannot buy insurance and know in advance what hurricane damage will have been covered.''

The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security went on to say because FEMA oversight on wind-water claims is minimal, the inspector general subpoenaed records from 15 insurance companies to investigate their proceedings. Adjusters working for the insurance companies, or for the companies, have a conflict of interest when handling flood claims.

Concurrent causation. Remember, that's what we talk about, page 10 of a 25-page document. Language in the insurance policies creates the potential to bill flood insurance for damage that is caused by both wind and flooding.

Let me make it perfectly simple. You are a claims adjuster, you're 25 years old, you have a mortgage. You have kids in school, Christmas is coming up, and you have the opportunity to walk on that property and do a fair adjustment which says my company has to pay some, the Nation has to pay some, or you have the opportunity, in fact you have been instructed by your boss to say when there is wind and water, stick it to the government.

What do you think they did? And as we saw from that internal company memo, the ones who did it right were threatened with being fired.

Not only does the insurer not pay for the house to be rebuilt, they don't pay the living expenses for the property owner who would be entitled to them if the claim was approved.

So who pays? You pay. In the case of south Mississippi, let me start by saying we are eternally grateful to the American people for the kindness and generosity that they have shown us because at one point there were 42,000 families just in south Mississippi living off the generosity of the people of America. They were living in what has now been called a FEMA trailer, a 28-foot travel trailer that our Nation was generous enough to buy and put on their property, hook up to water and sewer, but not without a cost. In fact, the cost of those 42,000 trailers turns out to be, that we paid on the average $15,000 per trailer to buy them, and $16,000, which I know is an outrageous cost, to put them on that property. That was a no-bid deal to one of the President's buddy's, Bechtel, Incorporated.

But the fact of the matter is it did happen and it will happen again next time. And the combined cost of this for those 42,000 families, our Nation, you and I, pitched in $31,000. The cost of that just in Mississippi alone was $1.3 billion that the Nation paid that in most instances an insurance company should have paid. But because they said there was no wind damage, we are not paying on your homeowner's policy, so somebody got stuck with the bill. Our Nation did.

You would like to think that maybe they did that because funds were tight or maybe it threatened the survivability of those companies. That certainly wasn't the case. In 2005, even after paying the Hurricane Katrina claims that they did, the insurance industry made $48.8 billion in profits.

In 2006, we were fortunate to have fewer hurricanes, they made $67 billion in profits.

Last year, $65 billion in profit.

We have before us a situation where it is the perfect storm of everything that can go wrong for the consumer.

Number one, you would think why isn't Congress doing something about this. For starters, you can open the Federal Code from the first page to the last code and you won't find one word of regulation of the insurance industry. It gets worse. The insurance industry, the same folks that are supposed to be our good neighbor, we're supposed to be in their good hands, they're supposed to be on our side, it turns out that they are exempt from the antitrust laws that regulate every other business in America. It is perfectly legal for State Farm to call Allstate to call Nationwide and say, You know what, let's raise everybody's rates. So be it your health insurance, your automobile insurance, or your homeowner's insurance.

It is also legal for them, as I am pretty well convinced they did after the storm, to call each other up and say: You know what, if you don't pay claims, State Farm, and I don't pay claims, Allstate, and Nationwide doesn't pay claims, there won't be anybody saying they are getting screwed, because they're all getting screwed; but it's just the way it is.

If any other business in America did that, they would go to jail. But the insurance industry is exempt from the antitrust laws. Congress has not addressed that, but I want you to be aware of it. They were given this exemption based on a Supreme Court ruling in 1944 that says, wait a second, you're doing interstate commerce, you have to be regulated by interstate commerce. Instead, Congress came back in 1945 and passed something called the McCarran-Ferguson Act which in effect is granting an immunity from the antitrust laws to the insurance industry. I had hoped we would address that. We didn't. But Congress did do something.

First, I would like to tell you I'm sure some of you are thinking, that is just a Mississippi problem. Why are you boring us? I will tell you it is definitely a Mississippi problem. State Farm won't sell property insurance policies in Mississippi. Farm Bureau will not renew wind coverage. Allstate, no new wind coverage sold in south Mississippi. Nationwide, no wind coverage sold in south Mississippi. But it is not just our problem, it is America's problem.

Massachusetts is a long way from south Mississippi. Since 2003, ten insurance companies have dropped homeowner coverage in Cape Cod, affecting 44,000 homeowners.

In New York, Allstate stopped writing new homeowners' policies for single-family homes in New York City, Long Island, and Winchester County. Allstate held 26 percent of the market share for homeowners in these counties in 2006.

In Maryland, the second largest homeowner insurance in the State, Allstate, Allstate will stop writing new policies in many coastal areas.

North Carolina, the North Carolina State Insurance Plan, the beach plan, saw liability increase by over 260 percent, so that is a State-run system picking up for the fact that the private sector has pulled out.

In Virginia in 2006, State Farm stopped writing insurance business. Travelers Insurance stopped selling and

renewing residential insurance in Virginia Beach.

South Carolina insurance companies have dropped the last 16,000 homeowners' policies since 2006.

In Florida, State Farm has announced it will stop writing residential renters and commercial properties on March 1, 2008.

Texas, Allstate won't write new homeowners' policies in 14 coastal counties.

Louisiana, the State insurance plan that jumped in to take the place of the private sector is now the third largest homeowner's insurance.

In Alabama, State Farm won't write policies to cover the beach towns.

The point is that although the coastal counties of America constitute only 17 percent of the total land mass, it represents 53 percent of all Americans. That is why this is a problem that affects every one of us, at least half of us. Every one of us who lives in a coastal State, half of all Americans.

Unless we change the law, Congress will allow this system to continue and taxpayers to continue to foot the bill when the next hurricane strikes.

So what's the solution? The solution is what the House of Representatives has already passed that the Senate has not passed that we will go to conference in the next month on, and that I would hope as a result of this that the American people would encourage their Senators to help us find a risk-based, actuarially sound national pool to allow property owners to purchase coverage for both wind and water, a revocation of the insurance industry's antitrust exemption that allows them to fix prices.

The multi-peril bill that passed this House with the help of Speaker PELOSI and Chairman FRANK, Chairwoman WATERS, and a lot of other folks, including a number of my Republican colleagues, would allow property owners to buy both wind and flood coverage through the National Flood Insurance Program.

It would increase the coverage, and I am one of the many people who lost my home that night, and I for one was shocked at the incredible cost of replacing my house. And, quite frankly, the $250,000 that the National Flood Insurance covers, I would have told you 5 years ago was a lot of money. Based on my experience of building a 1,400 square foot house, I realize now it really doesn't cover enough. So we have increased the coverage up to $500,000 per structure, $150,000 for contents. For non-residential, it's a million for the structure and $750,000 for contents.

Property owners would be able to buy insurance and know in advance that hurricane damage will be covered without disputes. That you don't have to hire an engineer to say whether the wind did it or the water did it, you don't have to hire a lawyer, and you don't have to wait 2 years to get justice. If you leave your home, if you evacuate the way your Nation told you to get out of there, and you come home to a substantially damaged home, or if you come home to nothing, which is what thousands of my friends and neighbors did, you know that if you paid your policy, if you built your house the way you should have, that you are going to get paid.

The premiums for this new coverage would be risk-based and actuarially sound. Under the new rules of the House, under the Democratic majority, we can't start any new program that doesn't pay for itself. That's the way it should be. So the premiums would be more than enough to cover the liabilities and so there would be, unlike the present situation where $1.3 billion went to pay for FEMA trailers by folks who got screwed by the insurance companies, where billions of dollars went for homeowners' grants in Louisiana and Mississippi to pay people who didn't get paid by the insurance companies, in these instances those people who had the policy who paid the premiums who built the houses the way they should, they're going to be covered and you, the taxpayer, will not have to subsidize this by one dime.

Wind storm insurance would be available where the local governments adopt and enforce the international building code or equivalent.

The Federal multi-peril program will spread the risk geographically. If you think about it, Mississippi has a fairly small coastline so it is fairly safe to say that if a storm hits, the entire coastline is going to get hit. That is not spreading the risk. On the other hand, if 53 percent of all Americans live on the coast, the chance that every coastal community is going to get hit by a storm that year is minuscule. In fact, it would probably be called Armageddon, and we hope that doesn't happen.

Taxpayers would benefit where more damages are covered by the insurance industry instead of the inefficient governmental disaster assistance programs. Insurance companies could return to coastal communities to sell fire, theft, and liability coverage and excess coverage above the $500,000 that this policy would cover.

A multi-peril bill was introduced in the House in February. It had 33 cosponsors, 27 Democrats, 6 Republicans. Ms. WATERS, the chairman of the subcommittee, included the text in the National Flood Insurance Program. It passed this House by a vote of 263–146. It did not get a lot of help in the United States Senate. It will go to conference this summer.

If you live in coastal America, I would give you a couple of words of advice.

Number one, if you have a homeowner's policy, break it out. See if it has the words ''concurrent causation'' in that policy because if it does, that becomes the same excuse that the insurance companies used to screw thousands of south Mississippians out of their money. Demand a clarification from your insurance agent as to what that means for you. Does that mean you are going to find an excuse not to pay me? Or does that mean that you're going to come through like a good neighbor, like I'm going to be in your good hands, like you're supposed to be on my side.

The second thing I would ask you to do, if you belong to the home builders or the realtors or the bankers, encourage those organizations to back this program because, again, for 53 percent of all Americans, they are in peril at the thought of not being able to cover their home for wind damage.

But I will take this a step further. It has come to my attention recently that there has been as much tornado damage around the country for the past 20 years as hurricane damage. Tornadoes happen to be very fierce in a smaller area, but the cumulative effect of all those tornadoes has caused as much damage dollar-wise as the hurricanes have.

In fairness, we ought to cover that, too. In fairness, those people who are waking up in Indiana and Ohio and Iowa from the devastation of those floods and from the devastation of those tornadoes, they need to know that they are protected, too.

I would hope that as this bill goes to conference that our Nation would step forward and assume the responsibility and provide every American the opportunity to purchase multi-peril insurance. Hopefully we can start out with hurricanes because we know the present system isn't working there. But I think every American ought to know that if they build their house right and pay their premiums and something terrible happens to them, that their Nation is going to be there for them. And yes, they have paid into a fund that will help cover that cost when it happens.

We will have that opportunity next month, and I would hope that every American, no matter where you live in America, would see the value of this and would ask their Senators to agree to this, and that we can do something that's good, not just good for my State, not just good for Alabama and Louisiana, not just good for Maine and Massachusetts and North Carolina, but good for every American.

The insurance industry let us down. The insurance industry makes huge money. The insurance industry is exempt from the antitrust laws. The insurance industry has the most favorable tax treatment of any industry in America; and the truth of the matter is, instead of having all of those benefits and turning around when the people were down and saying yes, we are going to help you, they screwed the people of south Mississippi.

□ 2030

What I don't want is them to do that to you.

This is not going to be an easy fight. This is truly a case of the citizens against the lobbyists. In 2004, the insurance industry donated $36 million in

political contributions. In 2006, $31 million. Most of that money went to Republicans, but in fairness, now that the Democrats are in the majority, they're probably writing checks to Democrats, too.

They're doing this because they want to hang on to their greedy practices. They want to hang on to their antitrust exemption. They want to hang on to the fact that they can collude. They want to hang on to the fact that they can turn around and have the lowest taxes in America and that they have zero Federal regulation, that there is nothing that the Federal law can do to stop them from these practices.

But you know what? We have right on our side. We have the best interest of the homeowner, whether he's in Kansas, Massachusetts, Mississippi, California, when we think that there's better ways to offer an all-fairness insurance, backed by our Nation, that's going to be there when we need it.

So Madam Speaker, with that in mind, I'm going to yield back the remainder of my time. And for the very, very patient staff of the House of Representatives, I kept you here as late as I did, but I appreciate this opportunity to speak to the people.

PEAK OIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Today oil, I think, went to its highest price ever, about $140 a barrel. So all of America is now thinking about energy and oil, and I would like to start this evening's discussion by referring to some comments made in a speech 51 years ago, the 14th day of this past May, by Hyman Rickover, the father of our nuclear submarine, to a group of physicians in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

I would encourage everyone to pull this speech up, a Google search for ''Rickover'' and ''energy speech'' and it will pop up. Or you can go to our Web site, and you will find a link there to it.

Hyman Rickover was a very perceptive person, and every time I read this speech I am again amazed at how prophetic and insightful he was. He says in this speech 51 years ago, Remember now, there is nothing man can do to rebuild exhausted fossil fuel reserves. They were created, he says, by solar energy 500 million years ago and took eons to grow to their present volume. In the face of the basic fact that fossil fuel reserves are finite, the exact length of time these reserves will last is important in only one respect—and this is 51 years ago—the longer they last, the more time do we have to invent ways of living off renewable or substitute energy sources and to adjust our economy to the vast changes which we can expect from such a shift. This was counseled 51 years ago.

What he's saying is that it's obvious that oil cannot be forever. That it is finite; one day it will run out. He noted that at this time we were about 100 years into the age of oil, which he called ''this golden age,'' and he noted that how long it lasted was important in only one regard: that the longer it lasted, the more time would we have to plan an orderly transition to other sources of energy which will, of necessity, be renewable sources of energy.

Then this last little paragraph here is one that I really like. It is so perceptive and so prophetic of what our attitude has been. Fossil fuels, he says, resemble capital in the bank. A prudent and responsible parent, that is the leaders of the world's countries, will use this capital sparingly in order to pass on to his children as much as possible of his inheritance. A selfish and irresponsible parent will squander it in riotous living and not care one wit how his offspring will fare.

The next chart is an additional quote from this same speech. He says, I suggest this is a good time to think soberly about our responsibilities to our descendents. We really haven't done that, have we? I have 10 kids and 16 grandkids and two great-grandkids, and I think a lot about our responsibility to our descendents, those who will ring out the fossil fuel age. Hyman Rickover noted that in 8,000 years of recorded history that the age of oil would be but a blip in the history of man.

We might give a break to these youngsters by cutting fuel and metal consumption so as to provide a safer margin for the necessary adjustments which eventually must be made in a world without fossil fuels.

Our behavior has in no way indicated that we recognize the inevitability of reaching a maximum production of oil and then less and less and less oil until finally there is none of it left. Obviously, it is not infinite. Obviously, one day it will be gone. Where are we? Where are we in this long sequence of events from the discovery of oil, its massive use, and finally the waning use of oil until we finally transition to other fossil fuels?

The next chart shows what's happened in our country, and we need to go back 52 years ago to kind of put this in perspective because 52 years ago, the 8th day of March, in San Antonio, Texas, an oil geologist by the name of M. King Hubbert gave a speech to a group of executives and other oil people assembled there in San Antonio. And he told them that in just 14 years, the United States—which was then, I think, king of oil, producing more oil, consuming more oil, exporting more oil than any other country in the world—he said in just 14 years, our country is going to reach its maximum production of oil. And after that, no matter what we did, the production of oil was going to fall off, as you can see from the chart here which shows the production of oil in our country.

And he was predicting the lower 48, Texas and the rest of the U.S.A., and to him the rest of the U.S.A. was the rest of the 48 States. And in 1956 at this point he was predicting that in 1970, just 14 years later, that we would reach a maximum oil production. After that, it would fall off.

Now, we found a lot of oil in Alaska, and we found some oil in the Gulf of Mexico, and we learned to get more natural gas liquids; but in spite of this huge discovery in Alaska and through that 4-foot pipeline—and I've been to Dead Horse, to Prudhoe Bay and seen the beginning of that pipeline—through that for a number of years flowed 25 percent of our domestic production.

In spite of that, except for this little blip, it's been down, down, down. And now in the lower 48 we produce well less than half of the oil that we did in 1970.

We have tried very hard to make M. King Hubbert out a liar. We have drilled more oil wells than all the rest of the world put together. We are really, really good at finding oil. We're really, really good at pumping oil.

The next chart shows that another prediction M. King Hubbert made has, in fact, almost certainly come true. In 1979, that's just 9 years after we peaked in our country, using his same analysis technique, he predicted that the world would be peaking about now.

Just a word about his analysis and how he did it. It's no magic. He observed that in our country that an individual oil field increased its production until it reached a maximum production, at which time about half the oil had been pumped, and then the last half of the oil, as is reasonable, was harder to get and so less and less was pumped. So you had a little bell curve produced by that.

And he reasoned that if he knew how many little bell curves there were in our country and how many more fields we would find, that he could then predict when we would be reaching our maximum oil production. And using that technique, he predicted correctly that we would reach our maximum production in 1970, just 14 years after he made that prediction.

Using that same technique, he looked at the world and the world fields and all of the countries producing oil, and he calculated that we should be reaching the world maximum production, called ''peak oil,'' about now.

On this chart are two curves. These are data collected by the two entities in the world that probably do the best job of keeping track of the production and consumption of oil, and of course they're the same. We use what we produce. This is the IEA, it's an international organization, and the EIA, the Energy Information Administration, a part of our Department of Energy. And both of these, as you can see, have oil production essentially flat for the last 36 months.

Now, what's happened with this flat oil production for the last 36 months is

shown by this lower curve here, and obviously this is a bit old because this shows oil at only $95 a barrel. I didn't make it all that long ago, this chart. It now would be well off the top. I think it hit $140 a barrel today. Well, that's what happens when you have a static supply and an increasing demand. The price goes up and up.

The next chart, and this is a really information-filled chart, and if you had only one chart to use, this would be the chart because it has so much information in it. The bars here show the discoveries of oil and the year on the abscissa here on which they were discovered. And you see that we were finding a lot of oil back in the 1940s. By the way, I can remember when gasoline was kind of a little gas war, and it was kind of on sale. It was $6 per gallon. Another age, wasn't it?

□ 2045

Then we found a bunch in the 1950s, and boy, it really peaked out in about the 1970s, which is interestingly the time that M. King Hubbert said that we would reach our maximum oil production.

And then ever since then, it's been down, down, down, down, down, and that's with ever better techniques for discovering oil. We now have 3–D seismic. We have computer modeling. And still our discoveries of oil, year by year, on average have gone down, down, down.

The solid black line here represents the consumption of oil, and we're going to see this curve on several of the other charts that we're going to show. And this shows a very interesting exponential growth through the Carter years, with a stunning statistic.

Every decade up through the Carter years, we used as much oil as we had used in all of previous history. Now, think about that for a moment. Had we continued on that path, when you have used up half of your oil, you would have just 10 years of oil remaining. But fortunately, we didn't think it was so fortunate at the time. Fortunately, we had the Arab oil embargo price spike hikes in the 1970s, and a worldwide recession resulted from that, and there was actually a decrease in the use of oil. It actually fell off.

Following that, we really put some effort into efficiency. Your refrigerator is now two or three times more efficient than it was then, and most of the energy using things, your refrigerator, your air conditioner, are very much more efficient than they were then. So now the rate of growth is very much slower, as you can see. Notice what would have happened had we not had that shock and put some effort into efficiency. This curve would have gone off the top of the chart here.

Well, you know that if you integrate under a curve, the area under the curve represents, in this case, the volume used. You can understand that, if you note that, you could round off these discoveries by putting a line like so, and the area under that line would represent the totality of the discoveries. So the area under this line represents how much we have used.

From about 1980 on, we have found less and less on the average each year, and we've been using more, but we had a lot of reserves back here that we hadn't used. So now we are dipping into these reserves, and we're filling in this area here with reserves from back here.

Now, yes, here are some reserves, and we'll find some more. There's a lot of dispute about how much more we're going to find, but I will tell you that most of the world's experts believe that we have probably found about 95 percent of everything that we will find, and the new finds are really interesting. The big one in the Gulf of Mexico, for instance, was under 7,000 feet of water, 30,000 feet of rock, and they haven't yet started to exploit it with oil at $140 barrel because it's very hard to get here.

Now, what will the future look like? Well, you're going to have to make some guesses and educated guesses as to how much more we're going to find. Those who put this chart together think that on the average it will be like so, but obviously, it won't be as nice, smooth like that. It will be up and down, but on the average like that. I'd draw the line a little lower actually if I were averaging, a little lower than that.

