

helped pass a clean water bond issue, and created Cleveland: NOW!

Throughout the years, Silverman and Co. grew and opened branches in Toledo, Columbus, and Charleston, West Virginia. By 1996, the PR firm was the third largest in the region and ranked 40th in the country. Throughout Silverman's career, some of his clients included Blue Cross; Don King; BBC Industries; Mayor George Voinovich; and Democratic Council President George Forbes. After more than 30 years in business, Bill retired and the firm closed in 1997 and 1998 respectively.

I offer my condolences to his wife, Sandy; children, Alexander, Beth Ann, Frances, William, Jeffrey, and Jenny; and sixteen grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the life and accomplishments of Mr. William A. Silverman.

IN RECOGNITION OF ARETHA THURMOND PARTICIPATING IN THE 2012 OLYMPICS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Aretha Thurmond. Aretha will participate in the 2012 Olympics in London.

Thurmond, of Opelika, Alabama, qualified for her fourth Olympic team, becoming 16th U.S. woman to do so. Aretha is known as one of the most consistent American throwers over the past decade.

In 2007, she returned to compete only 18 days after giving birth to her son, Devon Theopolis. Thurmond will be participating in the 2012 London Olympics discus throw.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Aretha and best wishes in the Olympics.

CONGRESSIONAL REPLACEMENT OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ENERGY-RESTRICTING AND JOB-LIMITING OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN

SPEECH OF

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6082) to officially replace, within the 60-day Congressional review period under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, President Obama's Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program (2012-2017) with a congressional plan that will conduct additional oil and natural gas lease sales to promote offshore energy development, job creation, and increased domestic energy production to ensure a more secure energy future in the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my continued support for the restrictions placed on oil and gas leasing in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006. I am

pleased that H.R. 6082 continues this moratorium and recognizes an area not only critical to the protection of Florida's beautiful beaches and unique environment but to the training of our nation's sailors, Marines and pilots who conduct training exercises there on a regular basis.

As you know, I have been working on the issue of drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico since 1983, when the oil industry proposed drilling off the Gulf Coast of Florida. That year, I offered an amendment to a 1983 supplemental appropriations bill to create the first buffer zone to protect Florida's Gulf Coast from offshore oil drilling. Congress did not implement this buffer zone only to protect the economic or environmental interests of the State of Florida; rather we also recognized the potential conflict that exists between drilling and naval and aviation military activities.

The importance of this area to our military training was affirmed in 2000, when the Department of Defense requested that no above-surface structures be built in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, officially establishing the Military Mission Line within which no drilling can occur. This decision proved timely when the Air Force and Army were forced to end training exercises in Vieques, Puerto Rico and had to find a new site to undertake these specialized training activities. The Eastern Gulf of Mexico was the only site available where this training could continue because this naval and aviation training is incompatible with drilling platforms and drilling ships.

Since the first amendment in 1983, I negotiated with my colleagues to include this moratorium in appropriations bills year after year, until a bipartisan compromise was reached in 2006 that balanced increased domestic energy production with the critical military activities conducted in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. This carefully crafted agreement opened 8.3 million acres south of the Florida Panhandle to drilling, an area previously under a ban, while barring new oil and gas leases off Florida's coastline until June 30, 2022, and codifying the ban on drilling within the Military Mission Line.

Prior to the enactment of the current moratorium, then Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld stated that "in those areas east of the Military Mission Line, drilling structures and associated development would be incompatible with military activities, such as missile flights, low-flying drone aircraft, weapons testing and training." By maintaining the drilling ban in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, H.R. 6082 continues to protect an area that holds the U.S. military's largest training and testing area.

Mr. Chair, I am pleased to support this measure that will responsibly increase our domestic oil production while maintaining the important protections against drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, in order to ensure that our military readiness and training capabilities are not compromised.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PROPOSED OFFSHORE DRILLING LEASE SALE PLAN

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss today's vote on the bill to approve

and implement the Obama administration's offshore drilling plan. Holding this vote today was a political stunt by the Republican majority—nothing more. No committees have reviewed the plan, and it was brought to the floor without any consideration.

The Obama Administration's plan would supplant the Bush Administration's plan which is currently in place and I voted for the bill today, not wanting to play political games with our environment. Despite any reservations I have with the details of the Obama Administration's plan, the current administration correctly excluded lease sales in the Atlantic, Pacific or North Aleutian Basin. The Republicans offered an alternative plan that would, without question, cause significant harm to the environment. Voting yes today on this better package was the right thing to do.

