

Congress ought not leave town for 5 weeks without a vote on real energy solutions. Businesses don't shut down for 5 weeks without finishing the job. Congress ought not close up shop when there is still work to be done to preserve our Nation.

### THREE YEARS OF GOP ENERGY PLAN AND AMERICANS STRUGGLE WITH \$4 GASOLINE

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, it's been 3 years since the Republican Congress passed energy legislation they claimed would bring down the cost of gasoline and end our dependence on foreign oil. The result? Gas prices have hit \$4 a gallon and a barrel of crude oil has gone from \$30 to \$150 a barrel.

Still, Republicans continue to propose the same failed policies and continue to block Democratic efforts to invest in renewable energy and to release oil from the government stockpile.

Republicans say they want to drill, but they voted against a bill that would force Big Oil to drill on 311 million acres of land already open for energy production. Republicans say they want to help struggling drivers with gas prices, but they voted against repealing unnecessary tax breaks for profit-rich oil companies.

Madam Speaker, BP Oil experienced a 28 percent hike in their profits this quarter while American families can't afford to drive to work. When are Republicans going to start helping American families instead of Big Oil?

### AMERICAN ENERGY ACT

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, as Congress prepares to depart for the August recess, I'm expecting to see more constituents around my district this August than usual. It isn't because they're anxious to visit with me; it's because many of my constituents can't afford to take vacations this summer due to the skyrocketing price of gas.

My Republican colleagues and I have offered a comprehensive energy plan in the form of the American Energy Act, which seeks to reduce the price of gas through increasing American energy production, enhancing energy efficiencies, and promoting renewable and alternative energy technology. Yet the majority party refuses to bring this commonsense bill up for a vote before we leave for recess because they are afraid it will pass. I wish my Democrat colleagues would apply this same illogic to some of their pieces of legislation.

It's unconscionable to punish the majority of the American people for the

appeasement of out-of-touch environmental constituents. The American people deserve lower gas prices, and they deserve an up or down vote on the American Energy Act.

### STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

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

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, high gas prices are taking a huge toll. Republicans claim they want to reduce gas prices, but for a month they have voted against every bill that would do so.

Last week, Republicans blocked a bill to release 70 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Much smaller releases by the last three Presidents have produced nearly immediate reductions in crude oil prices of up to one-third. That would translate to savings as high as \$1 per gallon of gas. The Republican plan to lease more public land without requiring Big Oil to actually drill and produce oil gives exactly zero savings now.

Today, they will have a chance to vote against the speculation in oil futures. Experts have testified that rampant speculation accounts for roughly \$30 of the price of a barrel of oil, or 70 cents per gallon of gas. Isn't it time Republicans voted for 70 cent savings on gas prices by stopping speculation and \$1 savings by opening the Strategic Petroleum Reserve now?

### ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, day after day, we come to this floor to address the important issues facing our Nation. A quick review, however, of the last few weeks shows we have voted on new names for post offices and to congratulate our sports teams. But Congress has not taken any real steps to address the rapidly rising price of gasoline and ease American's pain at the pump. And apparently, House Democrats again are not going to let Members vote to ease that pain.

This month, I have been touring energy facilities in Minnesota's Second District that highlight a variety of new, clean and reliable sources of energy being produced right there in Minnesota. I visited a hydropower plant on the Mississippi River in Hastings, a nuclear power plant in Welch, an energy-from-waste in Red Wing, an oil refinery in Rosemont, a wind turbine in Northfield, and an electric-generating facility in Faribault.

Madam Speaker, I visited all of these energy producers to learn more and to illustrate that we need an "all of the above" energy plan and we need to

enact it now. Congress should not adjourn for 5 weeks of vacation and politics without dealing with the number one issue in the minds of the American people, high energy prices.

### GAS STAMPS

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, a barrel of oil is still more than \$120 and the price Americans are paying for a gallon of gas is \$4.20 a gallon. Add that to the rising food prices and rising unemployment—especially long-term unemployment—and the economic climate feels more like the dead of winter than the middle of summer.

Too many Americans are still being forced to choose between food and fuel every day either to get to work or look for work. But we can help those at the bottom of the economic ladder survive by simply passing the Gas Stamps legislation I've introduced. It would provide modest assistance to people who need a helping hand to keep their head above water. It would provide temporary assistance over a relatively short time, a few months, like food stamps, and it would say to the American people that we, in Congress, know the first stimulus package was not enough and we're prepared to act again.

Providing those in need with a few hundred dollars a month for a few months is a small price to pay so that vulnerable Americans can continue to put food on the table and gas in their tank to go to work.

The American people need and deserve some additional help, and we ought to provide it with gas stamps, not the fraud of drilling on the coast.

### CONGRESS MUST NOT ADJOURN BEFORE VOTING ON MORE ACCESS TO AMERICAN OIL RESERVES

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, the American people deserve more access to American oil. And now that the President has lifted the ban on offshore drilling, Congress must not adjourn until the American people get a vote on more domestic drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf.

In a day when some in this body say it is their duty to "save the planet," I prefer the words of Daniel Webster that are chiseled on the wall behind me. He said a century ago, "Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers." And so I add to my colleagues, let us develop the resources of our land. Let us give the American people more access to American oil.