Then we have all of these reserves back here we haven't used, and so we now, in addition to what we find in the future, we can use more because we can use them back here. And so we will be going down, down, down. If we go up, up, up, by the way, you're soon going to run out of these and fall off of a cliff, but fortunately, geology won't let us do that because we can only get it so fast, which is our problem today. We aren't able to produce oil any faster than we are now producing it. Within some limits, we can control what the future looks like with enhanced oil recovery and so forth, but one thing you cannot do is pump oil that is not there.

I'd like now to return to the next chart to another quote from Hyman Rickover. He says: Whether this golden age, this age of oil which he called the golden age, will continue depends entirely upon our ability to keep energy supplies in balance with the needs of our growing population.

That is precisely what we have not done. You saw in one of the previous charts, the demand has grown and the supply is static, and when that happens, of course, you have an increase in price, and the price has gone up from $10 a barrel a relatively few years ago to $140 a barrel today.

The next chart is from one of four studies that our government has paid for. This was the first of those four studies and the biggest. This one was done by the big SAIC corporation, Science Applications International Corporation, a huge, very well-regarded company. And the study was headed by Robert Hirsch, and so this is called the Hirsch Report, and they present a chart there which is a very interesting one.

For reasons that are difficult to understand, some, including some in our Energy Department, are predicting that we will find as much more oil as all the reserves that are yet to be pumped. And it's a really interesting story how they got there to that conclusion. But they're predicting that we will find almost as much oil as we now know exists that we can pump.

Most of the world's experts—and this number will be up and down a little bit—but most of the world's experts believe that the recoverable oil at the end of the day will be about 2 trillion barrels. This table has it at 2.248 trillion barrels, roughly 2 trillion barrels. They're predicting that we'll find enough more to represent 3 trillion barrels. That's a lot more oil to find from that previous chart we showed. You would have to reverse the trends of the last 30 years, where it's been down, down, down, and now you're going to reverse that and it's going to go up? Laherrere says that what they're proposing is absolutely implausible. Laherrere is a French expert in this area.

But I show you this chart because even if we found that much more oil, the maximum production of oil would be pushed out only, according to this chart, to 2016. That curve that I told you you would see again and again, the rapid increase in use through the Carter years, the oil price spike shocks of the 1970s, the reduced demand worldwide, and then the slower rate of growth now, they're predicting a 2 percent growth. This is 2 percent.

By the way, exponential growth, Albert Einstein was asked what the next great force in the universe was going to be after nuclear energy, and he said the greatest force in the universe is the power of compound interest. You see, 2 percent growth, and that's so small that our stock market really doesn't like that, and it begins to go negative with 2 percent growth. But 2 percent growth doubles in 35 years. It's four times bigger in 70 years. It's eight times bigger in 105 years. And it's 16 times bigger in 140 years. So even very modest growth like 2 percent, gee, that's not much, but it's 16 times bigger in 140 years. And we still expect our children's children to be around in 140 years.

Now, this chart has another illustration on it. Suppose we're able to use some enhanced oil recovery and really suck it out fast, and you now continue up to 2037. You've now pushed the peak over to 2037, and then you fall off a cliff. Again, you cannot pump what is not there.

I will tell you that this is most unlikely to happen. I do not think the technologies are there to pump the oil that fast, but the point that I wanted to make in this chart was that even if

we found as much more oil as all of the oil that's now known to be there that can be pumped, it would push the peak out—this chart says only to 2016. That's not very out. That's just around the corner.

As a matter of fact, that Hirsch Report said that unless you anticipated peak oil by two decades you would have some economic consequences. If you anticipated it by only a decade, you would have very serious economic consequences. So even if this is true, even if this is true that we find as much more oil as all the oil that we currently know is out there to be pumped, it would push it out only to 2016. So we should have started an aggressive program of renewables a couple of years ago if we're going to avoid serious economic consequences.

The next chart is just another chart showing this same phenomenon, how little additional time you get with enormously increased discoveries of oil, and you need to think about this when you're thinking about pumping the oil in ANWR and on the Outer Continental Shelf and under our public lands. If ANWR has 10 billion barrels of oil—and that's the 50 percent probability. The 95 percent probability is considerably less than that, and 95 percent is more probable obviously than 50 percent probability. But suppose it has the 50 percent probability, that oil would last the world only 120 days. Now, I say the world because under present circumstances it is impossible not to share your oil with the world, because if we use oil that we produce, then the oil we might have bought from Venezuela or Saudi Arabia or Iran, someone else can buy. So, in reality, you are sharing your oil with the world.

Well, the only way not to do that, by the way, is to own so much oil that you don't need to get any from the outside, and then to use it all for yourself, even though others may need the oil more than you. Obviously we're not going to be doing that because we have only 2 percent of the known reserves of oil, and we use 25 percent of the world's oil.

This chart shows that roughly 2 trillion again. They show it as 1.92 trillion, and they show the peak occurring about 2010 roughly now with that. But if we find, again, this huge amount of additional oil and it goes up to 2.93 trillion, roughly the 3 trillion that you saw in the previous one, that will move the peak out only to about this point. It's a little different in their calculation, how far it moves the peak out, but all of this is within the lifetime of our children. And then they think that we will find a lot of unconventional oil. In a little bit I think we'll have a chance to talk about some of that unconventional oil. We may get a lot of that. We may not get much of that.

There's another dimension in this whole discussion that I have a couple of charts on, and the next chart introduces this, and that is the geopolitical implications of where we are.

This was a statement by Condoleezza Rice, our Secretary of State in 2006: We have to do something about the energy problem. I can tell you that nothing has really taken me aback more as Secretary of State than the way that the politics of energy is, I will use the word, ''warping'' diplomacy around the world. We have simply got to do something about the warping now of diplomatic effort by the all-out rush for energy supply.

And I'm sure that she had in her mind when she said that the next chart, which is a really interesting chart. And this shows the world according to oil, and this shows you what our world would look like if the size of each country was determined by the amount of oil that it had.

And you see here that Saudi Arabia really dominates the landscape, and it should because Saudi Arabia has, we believe, 22 percent of all the reserves in all the world. And notice the countries very near them: Iraq, tiny little Kuwait, Iran. These are one, two, three and four in terms of supply of oil in reserves in all the world. United Arab Emirates, you almost have to have a magnifying glass to find them on the map, and look how much oil they have. Here we are, United States, bunch up there in Canada and the Lower 48 here. We only have 2 percent of the oil in the world. This represents one-fiftieth of the land mass here.

□ 2100

And our biggest supplier of oil is Canada. Our third biggest supplier of oil—it was the second until a few months ago—is Mexico. And notice, they have less oil than we. As a matter of fact, together I don't know that they have any more oil than we have. They're exporters, because in Canada there aren't very many people, and in Mexico the people are too poor to buy the oil, and so they're able to export it. Now our second largest supplier is Saudi Arabia. Notice, Venezuela dwarfs everything else in this hemisphere.

Another really interesting thing to look at is the size of China and India in this ''World According to Oil.'' Here they are, China and India; about 2.3 or 4 billion people total, having less oil than the United States, with a booming economy. The economy in China, the last data I saw, growing at 11.7 percent. Japan in its heyday never grew faster than that, and notice the tiny amount of oil that they have.

Notice Russia. Russia is one of the largest exporters in the world today. They don't have the most oil by any means, but they're very aggressively pumping their oil and exporting it. And they are considerably larger, many times larger than we, and they have a much smaller population than we have. Well, very interesting map. And this points out some of the geopolitical realities in the world.

The next chart shows China's response to this reality. China has seen this ''World According to Oil,'' and this is their response to it. This shows our globe, and it shows the countries on it. And these little symbols represent who is buying the oil. Now, there are a few dollar signs, not very many, as you see. And there are a lot of these symbols that represent China. As a matter of fact, they almost bought Unocal in our country. Remember all of the hysteria over that possibility a couple of years ago?

Look what they're doing in the Middle East. Look what they're doing in northern Africa. Look what they're doing in Indonesia and in Russia. They're buying oil all over the world. At the same time, thinking about this geopolitical picture, at the same time that they are aggressively buying oil they are aggressively building a blue water navy. Why would they buy the oil when in today's world it doesn't make any difference who owns the oil? We own only 2 percent of the world's oil, but we use—and the next chart will show that. The next chart shows that we use 25 percent of the world's oil, owning only 2 percent of it. And we import almost two-thirds of what we use. And we're able to do that because he who comes to the auction block with the dollars buys the oil.

So why would China buy oil when in today's world it doesn't make any difference who owns the oil? The country that comes with the dollars buys the oil. Could it be that they're buying this oil and building this huge blue water navy because one day they may have to tell the rest of the world, gee, I'm sorry, we have 1,300,000,000 million people clamoring for the benefits of an industrialized society and we just can't share this oil. Something to think about, isn't it?

The next chart is another look at this geopolitical reality that we're in. And there are two bars here. The bar on the right shows the top 10 oil and gas companies on the basis of how much reserves they have. Well, pretty obvious from looking at that ''World According to Oil'' that most of those are going to be over in the Middle East. As a matter of fact, among the top 10, 98 percent of all the oil is owned not by companies, but by countries. And only 2 percent is owned by Luke Oil, which is kind of a company. One might argue that it had a lot of national control.

The bar on the left represents the top 10 oil and gas companies on the basis of how much they produce. Now, the really big guys that a lot of our people are concerned about because they're making big profits, they don't look big at all when you look at it from a world perspective. They own none of the oil of the top 10. They don't even count in the top 10 countries or companies that own oil. And they represent only 22 percent of the production of oil. They're pumping somebody else's oil is what that means, and not much of that relative to the oil that's produced by these countries.

The next chart is another quote from the Hirsch Report. And this came out

in '05. Our country has paid for four reports, all saying essentially the same thing. And you may ask a really legitimate question, how come I haven't heard about these? All saying essentially the same thing: ''The peaking of oil is either present or imminent, with potentially devastating consequences.''

The first report was the Hirsch Report early in '07. Later in '07 was another report by the Army Corps of Engineers saying essentially the same thing. Then last year, in '07, there were two reports, one by the Government Accountability Office, and another requested by the Secretary of Energy and the President, the National Petroleum Council. They came out last year in '07. All four of these reports say about the same thing, the peaking of oil is either present or imminent, with potentially devastating consequences. Now, how come you haven't heard about this? Why hasn't your government told you about this? And why haven't you heard about a really aggressive program to address the challenge presented by this reality?

World oil peaking is going to happen. This was in the Hirsch Report, '05. ''World production of conventional oil will reach a maximum and decline thereafter.'' It happened in our country in 1970. The same person who predicted that predicted the world would be peaking about now. I have a very simple question I've asked myself over and over again. If M. King Hubbert was right about the United States—and he was, incontrovertible evidence that he was right about the United States—and if he predicted in 1979 that the world would be peaking about now—and by the way, by 1980, we knew of a certainty that he was right about his prediction of the United States because, in looking back from 1980, we can see, gee, he was right. In 1970, we really did peak, and we're now over the peak and sliding down the other side. Shouldn't someone have said, gee, if M. King Hubbert was right about the United States, might he not be right about the world? And if, in fact, he is right about the world, shouldn't we really be doing something about this? It's an interesting question. I'm not sure I know the answer to it.

People tend to hear what they want to hear, they tend to see what they want to see. My wife tells me that I shouldn't be talking about this. She said, don't you know that in ancient Greece they killed the messenger that brought bad news. And I tell her this is really a good news story. The good news is that if we start today to fix this problem, the ride is going to be less bumpy than if we start tomorrow. And the second good news about this is that—I'm really exhilarated by this. There is no exhilaration like the exhilaration of meeting and overcoming a big challenge, and this is a huge challenge. I believe that America is up to this. If America knew what the problem was, if America knew what needed to be done to solve the problem, I think that we would do now what we did in World War II. And I lived through World War II. I was born in 1926. Yeah, you've done the arithmetic right, I'm 82 now. And I lived through World War II, and I remember how everyone was involved in that war. And I think Americans would do that again.

This maximum is called the peak. A number of competent forecasters project peaking within a decade. That was in '05. Now, 3 years later, this is within a decade, and most of them were predicting it peaking about now. Some uncertainty, and a lot of things contribute to that uncertainty, and that's what he talks about here in the rest of this paragraph.

''Oil peaking presents a unique challenge.'' And then this statement, ''The world has never faced a problem like this without massive mitigation more than a decade before the fact.'' Now, if peaking is upon us, it is impossible to do this mitigation a decade before the fact. ''Without massive mitigation more than a decade before the fact, the problem will be pervasive and will not be temporary. Previous energy transitions, wood to coal and coal to oil, were gradual and evolutionary. Oil peaking will be abrupt and revolutionary.''

The next chart is additional quotes from this Hirsch Report. ''The peaking of oil production presents the United States and the world with an unprecedented risk management problem.'' As peaking is approached, liquid fuel prices and price volatility will increase dramatically.'' Wow, that's exactly what's happened in the last few months, isn't it? ''And without timely mitigation''—which we have not done—''the economic, social and political costs will be unprecedented.''

Now, these are the words of a very serious study done by one of the most prestigious organizations in our world today. ''Without timely mitigation, the economic, social and political costs will be unprecedented.''

The next chart. And if a picture is worth a thousand words, this may be worth a million, huh? Here is a guy with his huge SUV, and he's standing beside the dwarf of a pump there, ''Demand and Supply.'' And he says, ''Just why is gas so expensive?'' That's what happens when the demand exceeds the supply.

The next chart looks at U.S. energy consumption by sector. I would like to spend a few moments now looking at the gross energy picture. Energy, by the way, is a very unique entity. You use it once. You can't recycle it. All energy eventually ends up in the lowest form of energy, which is heat. And then it gets radiated to space and it's gone. If you want more energy, you've got to either get it from the sun as it comes in, or the consequences of the sun, the wind blowing and so forth, or the waves. Or you've got to find energy that was produced by the sun a very long time ago. And of course it was the shining of the sun that made the little organisms grow in these ancient, subtropical seas that then settled to the bottom and sediment came in. And we believe the Earth opened up, the tectonic plates moved and they were submerged, so they were close enough to the molten core that, under the right temperature, the right pressure, with enough time, finally became gas and oil. And there is no gas there unless there is a rock dome over it to hold the gas, otherwise it escapes, and then you have some really gummy oil that's going to be extremely difficult to get. The Saudis are now trying to exploit a field like that, the Khurais field, I think they call it. And they may get 1,000,200 million barrels a day starting next year, but it's a very technical field. They've spent billions of dollars drilling wells. They're going to inject seawater under pressure to periphery the field to try to move the oil, which is very stiff and sticky, to the center of the field where they can then move it out to the well.

But this shows the U.S. energy consumption by sector. Electric power, 40 percent; transportation, 28 percent; residential and commercial, 11 percent; and industrial, 21 percent.

The next chart shows us what we use to produce the electricity. And I wanted to look at this because I want us to remember that we have two basic kinds of energy we use today; one is electric energy and the other is liquid fuels energy. And there is some ability to use one or the other, but there is a limit to what this transferability is. But some of the energy we use to produce electricity could be used in our cars and trucks and trains and so forth.

Coal, actually, we could use that; the Germans did it, the South Africans did it when they were producing oil from coal by the Fisher Tropes method. It's a 100-year-old method, we know how to do it. And we could convert our coal into a gas or a liquid. Here is natural gas, and you see city buses running on natural gas. Nuclear, that just produces electricity. Hydro, that just produces electricity. Petroleum liquids and coke, not very much there. About 3 percent of our electricity is produced by diesel, by liquid fuels.

I just wanted to show that, by conserving in electricity or by producing a lot more of our electricity with nuclear, which now produces only about 20 percent, we could free up some of the natural gas and some of the coal that could be converted to a gas or liquid because our really big challenge in the future is liquid fuels.

□ 2115

I'm pretty sanguine about what we can do electricity-wise for the future, much less sanguine about what we can do for liquid fuels.

We use some renewables. The next chart shows us the renewables that we're using. And I want you to look at the scale of this. This is 1 percent. I think totally 2½ percent of all of our electricity is produced by renewables.

And we have lots of wind machines. We have lots of solar panels on the roofs of houses. And the biggest one of these is wood and then wind.

By the way, this is wood waste used by the timber industry and by the paper industry. The opportunities to massively grow this are not all that much. Waste energy is a great idea, but we need to remember that a huge waste stream is largely the result of profligate use of fossil fuels. In a fossil fuel-deficient world, that waste stream will be nowhere near as big as it is now. But for the moment, it represents an opportunity to create more electricity, and I think we ought to be exploiting it.

This is true geothermal. That's tapping into the molten core of the Earth. You go to Iceland. I didn't see a single chimney in Iceland. They get all of their energy there, as far as I know, from geothermal. We have some places in our country where we are close enough to the molten core of Earth that we could do that.

Here is solar, and I'm a big fan of solar. I have a little getaway place in the mountains of West Virginia, and I'm off the grid. All I have is solar there. But notice the trifling amount. This is 1 percent here, 1 percent, this whole thing. Notice the trifling contribution that solar is making now.

The next chart, this is an interesting one because what it does is it shows us how much of our energy we are getting from fossil fuels.

We are very much like the young couple whose grandparents have died and left them a big inheritance, and they now have established a life-style where 85 percent of all the money they spend comes from their grandparents' inheritance and only 15 percent of the money comes from their income. And the inheritance, if they live a normal life span, the inheritance is going to run out before they die, before they retire even. So, obviously, they have got to do something. They have got to either spend less or make more. That's precisely the predicament that we are in. It's the predicament that Hyman Rickover was cautioning about 51 years ago. We get 85 percent of all of our energy from coal, petroleum, and natural gas, and we get only 15 percent of it from other sources. The major part of those other sources is nuclear power, which provides 8 percent of our total energy for the country, about 20 percent of our electrical energy.

And here are the renewables. These are the things that Hyman Rickover was talking about, which we inevitably will transition to. Now, we may for a long time be able to get a lot of energy, maybe much more than this, from nuclear. But except for nuclear energy, this list, and you could make it a little bigger and include a few more things in it, but this is the kind of the things that we are going to have to be living on in the future. We will inevitably transition to renewables. Oil is not forever. It will run out. The only question is when. So we need to be doing something about this.

The next chart shows some things that I have personally been involved with to help this transition. Renewable energy and energy tax credits, I introduced a bill in the House which is a companion bill to the Senate, Senate 2821, the Cantwell-Ensign bill. And this passed the Senate, by the way, 88–8. And the House bill is 5984. What it does is to continue the tax credits for developing renewables. Without those tax credits, they are not yet competitive with oil. If we wait until they are, the challenge will be even greater and the problem even bigger. So we must get these things going now. We should have had them going a long time ago. And we really need these tax credits. They are about to expire.

Renewable domestic sources, H.R. 6107. I set up, with my good friend TOM UDALL from New Mexico, the Peak Oil Caucus. And we have a resolution that we hope the Congress will vote on, recognizing the reality of peak oil and the necessity of doing something about it.

ARPA–E, I'm a very strong supporter of ARPA–E. DARPA, after which ARPA–E is patterned, is part of our defense organization, and it has been enormously successful in pioneering envelope-pushing things. The Internet is the result of early work by DARPA. All of our unmanned aircraft wouldn't be here if it weren't for DARPA, and we think that we need something like that in energy. The government needs to be involved in this. Some of the things we need to push are not near enough term that businesses can justify investing money in it. That's why we have DARPA. It has been enormously successful for the military. And I'm a big fan of ARPA–E. We need to prioritize what's probably going to work, where we should invest our money.

CAFE standards, I have been a big fan of increasing CAFE standards.

The other day driving to work, I noticed in front of me in one lane was an SUV with one person in it. In the lane next to it was a Prius, and I drive one. I bought the first one in Congress, the first one in Maryland, as a matter of fact. But I noted that the two people riding in that Prius were getting six times the miles per gallon per person as compared to the one person riding in the SUV. We have enormous opportunities for conservation.