Protecting our environment is not a game. Today I voted to move us forward from the terrible environmental policies of the previous administration, and I will continue to advocate and vote for stronger environmental protections.

RECOGNITION OF THE FIRST LADY'S VISIT TO BIRMINGHAM, AL ON WEDNESDAY JULY 18, 2012

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the visit by First Lady Michelle Obama to Camp Noah at the McAlpine Recreation Center in Birmingham, Alabama on Wednesday July 18, 2012.

I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to my dear friend and our First Lady, Michelle Obama, who traveled a long way last week to honor her commitment to return to Alabama to see our recovery efforts from the devastating tornadoes of April 27, 2011. President Obama and the First Lady visited Alabama two days after the storms to witness first-hand the destruction. They promised federal assistance and that we would not be forgotten. On July 18, 2012, the First Lady held true to her promise to return to Alabama to see our recovery and rebuilding progress.

We will never forget the tremendous losses suffered by the April tornadoes which claimed the lives of 253 Alabamians. Yet out of that devastation, we found hope and showed great resilience in working together to rebuild our communities. The First Lady's visit gave us the opportunity to show our progress as she witnessed the healing spirit of the children affected by the tornadoes.

During her visit to Birmingham, First Lady Michelle Obama surprised a crowd of nearly 100 kids, grades first through sixth, at McAlpine Recreation Center participating in Camp Noah. The summer camp is sponsored by Ascension Lutheran Church in Huntsville, AL and is part of a national project designed to help kids heal from their disaster experience through music, life-skill training and arts and crafts.

The First Lady greeted the children with a smile and words of encouragement. She graciously took the time to hug each and every one of the children. The kids' excitement and joy when the First Lady entered the room was

exhilarating. Their expressions and comments said it all. Kiara Cherry remarked, "Oh my God! The First Lady is at the McAlpine—I am so excited!" She added that meeting the First Lady was on her list of things to do before she turned 15 and now she could check it off her list. Devonte Harris, 12, of Forestdale, agreed, saying, "I'm just really happy right now." Lastly, Rakya Holmes, 8, whose godmother's home was destroyed in the storms, noted "She smelled good, and I love her." These reactions by the children at Camp Noah expressed our sheer excitement and gratitude to the First Lady. The faces of the children were priceless. The First Lady's visit was a life-changing event for the kids and a morale boost for our community.

It takes tremendous coordination, hard work and organization to make a visit by the First Lady of the United States a reality. The fact that our First Lady Michelle Obama would take the time to visit with us in a tornado affected community in Birmingham is a real testament to her dedication and commitment to helping us overcome this disaster.

I want to commend the City of Birmingham, the extraordinary staff of McAlpine Recreation Center and Camp Noah, as well as UAB's MHRC Healthy Happy Kids program for making the First Lady's visit a huge success. As the Representative of the 7th Congressional District of Alabama, I was extremely proud of all of the efforts made by our community working together to leave a lasting impression on the First Lady. The excitement and joy on the children's faces at Camp Noah made it all worthwhile. Thank you First Lady Michelle Obama!

CONGRESSIONAL REPLACEMENT
OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S
ENERGY-RESTRICTING AND JOB-
LIMITING OFFSHORE DRILLING
PLAN

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6082) to officially replace, within the 60-day Congressional review period under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, President Obama's Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program (2012-2017) with a congressional plan that will conduct additional oil and natural gas lease sales to promote offshore energy development, job creation, and increased domestic energy production to ensure a more secure energy future in the United States, and for other purposes:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I oppose H.R. 6082, the Congressional Replacement of President Obama's Energy-Restricting and Job-Limiting Offshore Drilling Plan.

This is the current Majority's 12th giveaway for Big Oil in the last 18 months. I've consistently opposed these prior 11 measures on the House floor. The Senate has failed to pass any of the prior bills, and President Obama has consistently stated his intention to veto those measures.

The majority claims that this bill is about lowering energy prices and creating jobs.

Let's be clear—this is a bill against President Obama's offshore drilling plan.

