

Mr. KUCINICH. In the face of rising demand for help with home energy costs, the Ohio Department of Development reports that it has \$17 million less than last year to help low-income households pay energy bills. Cuyahoga County was forced to cut assistance checks this summer from \$175 to \$100.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds have helped millions of Americans stay cool in the summer and warm in the winter. However, LIHEAP dollars have been stretched to the breaking point as more and more people find it impossible to pay their energy bills. It's outrageous that the most vulnerable Americans—children, the disabled, and elderly—go hungry and develop long-term health problems as the profits of oil and other energy companies skyrocket.

I support a second stimulus package that includes \$3.12 billion for the LIHEAP program. But I believe we must also redouble our efforts to address the economic policies that create and perpetuate energy insecurity.

Support a second stimulus package for these Americans who rely on the LIHEAP program.

THE CITY BY THE BAY CATERS TO CRIMINAL ILLEGALS

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I bring you an update from the City by the Bay. San Francisco recently spent \$50 million proudly advertising that it was a sanctuary city. I now give you the results of this very successful PR campaign, because it has worked.

This week's example is illegal Edwin Ramos. He loves San Francisco because even though he has been arrested twice for felonies, the compassionate folks of San Francisco never wanted him deported back to El Salvador. So he stuck around, got arrested for a gun charge this spring, and still wasn't sent home.

So last week he got a bit of road rage and gunned down Anthony Bologna and his two sons, Matthew and Michael, while they were returning from a family picnic. Mrs. Bologna blames the city for the murders because it "caters to illegals". I hope the mayor of San Francisco is proud of his sanctuary policy for illegals because it's cost three lives.

Mrs. Bologna should have a wrongful death cause of action against the City of San Francisco, especially the mayor, for its sanctuary policy. And Congress should prohibit all Federal funds from going to cities like San Francisco that proudly ignore American immigration laws and welcome foreign outlaws like Ramos.

And that's just the way it is.

RELEASE OIL FROM SPR TO BRING DOWN PRICES TODAY

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

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, Americans are paying the price for President Bush's lack of an energy policy. It's this lack of a policy that has produced record prices for consumers and record profits for Big Oil. This President has the authority to send oil into the American market by opening the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, an action that would put oil on the market in 13 days and would provide relief at the pump immediately.

But instead of providing American drivers with relief from \$4-a-gallon gas, the administration has decided instead to give their friends in Big Oil one last gift before they leave office. The President's action to lift the offshore drilling moratorium will do nothing to lower prices at the pump now. In fact, his own Energy Information Administration says opening up new areas for drilling won't lower gas prices for 20 years, and even then by only a couple of pennies.

Madam Speaker, deploying some oil from the Reserve would increase the supply of oil and help bring down the cost of gasoline. With so many Americans struggling in today's economy, it's time President Bush stands up for consumers and taps into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

A MORE RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO THE HOUSING AND FINANCIAL MARKETS IS NEEDED

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, later today the House will consider legislation that will negatively impact our Nation's housing and financial markets, not to mention the taxpayers, for years to come.

The majority has combined some reforms that are long overdue. One of those is to make Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae have a stronger regulator and to modernize FHA to make it relevant and more effective for borrowers across our country. Unfortunately, this bill also includes provisions that would put the taxpayers on the hook for people that may have borrowed money that they shouldn't have borrowed and for lenders that made loans that shouldn't have been made. It also diverts billions of dollars from Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae at a time when we're saying that they may not be adequately capitalized.

Madam Speaker, at a time when Americans are having a hard time making their mortgage payments and dealing with high food prices, they do

not want to be saddled with their neighbor's house payment.

I urge my colleagues to defeat this legislation.

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DEMOCRATS URGE PRESIDENT TO RELEASE OIL FROM THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, since President Bush took office, the price of oil has skyrocketed from \$30 a barrel to a recent high of \$150 a barrel. These prices are debilitating millions of American families who can't even afford to go to the grocery store.

Two months ago, Congress forced the President to take action and stop filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which is already at its highest levels ever. On July 1 we stopped putting oil into the reserve, which could lower prices at the pump anywhere from 10 to 25 cents. This action will have real results for the American people.

And now Democrats are urging the President to release oil from that reserve to provide additional assistance right now to American consumers.

Some say that we should only use oil from the reserve in an emergency. Madam Speaker, I suggest that if families not being able to put food on the table or freezing this winter isn't an emergency, I don't know what is.

AMERICA WILL VOTE TO DRILL

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

Mr. PENCE. Well, back in Indiana, Hoosier families are hurting. Pain at the pump is harming the vitality of our families, our family farms, and small businesses, and the time has come for Congress to act.

Madam Speaker, we've heard from many of our Democrat colleagues that the answer is to go deeper into our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. I believe the answer is to go deeper into the reserves that are in the Outer Continental Shelf, in Alaska, and in the Gulf of Mexico.

The American people know the only way to lessen our dependence on foreign oil is to lessen our dependence on foreign oil by giving the American people more access to American oil.