Let me note at this point that there's only one thing that will bring down the price of oil. For the moment drilling won't do it because that oil will not flow for years. Investing in renewables will not do it because they will not be of any moment for a while. I'm a strong fan of renewables, and I now signed on to a bill to drill in ANWR if we use all of the Federal revenues to invest in alternatives because we desperately need to accelerate the development of these alternatives. Only one thing will reduce the price of oil, and that is to use less of it. Supply and demand. Now, there is a little bit of speculation in there, but the market will eventually punish them if they are artificially increasing the price of oil. If you buy oil for $140 a month from now if, in fact, it's $130, you've got to come up with $10 a barrel for every future barrel you bought. They cannot forever inflate the market. Ultimately they will pay for their sins if, in fact, this is going on.

Farms can't produce all of their own energy and some for the people living in the city. We're really in trouble for the future.

Tax credit for hybrids, we really need to extend that. People are buying hybrids. You know, $4 gas is a big incentive. We need to accelerate that. We need to incentivize people to park their SUV, to get in this hybrid, which will get more mileage.

Fuel flexibility, neutrality. This is an interesting one, the so-called DRIVE Act, and what this would do would mandate that all of America's cars in the future will be flex-fuel cars. It costs less than $100 per car, to build a car that would burn any fuel. The only cars produced in Brazil are flex-fuel cars. They can burn gasoline. They can burn ethanol. They can burn any percentage mixture of ethanol and gasoline. And we can have flex-fuel cars that can burn any fuel. We have no idea 10 years from now what fuels will be out there to use because the average car stays in the fleet for 16 to 18 years. So we need to be making these flex-fuel cars so we will be prepared to use whatever fuels are available in the future.

The next chart, and this is kind of an expansion of the previous chart we saw. What this looks at is the energy sources that are available to us as we transition from fossil fuels ultimately to renewables. We have some finite sources and we have nuclear. We have finite sources, and these are the tar sands and the oil shales and coal. Just a word about each of those, and I need to come to the floor and spend a lot of time talking about these because there is a lot of irrational exuberance, as Alan Greenspan would say, about the potential for production from some of these sources.

Just a word. The tar sands of Canada are getting a million barrels a day. They know what they are doing is not sustainable. By the way, the world uses about 85, 86 million barrels a day; so a million barrels a day is a bit more than 1 percent of what we use. But it's not sustainable. They're using gas that will run out. They're using water that will run out. They're thinking about putting a nuclear power plant there. I understand if you think of it as a vein which is now on the surface, when that's mined, it ducks under it and overlays; so they're going to have to develop it in situ. They don't know how to do that. There's a huge amount of potential oil there, more than all the reserves of oil in all the world. But how much we can develop it and how quickly we can develop it is really very uncertain at this time.

Oil shales, the same thing can be said about those. Those are in our country out in Colorado and Wyoming and so forth, Utah. We have probably 1½ trillion barrels of potential oil there. This isn't really oil, but with some heating and so forth, it can be converted into oil. Nobody yet is exploiting any of that. A lot of money has been spent there. Shell Oil Company did a big experiment a few years ago. We may get a lot from that; we may get little or nothing from it. It is very uncertain.

Our coal, it's said we have 250 years of coal. Let me hold that discussion for just a moment because we are going to have a little chart in a moment if we have time for it.

Nuclear, I'm a big fan of nuclear. There are three ways to get nuclear power: One is the light water reactor, the fissionable uranium. That is finite. It will run out. We cannot build power plants forever and fissionable uranium. But we can go to breeder reactors, which, as the name implies, produces more fuel than they use. You borrow some trouble when you go to those, transporting fuel for enrichment, weapons-grade fuel, and so forth, but it produces really clean energy.

Then there's nuclear fusion. If we get that, we're home free. That's what the sun does, and that's what we do in the hydrogen bomb. But to control that, we have been working on it for a long while, and it's always very elusive, always way out in front of us. If you think you're going to solve our energy problems with fusion, you probably think you're going to solve your personal economic problems by winning the lottery. I think the odds are probably about the same. By the way, that doesn't keep me from enthusiastically voting for the $250 million a year we spend on fusion because if we get there, we're home free. That's all the energy we could ever need forever. But the high probability is we are going to be using a combination of these renewable sources. The next time I come to the floor, I'm going to spend a lot of time talking about realistic expectations for these renewables.

Two bubbles have already broken: the hydrogen bubble and the corn ethanol bubble. The National Academy of Sciences said if we use all of our corn for ethanol, it would displace 2.4 percent of our gasoline. All of it. And the amount we have used has now driven up the price of food around the world, as you have noted. They made a similar observation for soybeans. If we use all of our soybeans for soy diesel, it would displace 2.9 percent.

By the way, they noted that for corn ethanol, all of the corn going to ethanol, if you tuned up your car and put air in the tires, they said, you would save as much gas as using all of our corn to produce corn ethanol. We get incredible amounts of energy from these fossil fuels. The quality and quantity of energy in these fossil fuels is just incredible.

I mentioned earlier that I was excited by this. This presents a huge challenge to us. We had a huge challenge in World War II. I lived through that. And what I think we need to address this problem is a program that involves everybody in the Nation. And the last time that happened was in World War II. Everybody needs to be involved. We had a victory garden. We had daylight savings time. We saved our household grease. No new cars were built for people in 1943, 1944, and 1945. And then we need the technology focus of putting a man on the moon, and we need the urgency of the Manhattan Project. We are the most creative, innovative society in the world. I'm convinced that, properly informed, the American people can perform miracles. I think we once again can become an energy-exporting country, energy exporting in the terms of exporting the technology it takes to exploit these renewables. I'm excited about this. I think we need challenges. Our young people's lives are just too easy in this country. As I tell audiences, young people, some of them, not a majority of them, spend far too much time watching dirty movies and smoking marijuana. They wouldn't be doing that if they had a real challenge. I can imagine Americans going to sleep at night saying, ''Today I used less energy than I did yesterday and I'm okay.''

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Just one last chart and then I have got to close. The last one.

Using less energy doesn't mean you have a lesser quality of life. It doesn't mean you have a lesser quality of life. This chart shows a number of the countries of the world and the amount of energy they use and how good they feel about life on the ordinate. Here we are, using more energy than anybody else in the world, but notice, there are I think 24 countries, some of them using only half the energy we use, that don't feel as good about life as we do; they feel better about life than we do.

There are lots of opportunities for efficiency and conservation. We will come to the floor and talk about realistic expectations for what we can get out of these renewables and about all of the opportunities that we have for efficiency and conservation.

I'd just like to close, Mr. Speaker, by saying that America really can respond to this. We have performed miracles in the past, we can do it again. So I am excited about this. With my wife's counsel that I shouldn't be talking about this, I think that this is a good news story because America really, really, really responds well to a challenge. We did it in World War II, we did it in putting a man on the moon. We can do it here again.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5690. An act to remove the African National Congress from treatment as a terrorist organization for certain acts or events, provide relief for certain members of the African National Congress regarding admissibility, and for other purposes.

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS EXEMPTION

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 5690) to remove the African National Congress from treatment as a terrorist organization for certain acts or events, provide relief for certain members of the African National Congress regarding admissibility, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

On page 2, strike line 12 through the end of line 21 and insert the following:

(a) EXEMPTION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of State, after consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the Secretary of Homeland Security, after consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, may determine, in such Secretary's sole and unreviewable discretion, that paragraphs (2)(A)(i)(I), (2)(B), and (3)(B) (other than clause (i)(II)) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)) shall not apply to an alien with respect to activities undertaken in association with the African National Congress in opposition to apartheid rule in South Africa.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I reserve the right to object, although I do not intend to object. I do so here for the purpose of debate only. I thank the gentlewoman for her request, and I rise in support of this measure, H.R. 5690. I concur in my colleague's request for unanimous consent to pass this measure as amended by the Senate.

Madam Speaker, this bill corrects a longstanding error on U.S. policy towards South Africa. The House passed the bill on May 8 of this year, and the Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent just a few moments ago.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to participate in the process of updating U.S. immigration law as it applies to visits to the United States by South African officials, such as former President Nelson Mandela, to reflect the appropriate status of the African National Congress, and I look forward to personally sharing news of passage of this bill with Mr. Mandela and the South African government when I visit South Africa next week with Chairman BERMAN.

Ms. LEE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROYCE. I yield to the gentlelady from California.

Ms. LEE. First, let me thank the gentleman from California for yielding and for his leadership and for his commitment and his assistance in helping

to bring this bill to the floor tonight, or back to the floor tonight.

Mr. ROYCE and I have traveled to Africa. We have actually been to Darfur in the Sudan and witnessed the horrific genocide taking place, and because of your leadership and because of the bipartisan way in which we have worked, we have put, again, the United States on the right side of history on leading the charge for divestment against the Sudanese government.

Here we are tonight, really a remarkable evening. It's 9:40 and we are here on the floor doing what we should do. We probably should have done it a long time. We are here. Thank you, Mr. ROYCE, very much.

Despite his legacy as a hero of the antiapartheid movement, Nelson Mandela's receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993, and his election as President of South Africa in 1994, Nelson Mandela continues to be included on the United States terrorist watch list due to his leadership and participation with the African National Congress. As a result, former President Mandela and countless men and women like him, who fought for decades, for decades, mind you, a war of liberation against the apartheid government of South Africa, are required to obtain a visa waiver under the Immigration and Nationality Act in order to enter the United States.

This continuing indignity should not be allowed to persist any longer. This year, President Mandela will turn 90 years old. I believe his birthday is July 17. And so as a fitting tribute to his legacy and to the many others who fought against apartheid, all of us tonight believe that we should promptly pass this bill so that the African National Congress and President Mandela can be removed from the terrorist watch list.

Like many, I was very involved in the antiapartheid movement. I remember having to travel to Switzerland and to Austria and to other countries in Europe just to meet with members of the ANC, African National Congress, to determine how the antiapartheid movement in the United States could support their courageous efforts to shatter the dehumanizing, racist system of apartheid.

We could not meet, unfortunately, in our own country here in the United States because they would have been put in jail. It's no telling what would have happened to me and to others who were committed to support the African National Congress and to end apartheid.