Today, more than 75 percent of the offshore oil and gas resources are available for drilling under that plan. We have 50 percent more floating drilling rigs operating in the Gulf of Mexico than we did prior to the BP spill and have more total rigs operating in the United States than does the rest of the world combined. Domestic oil production is at an 18 year high and oil and gas companies continue to enjoy substantial profits—all on top of tax breaks totaling over \$4 billion per year. In addition, this year the U.S. became a net exporter of oil for the first time since 1949.

My home state of Hawaii relies on imported oil from both foreign and U.S. sources for 90 percent of our primary energy. We use oil to generate our electricity and to fuel our vehicles. We also pay three times the average price that the mainland pays for that electricity and our gas prices are constantly the highest in the nation—despite all of the drilling that is currently happening.

That's why this attack on President Obama's comprehensive approach to energy—producing more oil and boosting clean energy—is especially troubling.

It's also troubling that the majority seem to be consciously ignoring key safety recommendations and preventing proper environmental reviews.

We all remember April 20, 2010. That is the date that the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded. This accident killed 11 crew members and injured numerous others. Over 4 million barrels of oil gushed into the Gulf of Mexico, and the spill could not be contained for almost 3 months.

In response President Obama created the bipartisan National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling. The commission concluded that if more effective oversight of safety and environmental protection had been conducted—by both the government and the industry itself—the disaster could have been avoided. The commission then made a series of recommendations to prevent another spill from occurring.

Representative MARKEY introduced these recommendations as legislation in January of 2011. I'm proud to be a cosponsor of this bill, H.R. 501. However, I'm disappointed that there has not even been a committee hearing on this important legislation.

That's not all. On July 24, 2012, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board released a report which found that at the time of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon blowout, BP and other companies involved in that accident had failed to implement safety recommendations made by the Board in 2007.

The 2007 recommendations stemmed from the investigation of a March 2005 explosion at BP's Texas City Refinery.

These are real disasters with real consequences for workers and communities.

At the same time, the facts and record are clear: These disasters are preventable and Congress can and should do something to address them.

The bill also undermines a series of laws intended to ensure that we are good stewards of our natural resources—including the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and Clean Water Act. Ensuring compliance with these laws protects public health,

communities, and the environment. These environmental reviews are also necessary to avoid costly and time-consuming litigation for all parties.

More than that, this is a matter of ensuring that the resources we have can be utilized responsibly to support jobs and economic growth in industries other than drilling, like tourism for example.

The bill also opens huge areas on the East Coast, stretching from Maine to South Carolina, off of Southern California, in the Alaska Arctic and in the area around the important fishery of Bristol Bay off Alaska. Opening these areas ignores concerns raised by nearly every stakeholder other than oil and gas companies.

These include significant issues raised by states and local communities, concerns about important fishing areas, and even concerns raised by our military will go unheeded if this bill were to become law.

Finally, H.R. 6082 would require that the Department of Interior conduct a single multi-sale Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Atlantic, Pacific and Bristol Bay. Combined EIS documents are usually done for lease sales in areas where the conditions are well known and similar. However, these are three wildly different environments that merit their own considerations.

Just to be clear, those who stand to lose under this bill include: states, localities, fisherman, the military, average citizens and small businesses that currently rely on these areas for recreation, tourism, and other purposes.

The winners under this bill: the oil and gas drilling industry.

Hawaii is a case study for why we must end our reliance on fossil fuels and work harder to support the development of a broad range of clean, renewable, locally-produced fuels. Drilling more won't decrease the global competition for oil, and it won't do anything to reduce energy prices in the long-term. High energy prices act as a tax on all of us and an anchor on our economy, so if we are truly going to have the most competitive economy in the 21st century we need to develop affordable alternatives. Developing these alternatives will give the U.S. the upper hand both in terms of costs to our economy, and in developing new industries that can create jobs for the next century.

Instead, the bill before us keeps us on the same path of dependence we've been on. This bill is a failure for our economy in the long term, fails to address the safety reforms for offshore drilling that numerous experts have advocated for, and seeks to give oil companies another windfall without ensuring that they are paying their fair share to drill on public lands.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this terribly shortsighted and ill-advised legislation.

SUPPORTING A MOMENT OF SILENCE DURING THE 2012 OLYMPIC OPENING DAY TO COMMEMORATE THOSE KILLED IN THE MURKIN MASSACRE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Amb. Ido Aharoni, Consul General of Israel