We have got real problems. Let us solve the problem. We can all yell and scream.

TIME TO SIGN ENERGY DISCHARGE PETITION

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

Mr. McDermott. Mr. Speaker, the last speaker certainly makes a good case for wind power.

There is an opportunity today for Members to sign the discharge petition to return this country to cost-based power, not power determined by gougers in the energy industry. We have seen on the west coast 400 percent profit for Texas companies selling energy. Now, 400 percent profit is a little bit over the top. Most of us believe in the free enterprise system think that maybe 10 or 20 percent is not too bad. But they want unlimited ability.

Mr. Speaker, the oil dynasty of Cheney and Bush and Evans have selected the people to run the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Whenever you hear anybody say FERC, they are talking about people appointed by the Bush people to control and allow the industry to actually not control the energy industry.

Now, you would say it is a west coast problem, that it is always Democrats. New York is doing it now, and they are fearful of what it is going to be without cost-based power. It is time to sign the discharge petition.

CONTROLLING THE ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mr. Gibbons. Mr. Speaker, no one doubts and no one questions that we need a balanced, comprehensive responsible energy policy in this Nation. By importing nearly 60 percent of our domestic oil from foreign countries, we are leaving our Nation's security vulnerable to the whims of these importing countries.

We must increase the supply of domestic energy and promote conservation as a form of safe and reliable power, while at the same time promoting a clean and healthy environment.

Along with conservation efforts, technological advancements will allow us to meet our energy needs for decades, even centuries to come. New technologies, like gasoline-electric hybrid cars, clean coal, hydrogen fuel, second-generation geothermal, and other such innovations, will allow us to protect problems like those in California, while ensuring a clean environment as our legacy for our children.

Mr. Speaker, California's fast-paced society is not capable of supporting itself through energy shortages and rolling blackouts. Neither is the rest of the country. However, since Governor Gray Davis has been showing more interest in his political consultants rather than his constituents, the crisis in his homeland has begun spreading like a catastrophe and has put the Nation on the brink of engulfing other States. It is time to take action now.

SUPPORT THE BIPARTISAN PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. Brown of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, let us get down to basics. Some health plans systematically obstruct, delay and deny care. Some health plans provide excuses instead of coverage. The bipartisan Patients' Bill of Rights has enough teeth in it to protect health plans and employers from frivolous lawsuits.

Yesterday, my Republican colleagues, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. Fletcher), the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. Tauzin) and the gentleman from California (Mr. Thomas), introduced legislation endorsed by President Bush and written by the largest insurance companies in the country. It does not give enrollees the right to sue. Senator Wyden and written by the industry testifying before us. Also, Senator Wyden in the Senate has taken testimony on this matter.

It is important for the American people to know that there is strong evidence that the industry acted to make sure that they reduced supply so that they could raise costs. Senator Wyden had thick documents, which I have just put on record in our committee hearing, showing over the last decade of the nineties there was too much refinery backlog for the companies, so they acted, or at least indicated they were going to act, to make sure that those refineries shrunk. Over 50 of them have closed.

Therefore, we did not have the kind of supply that we needed; and of course, that drove up demand and drove up price. Now that is up there, the companies will tell you the reason we do not have enough fuel at reasonable prices is because we do not have enough refineries.

Now they are looking for the triple play. Instead of producing more and getting that in the pipeline and having more refineries, they now want to do away with environmental regulations. This is not something we should allow to happen. We should keep our eye on that industry and make sure we get something done for the consumer.