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Democrats Pandering to Extremist Environmentalists (Rep. Doug Lamborn)

September 10th, 2008

Monday, House Democrats came back to Washington after a five-week vacation and held a press conference to reveal their energy plan crafted by Speaker Pelosi. Unfortunately, they didn't have much to say. There was some mention of off-shore drilling but no specifics about where, when, and at what cost to American taxpayer. One point remains clear—House Democrats are more interested in protecting their seats than protecting American families.

While Democrats in Congress continue to pander to the agenda of extremist environmentalists, American families continue to suffer. In a poor attempt to address the real needs of Americans, Democrats have done nothing to lower energy prices but favor policies that actually restrict the supply of energy and increase its cost. With no thoughts to the vast amount of resources available in ANWR, Speaker Pelosi's legislation is consistent with her agenda.

Speaker Pelosi has been a staunch and consistent opponent of offshore drilling since the 1980s, so it is no surprise that the cries of the American people fall on deaf ears. According to a CNN/Opinion Research Poll, 73% of Americans favor offshore drilling for oil and natural



This section is a Q&A slot featuring interviews with members of Congress and sometimes with senior aides, selected lobbyists and policy

gas in U.S. waters.

I continue to implore our Democratic Congress to listen to what the majority of America is saying and to schedule a vote on an all-of-the-above energy strategy, such as the Republican American Energy Act. This bill takes a three-pronged approach by opening our domestic sources in ANWR and the OCS, as well as stressing the importance of alternative energies and of conservation. A viable and effective way to increase the domestic supply of energy now, this bill will also provide energy resources and technology for our future generation at a lower cost.

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By **Colo. GOP Rep. Doug Lamborn**

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experts. The Hill will ask the questions, but we welcome your input; to help us shape the discussion please [send your comment](#).

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- o **The Hill** : The Hill's Erica Wisniewski sat down with Ray Scheppach, executive director of the National Governors Association, to discuss how the NGA trains new Governors and their staffs. Read the transcript below.
- o **The Hill** : What is your mission in working with governors? How do you work with governors and their staffs?
- o **Ray Scheppach** : Here at NGA we really do have two somewhat separate missions. One is to lobby the Congress on behalf of states. On the other hand here we try to help states develop and implement state policy, that has no federal sort of component on it. So there you're into more education, healthcare and so on. You also have the mission of particularly helping new governors. So right now for example, we are going into an election, we know we're going to have at least three new governors, because the governo
- o **The Hill** : How does your bipartisan agenda fit into working with governors?
- o **Ray Scheppach** : First off we really have to have about two-thirds of the governors in

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support of a policy before we can do anything. So a lot of times it takes us time to get that consensus before we can do anything, but the good news about that is that generally when you get a consensus it's pretty much middle ground, it's very seldom we take a far left or far right position.

- o **The Hill** : Do you support the interest of the state or the interest of a particular governor?
- o **Ray Scheppach** : We do work directly for the governors. A lot of times the governors' interests are the same as the state issue, but not necessarily all the time because you have other elected officials. So for example in education you have elected chief state school officers that may be pushing for state action as well, but their position may be different than the governor's position. So what we try to do is make sure we stay focused on the governor's interest. so there is overlap, but sometimes they d

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