

the environment, we want to make certain that we benefit Americans, middle-class Americans with tax credits that will come from those who are polluting.

So it's encouraging clean companies, it's encouraging American-produced power, and it's providing tax credits to families, and it's investing resources from a clean-energy jobs programming that will invest in the new ideas that are being developed as we speak. But it's the sort of impetus that can be provided, the sort of incentive that is created that will really spur this sort of economic recovery that will make for a strong response.

I am reminded of a project that we had conducted while I was at the State Assembly in the State of New York as energy chair. We had reached out to energy service companies, we had reached out to academia, we had reached out to the farm bureau and worked with demonstration projects through local dairy farms and working through the auspices of NYSERDA, the State energy research and development authority, we were able to put together a review, an audit of those dairy farms, and take a situation where they were dealing with a perishable product and making certain that a highly regulated arena, as it should be, producing a basic nutritional need for this country that had to deal with the ebbs and flows of not only how they conducted business but dealing with energy cycles that they couldn't escape simply because of the forces of mother nature. With all of that being the dynamics of their day-to-day operation, we were able to work within that context to create energy efficiency opportunities that came through the guidance of groups at Cornell and Farm Bureau and the local utility and NYSERDA where we retrofitted to those dairy farms the sorts of demands for energy that dealt with pumping and cooling processes and put together a plan, a strategy, that really developed a very sound outcome—a pleasant surprise to those who participated in the demonstration project. In fact, it became so successful as a demonstration project that we advanced this notion to some 70 farms in the State of New York that prospered from this sort of activity, of auditing the farms and putting efficiency into play.

We also saw successful programs that came about with business incorporated into the energy-efficiency opportunities. And it reminds us that if we are going to compete, if we're going to ask our American businesses to compete in a global marketplace, then we need to advance every bit of opportunity of doing it in smart fashion, doing it in a way that is clever, that is causing a stronger outcome, a more progressive outcome simply by the incorporation of a highly intellectual energy plan, a comprehensive energy plan that looks at cutting demand.

For too often we have reached to a supply situation as we were looking at

energy solutions. We were developing more supply. We were content with using, consuming a lot of energy resources when, in fact, we should have moved forward with opportunities that allowed us to address the demand side of the equation.

Looking at that consumption factor, looking at the efficiency, looking at conservation were the clever strategies that were dictated simply by the dynamics of the given solution today.

So as we go forward, we see these opportunities to advance a plan that is encouraged by our President as he wants us to grow smart with our energy usage. He wants us to reach to innovation and a clever strategy using our creative genius to put together a source of investment in research and development, to grow those prototypes of the future, to further develop them and then move to the manufacturing of these commodities here in this country—domestic production of all sorts of nuances—making certain that we move forward not only in the energy generation world but in the energy transmission and distribution area giving commercial consumers the opportunity to work within the context of smart metering, making certain that they can have these smart meters to control their destiny so that they can see firsthand the amount that's being consumed and when to be on-peak and off-peak in given situations; to be able to have a transmission system that responds to weaknesses that were so highly visible in August of 2003 where we witnessed a huge collapse in the system, the delivery system, that started as far west as Ohio and moved into New York and New England and the mid-Atlantic States and into southeast Canada. That was a huge bit of blackout for consumers in that given bit of geography that stood as a glaring example of vulnerability, of a weakness in our system.

We need to go forward and advance the investments in a very wise and clever way that will enable us to strengthen that generation aspect of electricity, strengthen the transmission and distribution components, and to go forward with a commitment to efficiency and conservation. And looking at renewable opportunities. Taking advantage of so many opportunities that mother nature provides and where the President has called for an investment where we embrace our wind, our sun, our Earth to be able to make certain that we use that in a benign way to grow the energy response that we require that will be clean, that will be innovative, and that will draw down our energy dependence in a way that allows us to prosper with bolder outcomes.

As we move forward, I would encourage us to cleverly look at the plans that have been advanced by the leadership of this House, the discussion that is made of growing a green energy economy, the ideals embraced by the President and his administration for

this innovation economy that reaches to the American brain trust, that sees us with our science and tech potential to be ready and willing to go forward and provide for the nuances that will usher in a new era of energy thinking. That is what the opportunity for clean energy jobs is all about.

It's a clean energy jobs agenda that finds us producing jobs, developing jobs, retaining jobs, growing jobs in this country, avoiding the opportunities to ship overseas these jobs that have far too often escaped our American economy. And then for saving money for our families, our businesses, individuals in this country through efficiency opportunities, and ending that addiction, that gluttonous addiction to foreign oil, fossil fuels, that really do not enable us to think in the kind of boldness and the sense of vision that is required today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the time to be here this evening and share these opportunities with you, to share the thinking that I believe can help us grow as a Nation and respond to the crisis that we see, the crisis with the energy situation, the crisis with our environment, the crisis with our economy. It can address a multitude of needs out there by embracing this sort of cleverness of thinking and advancing policies that are progressive and investing resources that will really strengthen us as a people, as a Nation, and certainly as a world.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. BORDALLO (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for the week of April 27 on account of official business in the district.

Mr. PERRIELLO (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. STARK (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

#### 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 PERLMUTTER (at the request of Mr. PERLMUTTER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BOYD, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TOWNS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MICHAUD, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HENSARLING) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)