I joined all my Indiana colleagues this past Monday at a press conference in Hoosier State urging you, Madam Speaker, to bring to this floor a vote on allowing American oil companies access to the Outer Continental Shelf. The President's lifted his executive

ban. Now the only thing standing in between the American people and more access to American oil is one up-or-down vote on the floor of the Congress.

I urge you respectfully, Madam Speaker, bring the bill to the floor to allow the American people access to the reserves in this Outer Continental Shelf, and that bill will pass. If Congress is allowed to work its will, America will vote to drill.

JOB LOSSES CONTINUE FOR SIX CONSECUTIVE MONTHS AS ECONOMY GETS WORSE

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, our economy has now lost 430,000 jobs this year. The latest employment numbers show 62,000 jobs lost last month alone. This only adds to the growing financial insecurity among America's middle income families.

For the past 7 years, this administration has been supporting the same old policies that got us into this recession. The 3.8 million Americans who continue to struggle to find work in this sluggish economy can no longer afford the poisonous policies of the past. They can't afford to drive their kids to school because of over \$4 a gallon in gasoline.

A Teamster told me at home last weekend that it cost him \$1,000 to fill his rig. He can't afford to stay in the business. No one can afford to buy groceries because the price of milk and bread has soared past inflation.

And while Senator JOHN MCCAIN's chief economic adviser says Americans are simply whining about the economy, Democrats believe that we need to actually do something.

Madam Speaker, this new law that we passed 13 weeks ago to help 1.6 million Americans will help middle class families.

WISHFUL THINKING WON'T BRING DOWN GAS PRICES

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I say that wishful thinking on the part of Congress will not bring down gas prices. I truly believe, and evidence shows, that action to bring about more supply will bring down gas prices.

More supply perhaps from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve? Maybe, but not without replacing those reserves, and we know we can do that with Outer Continental Shelf drilling, as well as responsible, environmentally sensitive drilling in Alaska. We can do that.

Consumers will benefit, such as the single mom in my district who called

and told me that a one-way drive to work so that she can feed her family is 40 miles, one way. There's no option of a subway. There's no option of public transportation. She has to pay for it. These gas prices are hurting her and her family.

And, Madam Speaker, we can do better. We must do better.

INCREASE LIHEAP FUNDING

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, there's one thing on which everyone in this Chamber agrees, it's that we're in an energy crisis, and the American people are paying the price.

So, as we consider a second stimulus package to provide immediate relief and spur long-term growth, I urge my colleagues to also offer assistance where we know people need it: immediately paying for energy.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, provides critical heating and cooling assistance to millions of hardworking, low-income Americans across this country, and now, in the middle of a hot summer and trying economic times, this assistance is more important than ever.

In Kentucky, 300,000 people qualify for LIHEAP, but because we have yet to fully fund the program, only a third are receiving the help they need, leaving 192,000 Kentuckians underserved, forced to choose between food for their children and critical cooling and heating needed to get through a long summer and winter.

Eligible families spend, on average, a fifth of their incomes on energy. I urge my colleagues to fully fund LIHEAP and provide desperately needed help to struggling American families.

ENERGY

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, this is energy morning here on the House floor, and I'm no different from anyone else.

We're hearing a lot this morning about opening the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Well, if we're willing to say supply matters—and I'll agree with that, yes, supply does matter—opening the Strategic Petroleum Reserve only make sense if it's part of a comprehensive plan, and yes, this is an emergency. This is an emergency that requires all hands on deck.

Supply is critical. Access to new supply in the Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico is critical, as are alternative sources of energy, as are conservation measures.

Today, this morning, I'm asking the majority party to work with us and

help the people who are impacted most by the rising energy prices, the people who can least afford it. That includes the vulnerable, the elderly, the impoverished.

It's time to stop pandering to wealthy environmentalists and start addressing the problems caused by impeding domestic production of energy. Stop protesting the siting of transmission lines for wind, solar, and hydroelectric power. Allow the rigs and pipelines to function, and allow the American workforce and American ingenuity to go to work and get this done for America.

Please stop the restrictions for responsible exploration for our natural resources like coal, natural gas, and crude oil. End the heavy-handed restrictions on energy exploration.

LIHEAP

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

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, in the wake of skyrocketing energy prices, I rise today to urge this Congress to fully fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP, as part of the economic stimulus legislation that's being considered.

Americans are feeling the pinch. Sixty percent of families are cutting spending as they struggle to pay for rising electric bills and gas prices. Let me speak directly about the situation of one Maryland family.

Mr. Delatore works part time as a counselor and gets partial disability because of complications from cerebral palsy. He's had a tough time making ends meet, especially in the last year. Mr. Delatore is a LIHEAP recipient. He has expressed severe anxiety that he can barely afford to buy what he needs. Without energy assistance, he will be pushed over the edge.

Madam Speaker, many families are living close to the economic edge, and they rely on this LIHEAP support, this critical support, to make ends meet. We have to fully fund this program.

REAL ENERGY SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, everywhere I go across the First Congressional District, my constituents have the same question on their minds: If record-high gas prices that are breaking the backs of families across the Nation won't entice Congress to act now, then what will?

By failing to allow an up-or-down vote on legislation to increase the production of American-made energy, my