IT IS TIME FOR ENERGY SOLUTIONS

(Mr. BALLenger asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLenger. Mr. Speaker, it is very unfortunate that Californians have to go through these blackouts, and it is unfair to the people in California to think that what is really unfair is that Californians have a Governor who refuses to take leadership and responsibility for this problem.

California politicians have done a disservice to the Californians. Gray Davis has been asleep at the switch. It is time to stop pointing fingers and start solving problems. Instead of spending $30,000 a month on political consultants and polls, and instead of pointing fingers, Gray Davis needs to find solutions to increasing electricity in his State to stop blackouts. Governor Davis should put people before politics.

Mr. Speaker, blackouts in California leave the State’s economy dead. When California dies, America’s economy becomes seriously ill. What we need is answers and solutions, not partisan, attack-style politics. We all need to work together, both Democrats and Republicans, to solve California’s problems. Creating a balanced, fair and comprehensive energy plan for the future that utilizes our coal and our natural gas will safeguard our national economy and secure an adequate livelihood for all Americans.

COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY POLICY

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, when politicians talk about needing a comprehensive energy policy instead of price controls, I bet a lot of Americans wonder what we are talking about.

Well, consider this fact: ninety-seven percent of the power plants currently under construction are natural gas-fired power plants intended to meet the increased demand for electricity. Natural gas that is typically produced during the winter for storage and later used during the winter is, instead, being used for electricity generation.

Basically, we use natural gas to keep our electricity rates lower in the summer, but in the end we pay higher rates on our natural gas use in the summer. Not a very comprehensive policy, is it?

President Bush has proposed the first comprehensive energy plan in a decade that will increase efficiency, improve how our energy is delivered, diversify our energy sources, protect the environment, and assist low-income Americans through these current price increases. Americans want affordable energy and a clean, safe environment.

WORKING TO SOLVE CALIFORNIA’S ENERGY CRISIS

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to let our colleagues know that today in the State of California, one of the newest generators just went online. Governor Gray Davis has done a tremendous job in trying to make sure that the energy and our lights do not go out in the State of California. He visited with us last week and met with the Senate Committee on Energy Oversight and talked about all the earnest effort that he has made, and Californians, to conserve energy.

Now, we deserve more attention and support by FERC and this administration. We should provide more energy funding for renewable energy, for conservation, and obviously provide relief for those ratepayers, the people that pay the bills. We expect to see a refund. Maybe it will not be the $9 billion that Gray Davis is asking for, but surely the people of California and the Western States that are suffering from this energy crisis deserve the very best attention. They are grappling with this problem. They need to have our support.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members today to sign the discharge petition, because it is necessary for us to send a message to all citizens of the United States that we are with them on the energy conservation measures.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

June 27, 2001

THE SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAw). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of the Speaker’s approval of the Journal. The question is on the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The question was taken, and the question is on the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes had it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 368, nays 49, answered “present” 1, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 195]

YEAS—368

Abercrombie, Barton, Bono
Ackerman, Bera, Boucher
Ackin, Becerra, Boyd
Allen, Benten, Broderick
Andrews, Bereuter, Brown (CA)
Armey, Berkley, Brown (OH)
Baca, Berman, Brown (FL)
Bachus, Berry, Brown (PA)
Baker, Biggs, Bryant
Balducci, Bilirakis, Burr
Ballenger, Blaguschik, Buyer
Barcia, Blumenauer, Calahan
Barrett, Buiit, Calvert
Bartlett, Boehner, Cannon