Americans won't get a vacation from high gas prices, so Congress should not take a vacation until we vote to lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

Madam Speaker, do not adjourn this Congress until we give the bipartisan, pro-drilling majority a vote on more access to our oil reserves.

#### THE TRUTH ABOUT OFFSHORE DRILLING

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Well, Madam Speaker, now we know the truth, that the television ad that the Republican Presidential candidate is using to impugn the patriotism of his Democratic opponent is a complete fabrication. So I guess we shouldn't be too surprised when the same camp is trying to convince the American people that offshore oil drilling is going to reduce the price of gas. Sure, it will—in more than a decade, by two to four cents. In fact, the Bush/Cheney administration's own Energy Information Administration has said that ending the Federal moratorium "is certainly not going to make a difference in the next 10 years."

In fact, the Big Oil companies already have access to more than 34 billion barrels of offshore oil they're not even drilling. All it's going to do is give more profits to these oil companies by being able to have publicly-owned reserves on their balance sheets, increasing the value of the oil shares.

The fact is, though, that lies and half truths say far more about the people uttering them than the people who are targeted by them.

#### GIVE ARKANSAS WHAT THEY DESERVE: A VOTE ON ENERGY

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, frustration is mounting in the Third District of Arkansas because of the high cost of gasoline. This stack of e-mails which I have with me is just a small portion of the comments my constituents have sent me. And several of them have offered their own ideas of what needs to be done to resolve this energy dilemma and help increase the American energy supply and provide relief at the pump.

The ideas they've proposed are ones we've heard before: We need to increase our production of American energy in a clean, efficient way through wind, solar and hydrogen, as well as tapping into the vast majority of natural resources we have available.

I agree with my constituents that we need to use an "all of the above" en-

ergy strategy. That's why I cosponsored the American Energy Act. This encompasses the ideas many of my constituents have been writing me about, increasing our American-made energy supply in an environmentally friendly way, encouraging energy conservation, and promoting renewable and alternative energy technology. We need to act.

#### WE NEED A BOLD ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I appreciate some of my Republican colleagues' discussion of some alternative energy, but it hasn't been an "all of the above" voting history for them; it has been a "none of the above" voting history when it comes to the vast sources of energy.

We know America is a bold country, not a timid country. But an energy policy that revolves around exclusively offshore drilling is a timid policy. The large swaths of energy we need are not off the coast, they are in the sunshine falling on our land, the wind blowing in the Midwest, the geothermal below our feet, the wave and tidal power; these are the vast swaths of energy.

Yesterday, right around this building, I drove a plug-in electric hybrid car. That is the future, using electricity driven by the sun. And I wish my Republican colleagues would just take a look at the USA Today newspaper yesterday that talked about the enormous strides being made in solar energy. We need a bold policy that can truly get us out of this pickle. That's one based on energy sources, not the timidity of the Republican Party.

#### H. RES. 1206, COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY REFORM PLAN

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

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it was a privilege to travel with Leader BOEHNER and my fellow Republican colleagues on the American Energy Tour to Colorado and Alaska.

Our mission encompassed the "all of the above" energy policy our constituents have demanded. We've expanded our knowledge of renewable and alternative energy in addition to getting the hard facts on domestic exploration and recovery of our natural resources.

After hosting multiple town hall meetings and speaking with constituents throughout my district, it is clear that they, along with the majority of the American public, support the House Republicans' "all of the above" plan.

This plan calls for nuclear, clean coal technology and a responsible effort to

safely explore and recover our domestic natural resources while expanding wind, solar, hydrogen, ethanol and biofuels. This plan is similar to the resolution I introduced on May 15, House Resolution 1206, which is a five-point comprehensive energy reform plan.

We must enact comprehensive energy reform. And until Congress does, our constituents and the economy will continue to suffer.

#### IRAQIS CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS IN 2010

(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, congressional Democrats have repeatedly urged President Bush to bring our troops home from Iraq honorably, responsibly, safely, and soon.

After rejecting 18 months of attempts by the Democratic majority to adopt redeployment timetables, the President now proposes a vague general time horizon that falls far short of a commitment to ending involvement in Iraq. The Iraq Government was more direct. For the second time this month, Iraqi officials have indicated their support for the withdrawal of U.S. combat forces by the end of 2010.

Maybe these statements served as a wake-up call to the Bush administration. It appears they are finally getting the message that the war in Iraq cannot go on indefinitely. Perhaps President Bush should pass the message along to Senator MCCAIN, who continues to believe that our commitment in Iraq will last 50 to 100 years.

Madam Speaker, we need a new direction in Iraq that allows our troops to come home and allows us to focus on the war on terrorism in Afghanistan and around the world.

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#### RED BIRCH CANOLA BIODIESEL PROJECT

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

Mr. GOODE. Madam Speaker, high energy prices are a top concern of farmers, small businesses, and citizens across the Fifth District of Virginia. I wish the House would consider a comprehensive measure like the American Energy Act to increase the supply of American-made energy, improve conservation, and promote renewable and alternative energy technologies such as Red Birch Energy's Canola Biodiesel Project in Bassett Forks, Virginia.

Red Birch Energy converts the oil from crushed canola seeds grown by local farmers into a clean-burning, efficient biodiesel fuel that is less efficient