I tell you, this has been a remarkable 18 years. President Mandela was released from prison 18 years ago. And so it's amazing that to this day, despite his legacy as a hero of the antiapartheid movement, that he still needs a visa waiver to enter the United States. This is just plain wrong.

Last December, I traveled to South Africa for World AIDS Day with our colleague, Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN. We met with many, many people in South Africa, and were specifically asked that Congress take action and pass some legislation to remove President Mandela from this terrorist list, and the ANC. Many of us either had forgotten or really did not know that. And so we came back and started working on this bill.

I have to thank Congressman BERMAN, our Chair of our Foreign Relations Committee, and Congressman CONYERS and Congressman PAYNE and Congressman BENNIE THOMPSON and Senator REID and others for really helping to help move this bill forward.

Let me just say, I come from California and I do have to remind tonight the rest of the country that it was my predecessor, Congressman Ron Dellums, now Mayor Ron Dellums, who put our country on the right side of history. I had the privilege to work for Ron for 11 years. For 12 years, he introduced a sanctions bill, and finally, in the eighties, this Congress overturned President Reagan's veto and put America on the right side of history and began the divestment movement.

Our colleague, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, was in the State legislature and she work tirelessly on divestment legislation. Her leadership put the State of California on the right side of history. Actually, I believe that California was the first State to move forward with sanctions against the racist regime of South Africa.

Recently, Congresswoman WATERS and Mayor Dellums received one of the highest honors presented to them by the South African government. So we are very proud of them and thankful for their leadership.

In the Bay area and for those who may be listening, if you remember, we really started the antiapartheid movement with the labor unions, the ILWU. Many of us were actually arrested. We refused to unload the ships. The ILWU, great and courageous men and women. They refused to allow any items to come into the Bay area.

And so we were arrested. We fought. We did so much to try to raise the level of awareness and attention as to what was taking place in South Africa. I can remember us carrying little black passbooks, because coming in from the townships, black South Africans had to have IDs, passbooks. And we had a burning-our-passbook ceremony on the steps of city hall to let people understand that the black majority of South Africa could not live in major towns and had to live in squalor and could only come in to work and had to leave with their passbooks.

So I could go on and on. I am saying this tonight because I want those who are listening to say, This is a really significant moment. This has been, again, a long time coming. But I think this is one of those moments where we have seen the Secretary of State, Republicans, Democrats, all of us working together to end this terrible, terrible policy that we have with regard to the ANC and Nelson Mandela.

I have to salute our speaker, Speaker PELOSI; our minority leader, Mr. BOEHNER; Mr. HOYER. Also, Congresswoman CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, and all the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and those who, when we started talking about this, first of all, couldn't believe that this was still the case but said we have got to do something. We have got to fix it.

So, again, to our staffs. I have to say to Perl Alice Marsh of the Foreign Affairs staff, to Christos Tsentas on my staff, and to all of the staff on both sides of the aisle who have worked so diligently, tonight is long overdue. It's taken a heck of a lot to get here, but we hope that tonight we will be able to say to President Mandela: Happy Birthday, Mr. Mandela.

Mr. ROYCE, hopefully you will be able to take a signed copy of the bill by the President to Mr. Mandela and wish him God speed, happy birthday, and thank goodness we were finally, finally, finally able to take the ANC and President Mandela off of the terrorist watch list.

Mr. ROYCE. We will do that. I thank the gentlelady.

Madam Speaker, I withdraw my reservation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. COSTA) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. COSTA, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KUCINICH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. NUNES) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NUNES, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. BIGGERT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GILCHREST, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 430. An act to designate the United States bankruptcy courthouse located at 271 Cadman Plaza East in Brooklyn, New York, as the ''Conrad B. Duberstein United States Bankruptcy Courthouse''.

H.R. 781. An act to redesignate Lock and Dam No. 5 of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System near Redfield, Arkansas, authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved July 24, 1946, as the ''Colonel Charles D. Maynard Lock and Dam''.

H.R. 1019. An act to designate the United States customhouse building located at 31 Gonzalez Clemente Avenue in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, as the ''Rafael Martinez Nadal United States Customhouse Building''.

H.R. 2728. An act to designate the station of the United States Border Patrol located at 25762 Madison Avenue in Murrieta, California, as the ''Theodore L. Newton, Jr. and George F. Azrak border Patrol Station''.

H.R. 3712. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, as the ''James M. Ashley and Thomas W. L. Ashley United States Courthouse''.

H.R. 4140. An act to designate the Port Angeles Federal Building in Port Angeles, Washington, as the ''Richard B. Anderson Federal Building''.

H.R. 6040. An act to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of the Army to provide reimbursement for travel expenses incurred by members of the Committee on Levee Safety.

H.R. 6327. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 3180. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, June 30, 2008, at 10 a.m., unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 379, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7332. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Guaranteed Loans; Number of Days of Interest Paid on Loss Claims (RIN: 0560-AH55) received June 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7333. A letter from the Secretary of the Commission, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Affiliate Marketing Rule [Regulation No. 411006] (RIN: 3084-AA94) received June 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7334. A letter from the Deputy Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Presidential Library Facilities [NARA-07-0005] (RIN: 3095-AA82) received June 18, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7335. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Open and Nondiscriminatory Movement of Oil and Gas as Required by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act [Docket ID: MMS-2008-PMI-0024] (RIN: 1010-AD17) received June 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7336. A letter from the Deputy Director, NIST, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technology Innovation Program [Docket No: [071106659-8716-02]] (RIN: 0693-AB59) received June 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science and Technology.

7337. A letter from the Regional Solicitor, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's request for a rehearing of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's April 3, 2008, order on the Ten-Year Summary Report under Article 58 of the license for the Don Pedro Project; jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and Commerce.

7338. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a copy of a legislative proposal to implement an important new treaty for the protection of aquatic life and the marine environment; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Science and Technology, and the Judiciary.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BARTON of Texas (for himself, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. PICKERING, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. TERRY, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

H.R. 6376. A bill to expand the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to impose debarments in order to ensure the integrity of drug, biological product, and device regulation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. BARROW, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. HODES, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. SHULER, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. FARR, and Mr. LAMPSON):

H.R. 6377. A bill to direct the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to utilize all its authority, including its emergency powers, to curb immediately the role of excessive speculation in any contract market within the jurisdiction and control of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, on or through which energy futures or swaps are traded, and to eliminate excessive speculation, price distortion, sudden or unreasonable fluctuations or unwarranted changes in prices, or other unlawful activity that is causing major market disturbances that prevent the market from accurately reflecting the forces of supply and demand for energy commodities; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. BARTON of Texas (for himself, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. PICKERING, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. TERRY, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

H.R. 6378. A bill to expand the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to impose debarments in order to ensure the integrity of drug, biological product, and device regulation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. FALLIN:

H.R. 6379. A bill to expedite the exploration and development of oil and gas from Federal lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BIGGERT (for herself, Mr. EMANUEL, and Mrs. EMERSON):

H.R. 6380. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide payments under the Medicare program for unscheduled physician telephone consultation services in the case that such payments are determined to be cost and quality effective; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. WAXMAN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. WEINER, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. STUPAK, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. ROSS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. BACA, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. STARK, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. COBLE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. TERRY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HIGGINS, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. FILNER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. WU, Mr. MELANCON, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. DINGELL):

H.R. 6381. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to liability under State and local requirements respecting devices; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California):

H.R. 6382. A bill to make technical corrections related to the Pension Protection Act of 2006, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HAYES:

H.R. 6383. A bill to make available for research and development of alternative energy certain revenue received by the United States for all future oil and gas leases; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. SALI, Mr. CANNON, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HERGER, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. RENZI, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. REHBERG, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. UPTON, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia, and Mrs. MYRICK):

H.R. 6384. A bill to provide a comprehensive plan for greater American energy independence; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, Science and Technology, Ways and Means, Agriculture, Education and Labor, Armed Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mrs. BIGGERT, and Mr. SHAYS):

H.R. 6385. A bill to provide a large-scale national effort to improve the state of our national security, economy and environment by providing market incentives to produce and deploy alternative energy solutions and reduce our dependence on foreign oil; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Science and Technology, Energy and Commerce, Education and Labor, Rules, Natural Resources, Agriculture, Armed Services, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCCARTHY of California:

H.R. 6386. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend and revise incentive payments for physician scarcity areas under part B of the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas):

H.R. 6387. A bill to provide duty-free treatment for certain goods from designated Reconstruction Opportunity Zones in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WAXMAN (for himself, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. OBEY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. GORDON, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. FILNER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. REYES, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 6388. A bill to provide additional authorities to the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 6389. A bill to modify Captain Sam's Inlet Unit M08 of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System in Charleston County, South Carolina, and to revise the System map relating to the unit; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida:

H.R. 6390. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit against tax for certain caregivers, to expand the dependent care credit, and to increase the exclusion limitation for dependent care assistance programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BURTON of Indiana (for himself, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. WATSON, and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland):

H.R. 6391. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CUELLAR (for himself and Mr. DENT):

H.R. 6392. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate an agency within the Department of Homeland Security to modernize the integrated public alert and warning system of the United States to disseminate homeland security and other information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself and Mr. PLATTS):

H.R. 6393. A bill to amend titles V, XVIII, and XIX of the Social Security Act to promote tobacco use cessation under the Medicare Program, the Medicaid Program, and the maternal and child health program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. GIFFORDS (for herself, Mr. REYES, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. BACA, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. MITCHELL):

H.R. 6394. A bill to amend the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 to extend Federal reimbursement of emergency health services furnished to undocumented aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 6395. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to carry out a program for fellowships and research to enhance domestic preparedness and the collective response to acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and other emergencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

H.R. 6396. A bill to establish a commission to make recommendations on the appropriate size of membership of the House of Representatives and the method by which Members are elected; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HENSARLING:

H.R. 6397. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the basic educational assistance program administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Education and Labor, Oversight and Government Reform, Energy and Commerce, Science and Technology, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HODES (for himself, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. HINCHEY):

H.R. 6398. A bill to impose a permanent prohibition on the use of funds by the Department of Defense for propaganda purposes within the United States not otherwise specifically authorized by law and to require an investigation into possible violations of the annual Department of Defense Appropriations Act prohibition on such propaganda; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HODES:

H.R. 6399. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to prohibit the display of Social Security account numbers on Medicare cards; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HOEKSTRA (for himself, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. UPTON, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. HERGER, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. PENCE, Mr. FEENEY, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, and Mr. CAMPBELL of California):

H.R. 6400. A bill to authorize a State to transfer or consolidate funds made available to such State under certain transportation, education, and job training programs after the United States experiences economic growth at an annual rate of less than 1 percent for 2 calendar quarters; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. INSLEE (for himself, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 6401. A bill to spur rapid and sustainable growth in renewable electricity generation in the United States through priority interconnection, renewable energy payments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Science and Technology, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. CORRINE

BROWN of Florida, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SESTAK, Mrs. LOWEY, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas):

H.R. 6402. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish grants to increase student attendance; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 6403. A bill to amend title II of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to establish financial literacy education programs for newly naturalized citizens of the United States; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. KINGSTON (for himself, Mr. BARROW, Ms. GRANGER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. HAYES, Mr. KELLER, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. PENCE, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. GINGREY, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CARTER, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. EVERETT, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WOLF, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. CLARKE, and Mrs. EMERSON):

H.R. 6404. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:

H.R. 6405. A bill to authorize a process by which the Secretary of the Interior shall process acquisitions of certain real property of the Samish Indian Nation into trust, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 6406. A bill to elevate the Inspector General of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to an Inspector General appointed pursuant to section 3 of the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. PORTER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. REYNOLDS, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SHAYS, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KIND, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. DOGGETT):

H.R. 6407. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exclusion from gross income for AmeriCorps educational awards; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. DOGGETT):

H.R. 6408. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to establish requirements to ensure the security and safety of passengers and crew on cruise vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota (for herself, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LUCAS, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr. WALZ of Minnesota):

H.R. 6409. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the credit for electricity produced from certain renewable resources; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCCOTTER:

H.R. 6410. A bill to provide for the elimination of agencies and programs which receive ineffective ratings or three consecutive adequate ratings under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to rebate the savings from such eliminations to the taxpayers; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. FOXX, Mr. SHADEGG, and Mr. WAXMAN):

H.R. 6411. A bill to strengthen transparency and accountability in Federal spending; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. MUSGRAVE:

H.R. 6412. A bill to promote the energy security of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Science and Technology, Oversight and Government Reform, Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, Ways and Means, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 6413. A bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency from updating flood maps until the Administrator submits to Congress a community outreach plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Mr. ROTHMAN):

H.R. 6414. A bill to establish a pilot program on the provision of legal services to assist veterans and members of the Armed Forces receive health care, benefits and services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 6415. A bill to provide that goods that are manufactured in a foreign trade zone and comply with the rules of origin under a trade agreement to which the United States is a party may enter the customs territory of the United States at the rate of duty applicable under that agreement; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. LEE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida):

H.R. 6416. A bill to codify existing sanctions against the Government of Sudan until the Government of Sudan meets certain conditions relating to a just and lasting peace in Sudan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina:

H.R. 6417. A bill to prevent Members of Congress from receiving the automatic pay adjustment scheduled to take effect in 2009; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POE (for himself, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. LAMBORN):

H.R. 6418. A bill to achieve greater national energy independence by terminating longstanding moratoriums on the domestic production of offshore oil and natural gas and to authorize States to petition for authorization to conduct offshore oil and natural gas exploration and extraction in the coastal zone of their State; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER (for himself, Mr. GOODE, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 6419. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income compensation received by employees consisting of qualified distributions of employer stock; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SHERMAN (for himself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 6420. A bill to toll the congressional notification period for removing North Korea from the state sponsors of terrorism list; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SHUSTER:

H.R. 6421. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish and implement a competitive oil and gas leasing program for the Coastal Plain of Alaska, to provide for expanded leasing of the oil and gas resources of the outer Continental Shelf for exploration, to eliminate certain impediments to the development of nuclear energy sources, to promote coal-to-liquid fuel activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, Science and Technology, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SPACE:

H.R. 6422. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow small businesses a refundable income tax credit to offset the cost of providing health care coverage for employees; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STUPAK:

H.R. 6423. A bill to provide for the transportation of the remains of members of the Armed Forces who died in a theater of combat operations when those remains are subsequently recovered; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 6424. A bill to establish a homeowner mitigation loan program within the Federal Emergency Management Agency to promote pre-disaster property mitigation measures; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 6425. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to maintain a Response and Recovery Corps to perform functions related to the collective response to

acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and other emergencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIAHRT (for himself, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. LAHOOD):

H.R. 6426. A bill to prohibit the use of funds by the Department of Defense on the KC-X tanker contract, and for other purposes related to that contract; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WELCH of Vermont (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):

H.R. 6427. A bill to provide funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. KELLER, Mr. FEENEY, and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

H.J. Res. 96. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to permit the penalty of death for the rape of a child; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HOEKSTRA:

H.J. Res. 97. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to parental rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

H. Con. Res. 383. Concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of homeownership for Americans; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Ms. WATERS, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. RUSH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. SIRES, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Ms. SOLIS):

H. Con. Res. 384. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National HIV Testing Day, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. WELLER, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. PENCE, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MACK, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. WATSON, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. CANTOR):

H. Con. Res. 385. Concurrent resolution condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SALI:

H. Con. Res. 386. Concurrent resolution recognizing and celebrating the 232nd anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. TANCREDO (for himself and Mr. CHABOT):

H. Con. Res. 387. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should sever diplomatic relations with Zimbabwe until such time as the President determines that Zimbabwe meets requirements relating to democratic, free and fair elections, basic civil liberties and human rights, and certain other requirements; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BILBRAY (for himself, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. COBLE, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. SHULER, and Mr. BARTON of Texas):

H. Res. 1306. A resolution recognizing the dedication and honorable service of members of the National Guard who are serving or have served in Operation Jump Start; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BAIRD (for himself and Mr. UPTON):

H. Res. 1307. A resolution commemorating the Kingdom of Bhutan's participation in the 2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival and commending the people and the Government of the Kingdom of Bhutan for their commitment to holding elections and broadening political participation; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. PENCE, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. POE, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. LINDER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. WELLER, Mr. SALI, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. PORTER, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. SHAYS):

H. Res. 1308. A resolution condemning the broadcasting of incitement to violence against Americans and the United States in media based in the Middle East, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. DRAKE:

H. Res. 1309. A resolution recognizing and honoring the 44th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and those who worked to achieve this goal; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (for herself, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. HINCHEY):

H. Res. 1310. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Iran's lack of protection for internationally recognized human rights creates poor conditions for religious freedom in the Islamic Republic of Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. FATTAH (for himself and Mr. SOUDER):

H. Res. 1311. A resolution expressing support for the designation of National GEAR UP Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LAMBORN (for himself, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. REYES, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

H. Res. 1312. A resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Space Foundation; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. LAMPSON (for himself, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. FEENEY, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

H. Res. 1313. A resolution celebrating the 25th anniversary of the first American woman in space, Dr. Sally K. Ride, and honoring her contributions to the space program and to science education; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCNULTY, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. WALZ of Minnesota):

H. Res. 1314. A resolution remembering the 75th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 and extending the deepest sympathies of the House of Representatives to the victims, survivors, and families of this tragedy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MCCAUL of Texas (for himself, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. WATSON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. LUCAS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. REYES, and Mr. CARSON):

H. Res. 1315. A resolution commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. SNYDER, and Mr. JONES of North Carolina):

H. Res. 1316. A resolution honoring the service of the Navy and Coast Guard veterans who served on the Landing Ship Tank (LST) amphibious landing craft during World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, Operation Desert Storm, and global operations through 2002 and recognizing the essential role played by LST amphibious craft during these conflicts; to the Committee on Armed Services.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

327. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 76 memorializing the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to expedite the reopening of the Arabi branch of the United States Postal Service located in St. Bernard Parish; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

328. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to Senate Joint Memorial No. 114 expressing opposition to S. 40 and H.R. 3200; jointly to the Committees on Financial Services and the Judiciary.

329. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 68 memorializing the Congress of the United States to provide funding for the Louisiana University of Medical Services, Inc., College of Primary Care Medicine; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Education and Labor.

330. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 321 memorializing the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States to enact S. 70;

jointly to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and the Judiciary.

331. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 36 expressing opposition to the authorization of offshore aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico; jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Agriculture.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 303: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 410: Mr. OLVER.
H.R. 423: Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 552: Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 583: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 688: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 736: Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. POE, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. SALI, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 1029: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 1032: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 1113: Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. HALL of New York, and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 1117: Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 1120: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 1228: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1279: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 1283: Mr. ORTIZ.
H.R. 1293: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 1399: Mr. CHILDERS.
H.R. 1428: Mrs. GILLIBRAND.
H.R. 1552: Mr. KUHL of New York.
H.R. 1610: Mr. MORAN of Kansas and Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia.
H.R. 1655: Mr. SPACE.
H.R. 1671: Mr. MARKEY.
H.R. 1709: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.
H.R. 1755: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 1866: Mr. KAGEN.
H.R. 1881: Mr. BOREN and Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 2053: Mr. SPACE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 2060: Mr. CANNON.
H.R. 2091: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
H.R. 2104: Mr. CAMP of Michigan.
H.R. 2123: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 2132: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2167: Mr. ALTMIRE and Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 2188: Mr. WALSH of New York.
H.R. 2279: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.
H.R. 2289: Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 2329: Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. KNOLLENBERG.
H.R. 2330: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.
H.R. 2370: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CARTER, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 2384: Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 2472: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 2493: Mr. FEENEY and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.
H.R. 2583: Mr. HOLDEN.
H.R. 2606: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 2676: Mr. ALTMIRE.
H.R. 2686: Mr. WELCH of Vermont.
H.R. 2708: Mr. MARKEY.
H.R. 2712: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 2721: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 2762: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.
H.R. 2796: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2832: Mr. LANGEVIN and Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 2842: Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 2880: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 2990: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 2994: Mr. ALTMIRE.
H.R. 3047: Mr. SCALISE.
H.R. 3089: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina and Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 3094: Ms. GIFFORDS and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 3119: Mr. WEXLER, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 3186: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 3245: Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 3289: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 3329: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 3396: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 3406: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 3485: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3652: Mr. WELCH of Vermont and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 3669: Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H.R. 3679: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 3689: Mrs. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 3929: Ms. LEE.
H.R. 4048: Mr. ALEXANDER.
H.R. 4061: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 4099: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.
H.R. 4126: Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. PITTS, Mr. DENT, Mr. KELLER, Mr. CUELLAR, and Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 4158: Ms. RICHARDSON, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MITCHELL, and Mr. BILBRAY.
H.R. 4236: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 4245: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 4269: Mr. KLEIN of Florida.
H.R. 4344: Mr. FEENEY.
H.R. 4833: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. SHULER.
H.R. 4900: Mr. CAZAYOUX.
H.R. 5160: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 5236: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 5267: Mr. CANTOR.
H.R. 5315: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5404: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. WU, and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 5435: Mr. BECERRA and Mr. SALAZAR.
H.R. 5465: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 5488: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 5515: Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 5535: Ms. HIRONO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H.R. 5575: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5583: Ms. GIFFORDS.
H.R. 5604: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota and Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 5606: Mr. FEENEY and Mr. KAGEN.
H.R. 5629: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 5632: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee.
H.R. 5652: Mr. HUNTER.
H.R. 5656: Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, and Mrs. SCHMIDT.
H.R. 5674: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 5731: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 5737: Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 5772: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 5782: Mr. DENT.
H.R. 5793: Mr. KLEIN of Florida.
H.R. 5838: Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 5874: Mrs. CUBIN, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 5878: Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 5898: Mr. GRIJALVA and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 5910: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. JONES of North Carolina.
H.R. 5925: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. WATSON, and Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 5954: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 6045: Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 6057: Mr. MCNULTY.
H.R. 6064: Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 6066: Ms. WATERS, Ms. LEE, Mr. CARSON, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 6067: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 6076: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 6079: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 6089: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 6091: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. GALLEGLY, and Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 6100: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
H.R. 6108: Mr. FEENEY.
H.R. 6126: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 6130: Mr. STEARNS.
H.R. 6157: Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 6162: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H.R. 6168: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 6169: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 6172: Mr. BONNER and Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.
H.R. 6194: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.
H.R. 6199: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 6207: Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, and Mr. GINGREY.
H.R. 6208: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 6209: Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. MARKEY.
H.R. 6210: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 6251: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 6252: Ms. GRANGER, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 6256: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 6264: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 6285: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 6288: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.
H.R. 6292: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.
H.R. 6294: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida.
H.R. 6297: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 6299: Mr. ROTHMAN and Ms. GRANGER.
H.R. 6316: Mr. ARCURI, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. SIRES, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 6321: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. KUHL of New York.
H.R. 6328: Mr. DINGELL.
H.R. 6330: Mr. LAMPSON.
H.R. 6347: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. OBERSTAR.
H.R. 6348: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 6353: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 6368: Mr. CAMP of Michigan.
H.R. 6371: Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. BECERRA.
H.J. Res. 39: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
H.J. Res. 50: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina.
H.J. Res. 79: Ms. NORTON.
H.J. Res. 89: Mr. SCALISE and Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
H.J. Res. 91: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts and Mr. HOLT.
H. Con. Res. 81: Mr. PAUL.
H. Con. Res. 214: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi,

Ms. WATSON, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H. Con. Res. 276: Mr. SHAYS.

H. Con. Res. 284: Mr. FORBES.

H. Con. Res. 296: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. WATERS, Mr. BOREN, and Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.

H. Con. Res. 338: Mr. WATT.

H. Con. Res. 345: Mr. POE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, and Mr. MEEKS of New York.

H. Con. Res. 352: Mr. ANDREWS.

H. Con. Res. 356: Mr. SHERMAN.

H. Con. Res. 358: Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. BOREN, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. REYES, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. ISSA, and Ms. FALLIN.

H. Con. Res. 360: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota and Mr. CONYERS.

H. Con. Res. 362: Mr. REHBERG, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. FILNER, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. WELLER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. LATHAM.

H. Con. Res. 364: Mr. SHAYS.

H. Con. Res. 365: Mr. KUHL of New York.

H. Con. Res. 380: Mr. TOWNS and Mrs. TAUSCHER.

H. Con. Res. 381: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.

H. Res. 732: Mr. HILL, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. CLAY, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. BACA, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BERRY, Mr. CHILDERS, Mr. ROSS, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. SIRES, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CAZAYOUX, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. COOPER, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. ISSA, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. CARSON, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, and Mr. CRAMER.

H. Res. 758: Mrs. DRAKE.

H. Res. 906: Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. REYES, and Mr. WOLF.

H. Res. 1006: Mr. KANJORSKI and Mr. WILSON of Ohio.

H. Res. 1008: Mr. KUHL of New York.

H. Res. 1012: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.

H. Res. 1017: Mr. HONDA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H. Res. 1045: Mr. HONDA and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. Res. 1111: Mr. KANJORSKI.

H. Res. 1140: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

H. Res. 1179: Mr. GORDON.

H. Res. 1227: Mrs. CAPPS.

H. Res. 1232: Mr. COSTELLO, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H. Res. 1246: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. COHEN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Mr. CARSON.

H. Res. 1248: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and Mr. EVERETT.

H. Res. 1255: Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. HAYES, Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. CARTER, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. WAMP, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. AKIN, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H. Res. 1266: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. DOYLE.

H. Res. 1273: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H. Res. 1278: Mrs. MYRICK.

H. Res. 1287: Mr. SESTAK, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. CAMP of Michigan.

H. Res. 1290: Ms. WATERS.

H. Res. 1296: Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. SESTAK, and Mr. ETHERIDGE.

H. Res. 1301: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. DREIER, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. OLVER, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and Mr. CALVERT.

H. Res. 1302: Mr. BOEHNER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. COBLE, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. SPACE, Mr. ROSS, Mr. GORDON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. TERRY, Mr. LINDER, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. LAMBORN.

DELETION OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 5353: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 6264: Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

285. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Screen Actors Guild, relative to a Resolution requesting proclamation on behalf of the State of California on the celebration of the Screen Actors Guild's 75th Anniversary; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

286. Also, a petition of the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners, Florida, relative to Resolution No. 2008-069 requiring that American flags manufactured in the United States, be flown at all Citrus County government facilities; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

287. Also, a petition of the Council of the City of Tehachapi, California, relative to Resolution No. 07-08 urging the Supreme Court of the United States to uphold the original and historic view of the Second Amendment in its full and complete meaning; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petitions were filed:

Petition 10, June 24, 2008, by Mr. JOHN R. ''RANDY'' KUHL, JR. on H.R. 5656, was signed by the following Members: John R. ''Randy'' Kuhl Jr., Doug Lamborn, David Davis, Robert E. Latta, Joseph R. Pitts, Charles W. Boustany, Jr., Ron Paul, Michael T. McCaul, John Kline, Randy Neugebauer, Lynn A. Westmoreland, Wally Herger, Patrick J. Tiberi, John Linder, Todd Tiahrt, Terry Everett, Phil English, Steve Chabot, Frank D. Lucas, Trent Franks, Patrick T. McHenry, Tom Cole, Lamar Smith, Kenny Marchant, Geoff Davis, Joe Wilson, Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon, Ken Calvert, John B. Shadegg, Peter J. Roskam, Jim Jordan, Daniel E. Lungren, Jo Ann Emerson, Sam Johnson, Phil Gingrey, K. Michael Conaway, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Tim Walberg, John J. Hall, Mario Diaz-Balart, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Marsha Blackburn, Dennis R. Rehberg, Rodney Alexander, Paul C. Broun, Jean Schmidt, Pete Sessions, Jeff Miller, Jeff Flake, Todd Russell Platts, Mike Rogers, Jeb Hensarling, Darrell E. Issa, Judy Biggert, John L. Mica, Tom Price, John E. Peterson, John Abney Culberson, Tom Latham, Jack Kingston, Mary Fallin, Mike Ferguson, Candice S. Miller, Ginny Brown-Waite, Kay Granger, Michael C. Burgess, Thelma D. Drake, Joe Barton, Mike Pence, Thomas M. Reynolds, Ric Keller, Henry E. Brown, Jr., Nathan Deal, Dave Camp, Harold Rogers, Jim McCrery, Duncan Hunter, Roy Blunt, Jerry Weller, Eric Cantor, Thaddeus G. McCotter, Spencer Bachus, Greg Walden, Gus M. Bilirakis, Fred Upton, Vito Fossella, Donald A. Manzullo, F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Dean Heller, Dan Burton, Virgil H. Goode, Jr., John Shimkus, Tom Davis, Marilyn N. Musgrave, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Bill Shuster, Charles W. Dent, James T. Walsh, J. Gresham Barrett, Lee Terry, Scott Garrett, Howard Coble, Bill Sali, John M. McHugh, W. Todd Akin, Adrian Smith, Kevin McCarthy, Jo Bonner, John A. Boehner, Ander Crenshaw, Joe Knollenberg, John T. Doolittle, Tom Feeney, John Campbell, John R. Carter, John Boozman, Steve King, Jon C. Porter, Ted Poe, Sue Wilkins Myrick, Peter T. King, Virginia Foxx, Adam H. Putnam, and Deborah Pryce.

Petition 11, June 24, 2008, by Mr. THOMAS G. TANCREDO on House Resolution 1240, was signed by the following Members: Thomas G. Tancredo and Jean Schmidt.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 3 by Mr. PENCE on House Resolution 694: Timothy V. Johnson.

Petition 4 by Mr. ADERHOLT on H.R. 3584: Trent Franks.

Petition 5 by Mrs. DRAKE on H.R. 4088: Timothy V. Johnson.

Petition 6 by Mr. BOUSTANY, JR. on House Resolution 1025: Pete Sessions.

Petition 8 by Mr. WALBERG on H.R. 3089: Don Young, Thomas G. Tancredo, Jeff Flake, and Mike Rogers.

Petition 9 by Mr. ENGLISH on H.R. 2279: Rob Bishop, Trent Franks, and Michael N. Castle.