

teacher salaries, and instructional supplies to paying energy costs. They heard from the people of California who have been paying the price in this crisis for the last year.

Electricity cannot be treated as any other commodity. We cannot force Americans to choose between paying their utility bills and their grocery bills. Between electricity and rent. Between power and prescriptions. Those choices are simply unacceptable.

Nor can we choose to destroy irreplaceable wilderness for short-term gain. There are simply places on earth that are too fragile, too vulnerable, and too special to drill for oil. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of those places.

I strongly oppose this bill and I urge you to protect America's wilderness and to protect America's consumers and vote against this bill.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE
ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Chairman, much like the Nation, the U.S. territories are headed down a dangerous path. Our energy demands are outpacing supply, resulting in blackouts, high fuel prices, and increasing dependence on foreign energy sources.

These problems will only grow worse as electricity consumption continues to grow. Although we are hard pressed to pass legislation to address these issues, we must be mindful of the impact unbalanced legislation will have on our economy and our overall quality of life. We must pass legislation that offers a balance environmentally, socially, economically, and cognizant of national security and energy objectives.

Developing a sound national energy policy presents a compelling challenge. It requires balancing policies to encourage energy conservation, efficiency, and supply. H.R. 4, the Securing America's Future Energy (SAFE) Act fails to create this balance.

H.R. 4 fails to include a provision to explore the possibility of Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) as a renewable energy source. It is our responsibility to explore every possible source of renewable energy available and OTEC is a viable option. OTEC can help meet future energy needs for the nation, and it may also be the most viable alternative for the U.S. insular areas.

Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) is an energy technology that converts solar radiation to electric power. OTEC systems use the ocean's natural thermal gradient—the fact that the ocean's layers of water have different temperatures—to drive a power producing

cycle. As long as the temperatures between the warm surface and the cold deep water differs about 20 degrees Celsius, an OTEC system can produce a significant amount of power. The oceans are thus a vast renewable resource, with the potential to help produce billions of watts of power.

The economics of energy production today have delayed the financing of a permanent, continuously operating OTEC plant. However, OTEC is very promising as an alternative energy resource for tropical island communities that rely heavily on imported fuel.

OTEC plants in tropical island communities could provide islanders with much needed power, as well as desalinated water and a variety of mariculture products. Because most insular areas are dependent on the importation of foreign fuel supplies, there is a relatively high cost of diesel-generated electricity. OTEC can be a cost effective source for the pacific islands.

In addition to hydroelectricity, geothermal and the other renewable resources listed in H.R. 4, Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) must also be considered as a renewable energy source.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE
ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Securing America's Future Energy Act of 2001 (H.R. 4). H.R. 4 represents the first comprehensive national energy policy considered by this House in more than a decade. The President's energy policy will put in place a long-term plan that will provide power to America for generations to come.

In my district in California, my family and my constituents are suffering from the dramatic rise in electricity prices. Sadly, we have learned the consequences of not having a long-term plan to produce energy. The failure of the last decade by the Clinton administration, combined with the failure of the Davis administration in California to develop a reasonable long-term energy plan, created this disaster.

The failed policy they embraced is the policy of the radical environmentalists. These groups promote an energy plan based on fantasy. They oppose nuclear power, hydropower, oil, gas, coal, natural gas, and in some cases even wind power. They cling to the failed belief that we can magically make energy without action. There should be no question that this is a strategy of failure, of skyrocketing costs and blackouts.

I support solar power. I believe that solar power research can and will help us address

our future energy needs. Nevertheless, commercial solar power is not available today.

I also believe that fusion power will help us meet our energy needs of the future. I am working closely with the gentlelady from California, Ms. LOFGREN, in pushing a fusion energy research bill, which the Science Committee included in H.R. 4, that will set us on the course to commercial development of fusion power. But fusion power is not available today.

I believe that conservation will help us solve our energy problems. Which is why I am the sponsor, with the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. MARKEY, of the Energy Efficient Buildings Incentives Act (H.R. 778). This commonsense bipartisan bill provides incentives for conservation and energy efficiency. I am proud that portions of my bill are included in H.R. 4. I am also proud that the President's plan promotes responsible conservation methods.

Yes, as we in California have learned, we must increase the supply of safe, reliable domestic energy while promoting a clean, safe and healthy environment. Our Nation's energy problems must be addressed by increasing supplies of traditional fossil fuels, developing alternative sources of energy, and improving conservation. It will not be easy and it will not be quick. However, we have the technology and the resources to meet our energy needs for decades, even centuries to come. At the same time, we can ensure a clean environment as a legacy for our children. The President's balanced, comprehensive national energy policy will strengthen our economy, lower consumer prices, create jobs and protect the environment. We should pass H.R. 4 today.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE
ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that the House is considering H.R. 4 today. This legislation is the first step in the development of a comprehensive national energy strategy.

Included in H.R. 4 is an amendment I offered at the full committee markup to have the Department of Energy conduct a study and review of the Federal Energy Savings Performance Contract Program. This program is an existing and innovative program that provides Federal agencies the opportunity to fund the installation of necessary energy efficiency measures. As the single largest consumer of energy, our Federal government facilities offer a significant opportunity to help us meet one of our national energy goals—increased efficiency. Our experience has shown that many