

of these government facilities have aging and energy inefficient equipment that require modernization in order to allow them to operate at peak efficiency.

We have learned over the past 10 years in the implementation of this program, like so many other government programs, that "one size does not fit all." I believe that there are barriers and obstacles in current law and regulations, including some unnecessary red tape that prevents some Federal agencies from participating in the program. If flexibility is increased, this program could be used more effectively by Federal agencies. It is important that we take a look at the program, determine what barriers or obstacles exist, and implement appropriate changes. This provision provides for a 6-month review, report to Congress, and requires the Department to implement appropriate changes to increase program flexibility and effectiveness. As part of this report and review, it is our intention that the Department of Energy will consult with outside parties that have experience participating and working within the program as well as other Federal agencies.

I am hopeful that the end result of this effort will keep us on the road to increasing our nation's energy efficiency, and that the Federal government will indeed be a large contributor to this effort.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE
ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

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. WELLER. Mr. Chairman, I am in support of this important legislation. I want to thank Chairman THOMAS of the Ways and Means Committee, along with Chairman TAUZIN, Chairman HANSEN, and Chairman BOEHLERT for their efforts in getting this legislation to the floor today.

I would like to speak in support of two specific provision included in H.R. 4. I am pleased that this legislation includes the provisions of a bill I introduced on June 13, 2001, the Save America's Valuable Resources Act (H.R. 2147). These provisions create a \$2,000 tax credit for individuals and businesses to encourage homeowners, builders and contractors to make energy efficiency improvements to homes.

In order to qualify for the credit, homes must be made 30% more energy efficient according to the International Energy Conservation Code, a private sector energy code used in the United States. Except for the first \$1,000 in expenditures which are exempt from certification requirements, energy efficiency improvements must be certified by a utility company, a local building regulatory authority, a

manufactured home production inspection primary inspection agency or other specified entity to ensure that real and significant efficiency improvements are made.

In 1998, homes accounted for nearly 20% of all of the energy consumed in the United States. Today, it costs the average American \$1500 to heat and cool their homes every year, which amounts to a cost of \$150 billion nationwide annually. By simply making changes in energy efficiency to their homes, consumers can save real money. Consumers can save 10% or more on energy bills by simply reducing the number of air leaks in their home. Double pane windows with low emissivity coating can reduce heating bills by 34% in cold climates like Chicago. If all households upgraded their insulation to meet the International Energy Conservation Code level, the nation would experience a permanent reduction of annual electric consumption totaling 7% of the total consumed.

I would also like to offer my support for the extension of the tax credit for wind energy. Currently, the wind energy tax credit expires on January 1, 2002, H.R. 4 extends the availability of this credit through January 1, 2007. I have been a long time supporter of the wind energy tax credit and other similar incentives to utilize new and efficient energy sources.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for allowing me to offer my support for this important legislation. I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE
ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

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. ENGLISH. Mr. Chairman, we are in the midst of an energy crisis brought on by years of ignoring the potential problems. During the next 20 years, U.S. oil consumption will increase by 33 percent and the demand for electricity will rise by 45 percent.

At this rate, the demands for energy will far outweigh the supply if we do not enact a comprehensive energy plan. With that I urge my colleagues to support the Securing America's Future Energy Act which emphasizes conservation, infrastructure upgrades and further development of traditional fossil fuels.

I would like to take a moment and focus on some of the conservation aspects of H.R. 4. This bill provides a tax credit for residential solar energy use, which not only encourages the use of solar energy but it will reduce electric bills and the load on the electric grid. Through tax incentives, H.R. 4 also encourages the development and use of clean cars by increasing technology and reducing costs.

Studies indicate that 275,000 alternative fuel vehicles will be purchased because of this bill,

reducing gasoline consumption and the effects of greenhouse gases. Conservation is also emphasized in H.R. 4 through tax credits for energy efficient appliances, homes and businesses.

Use of super energy efficient appliances in all households would save more than 200 trillion BTUs, which is equivalent to taking 2.3 million cars off the road. If all households upgraded their insulation, electric consumption would be reduced by 7 percent.

As you can see, this bill provides valuable tools to promote conservation among Americans. I realize, Mr. Chairman that conservation alone will not go far enough, but neither will drilling. In fact, 37.5 percent of this bill stresses conservation, while 23.8 percent focuses on production and 38.7 percent on reliability. That is why I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4 because it is a well-balanced plan that provides for the future energy needs of America.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE
ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

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. SANDERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this bill. At a time when this country is wasting a huge amount of fuel and electricity, this bill provides \$34 billion dollars in subsidies and tax breaks for the big oil, coal, gas and nuclear companies to drill for more oil and gas and to produce more and more energy. These companies are making record breaking profits by gouging consumers, destroying our environment and threatening our health. Can anyone tell me why we need to give more corporate welfare to Exxon-Mobil, the most profitable company in the history of the world with a net income of \$17.7 billion, while providing little more than lip service to energy efficiency and renewable energy and absolutely no relief to middle income Americans struggling to pay their energy bills? Mr. Chairman, this is outrageous. We simply cannot drill our way out of this mess.

At a time when emissions from dirty coal-fired power plants produce acid rain and carbon dioxide that threatens our global climate and our health; at a time when scientists throughout the world believe that we have an enormous amount of work to do to combat the danger of global warming; at a time when wind energy is the world's fastest growing source of energy and when the price of solar energy has been coming down in recent years due to better technology, I find it outrageous that the best we can do is to study whether our country can get to 5 percent renewable in the next 15 years.

Mr. Chairman, we don't need a study on renewable energy, the studies have already