In the long run, it will help the American people.

**BECOMING ENERGY SELF-RELIANT**

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, let us put all the political posturing and gamesmanship aside and be honest: the major causes of high energy prices this summer will be the lack of domestic energy production and the absence of new investments in the electricity generation facilities needed to meet the growth experienced over the last decade.

That is why becoming more energy self-reliant is so important. If we want an uninterrupted supply while offering incentives to reduce demand.

While California is already the most energy efficient State in the country, the President’s comprehensive policy will promote new power plant construction. It is not necessarily political, but it recognizes that there are no quick fixes to the years of policies that forced us deep into the dark.

**SUPPORT BIPARTISAN PATIENT PROTECTION ACT**

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, Americans need a Patients’ Bill of Rights. Every single day we hear stories of patients whose health has been seriously jeopardized because their health plan has denied coverage. Each day 35,000 patients experience a delay in needed care and 7,000 patients per day are denied referral to a medical specialist.

Doctors are unable to make the best medical decisions for their patients because their hands are tied by the insurance companies. What we need to do is to return those medical decisions back to doctors and patients and out of the hands of insurance companies. We need a Patients’ Bill of Rights that grants access to specialists, allows patients to choose their own doctors, limits physician gags that prohibit doctors from talking about medical options, allows for access to emergency rooms, and, yes, holds HMOs accountable for negligent actions.

These patient protections are long overdue. The Republican leadership has watered down meaningful bipartisan legislation to protect another special interest, the managed care organizations. They want to give HMOs special protection from lawsuits, while weakening patients’ ability to hold health plans accountable.

Vote for Dingell-Norwood. Support the bipartisan Patient Protection Act.