

friends on the other side of the aisle remain the only obstacle to putting America on a path to energy security and decreasing our dependence on foreign oil.

The American people overwhelmingly support a commonsense, all-of-the-above solution to solve this crisis and address our growing energy needs.

The longer we delay in passing a comprehensive energy plan, the longer American families and small businesses will continue to pay more than they should for a tank of gas.

It's time for the majority to live up to their promise and allow a vote on the energy future of this country.

INCREASED FUNDING FOR LIHEAP MUST BE A NATIONAL PRIORITY

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, it may be July, but New Hampshire families are already worried about how are they going to heat their homes this winter. The cost of heating oil has been rising dramatically all year. With \$5 a gallon heating oil forecast, the average New Hampshire family could be spending \$4,000 to heat their homes. This is a daunting figure for most families.

With so many households relying on heating oil and with the Bush administration recommending a \$500,000 cut to the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, for fiscal year 2009, Congress simply must step in and provide the kind of funding relief Americans need.

I have introduced legislation that would provide \$9 billion in emergency funding for LIHEAP, as well as an additional \$1 billion for weatherization programs. Not only would this proposal ensure that Northern States receive increased aid to get through the long winter, but it would also help the Southern States get through their hot summers.

Increased funding for LIHEAP must be a national priority. The administration's effort to slash funding is absolutely inexcusable. Congress must step in and provide adequate funding.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE ACTION ON ENERGY

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I've listened to these Democrats talk. It's their typical response: more government funding and creating dependency on the Federal Government.

In 2006, Democrats promised relief from high priced gas prices. Since they gained control of Congress, gas prices have more than doubled. We continue to wait for the Democrats to unveil an energy plan that will actually lower

prices for Americans at the pump. So far, all we hear is drilling takes too long.

That's the kind of shortsighted thinking that got us into this reliance on foreign oil in the first place. They don't want to hear about long-term solutions.

So I have good news for you. Even the announcement of drilling will immediately affect the market price of oil.

President Bush announced the lifting of an executive moratorium, and the next day, oil dropped \$8 a barrel. The market responds to information, and it will respond even to the announcement.

A second good piece of news for those who don't want to begin a long-term solution is there is already a pipeline in Alaska. It doesn't hold anywhere near its full capacity. Let's fill it with oil from ANWR. We'll see a price change soon.

What the American people deserve is action. The message to the Democrat majority is do it here, do it now, do it for America.

DRILLING IS NOT THE ANSWER TO HIGH GAS PRICES—DEMOCRATS WORKING ON REAL SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, we cannot drill our way to either energy independence or to lower prices at the pump. The Bush administration's own Energy Information Administration says that opening up new areas for drilling would not affect production or prices for nearly 20 years, and even then it concludes that "any impact on average wellhead prices is expected to be insignificant." So much for the Republican energy plan.

In stark contrast, House Democrats have taken action and passed legislation that will make America more energy independent and help provide relief to Americans struggling with high gas prices. For the first time in 32 years, we passed a landmark law that will require more fuel efficient vehicles, which will produce nearly \$1,000 in savings for the average American family at the gas pump. This is the kind of relief that my constituents in New Jersey want.

Democrats also forced the President to stop sending oil to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and now we are standing and urging him to start releasing oil from the reserve.

□ 1030

REPUBLICANS TO INTRODUCE COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY SOLUTION

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, in a recent Reuters/Zogby poll, we learned that 75 percent of Americans support drilling for oil offshore. In other polls, between 68 and 76 percent of all Americans favor immediate oil and gas exploration onshore.

Last week, after reading those polls, the Democrat leadership decided they would take some action and brought forward a faulty bill to try to improve their image. Of course, the bill failed.

Now we do have agreement on one issue, Madam Speaker—that we should be drilling. Republicans are not waiting for others to take action. We are continuing to take action and continuing to bring forward possible solutions to this problem.

Today is one of those. We will introduce a comprehensive energy solution this afternoon that would address America's energy concerns and begin to look at short-term, mid-range and long-range planning for our Nation's energy supply.

What a plan. What a concept. Develop a comprehensive plan to make certain that we address the price at the pump.

ANOTHER QUARTER OF RECORD-BREAKING PROFITS FOR BIG OIL

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

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, while Americans pump billions of dollars into their gas tanks every week, Big Oil has just completed another quarter of record-breaking profits.

The companies claim they are looking for new oil to bring down the price at the pump, but what they spend on exploration is small compared with their stock buybacks and shareholder dividends. That's great for their investors, but no help for millions of Americans who drive to work every day.

Come to think of it, why would they bring to market the 4 million already leased and easily developable acres of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, only to have their profits plunge while trying to reduce gas prices?

Last week, Democrats in Congress supported legislation to increase domestic oil production by requiring oil companies to drill on leases they control or lose those leases to companies that would drill.

The Republicans once again voted no. Republicans won't require oil companies to drill, but they have no problem handing them more leases to hoard while gas pump prices and oil company profits soar.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule