

We will never drill our way to independence domestically, yet we have an energy bill that is stuck in the past that yet again seeks to drill a little deeper, in more places. This legislation includes a permanent authorization of an oil and gas leasing program in the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska without preserving any key wilderness and cultural areas in this 23 million acre region. Further, this bill authorizes an inventory of the oil and gas resources underneath the Outer Continental Shelf, OCS—a first step towards reversing the two decade moratorium that prohibits oil and gas drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf.

This bill also fails to protect American consumers. I am frustrated that an amendment I offered with Representative NANCY JOHNSON to ensure that consumers receive accurate information regarding the fuel efficiency of automobiles was gutted because it was characterized as an attempt to change CAFÉ standards. This is a consumer protection issue and not an attack on the automobile industry that vigorously opposed our legislation. Americans do care how efficient their car is, and it is a failure of our government that we cannot provide consumers that walk into a showroom to pick out a new car with a sticker in the window that reflects accurate information on the car's city and highway gas mileage.

Before I conclude my remarks I would like to recognize that there are some good points in this bill. For example, the bill provides continuing support for the highly successful Energy Star program at the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy, which promotes energy efficiency in buildings and products. The bill also authorizes annual 10 percent increases in research on energy efficiency and renewable energy. Additionally, it includes a few creative ways to reduce the consumption of energy, such as Representative MARKEY's provision to extend daylight savings time by one month.

We need a responsible and sustainable approach to addressing our Nation's energy needs. On behalf of the residents of the 12th District, I pledge to continue to work toward the development of a balanced, comprehensive energy plan—one that finds environmentally friendly, sustainable ways to decrease our dependence on foreign oil and slow the degradation of our planet.

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns about the conference report to the Energy Policy Act of 2005. I believe that the passage of the conference report for H.R. 6 is a momentous event. This conference report is a culmination of many years of hard work and negotiating on both sides of the aisle and in both Chambers of Congress. Our country is finally adopting a national energy policy, an action that is long, long overdue.

The conference report for H.R. 6 includes numerous important measures to promote the use of clean and renewable fuels and emerging energy technologies, improves the delivery and reliability of electricity transmission, requires energy conservation and mandates efficiency standards.

With all of these great provisions in H.R. 6, I am disappointed that the conference report includes a provision to conduct an inventory of all oil and gas resources beneath all waters of the Outer Continental Shelf. I have constantly fought to protect Florida's coast from offshore oil drilling. I have joined my colleagues in the Florida delegation, Republicans and Demo-

crats, in defeating numerous attempts to weaken the drilling moratorium on the OCS.

To Floridians, an inventory of oil resources means drilling. To Floridians, there are too many uncertainties of the impact that seismic testing will have on sensitive ecosystems and marine life. To Floridians, anything but a full and permanent moratorium of drilling off our shores means doom.

I support identifying alternative domestic sources of energy. In our uncertain world, the United States must look closer to home for its energy needs. However, the shores of Florida are too close to home. Florida is a unique ecological gem in our country and the world, and cannot be tampered with. It is also important to note that Florida's leading industry is tourism. If inventorying would lead to drilling, it would inevitably lead to a downturn in tourism to Florida.

While I support the vast majority of H.R. 6, I must stand with my colleagues from Florida in voting against final passage. I remain committed to working with Chairman BARTON, Ranking Member DINGELL and my Florida colleagues in a bipartisan manner as we move forward, to ensure that the OCS drilling moratorium continues to protect Florida.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this legislation.

I applaud the work of the conferees and their willingness to find compromise and drop the most controversial and anti-environmental provisions, particularly the authorization to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the liability exemption for the petroleum industry to finance the clean up of drinking water contaminated with MTBE.

I think some of the electricity and utility provisions are more balanced and appropriate.

But, I am still disappointed that this bill falls far short of what this institution and our nation must undertake to remove our dependency on oil and fossil fuels. You would think that in the two years since we last attempted to pass energy legislation, we would have a different bill. World oil supplies have tightened, the price of oil has shot up to over \$60 a barrel, and many of our foreign sources of oil, the Middle East, in particular, but Africa and Venezuela as well, have grown even less stable.

What we are considering today is an improvement over what the House passed earlier this year, but absent the two controversial provisions I mentioned it's still practically the same bill from last Congress. It even has the same bill number, H.R. 6, as last time, as if it were photocopied with complete indifference to the disturbing news and international developments that have recently come to pass.

We are an oil-based economy, with about 60 percent of our oil imported from abroad. While coal, uranium and some renewable sources such as wind and hydro comprise a majority of the fuel used to generate electricity, most of our economy is dependent or exclusively reliant on oil, from fertilizers for agriculture, plastics for manufacturing to gasoline and diesel for transportation.

Mr. Speaker, we need a crash course in developing cleaner alternative sources of energy and a Herculean effort to reduce our present level of oil consumption. Nowhere are we demanding greater fuel efficiency in our vehicles. This conference agreement actually extends a loophole that allows automobile manufacturers an exemption from today's weaker fuel efficiency requirements for vehicles that use eth-

anol. During the next 10 years, this loophole alone is estimated to increase our oil consumption by 15 billion gallons of gasoline. Had we improved vehicle fuel efficiency through higher Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency, CAFE, standards, 27 miles for light trucks and 33 for cars back in the early 1990s, we could have displaced all the oil we imported from OPEC today. This bill is shamefully silent on that issue.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is deficient and heads our country in the wrong direction. It rushes us closer to the day oil shortages occur and sets us backward on our ability to address it.

As a nation, we are blessed with a land of immense beauty and natural wealth and a people of great ingenuity and resourcefulness capable of overcoming vast challenges and obstacles. It is unfortunate that so much of this legislation has the effect of exploiting the former and reflects such little faith in the latter. I urge my colleagues to reject this bill.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and thank Chairman JOE BARTON and my colleagues for their hard work on this much needed legislation. The war on terror has renewed our interest as a nation in reducing our dependence on energy imports and in diversifying our domestic energy sector. Through the Energy Policy Act of 2005, we can do just that through increased utilization of our coal supply; of nuclear energy; of renewable fuels such as hydrogen and of increased energy efficiency and conservation.

In southwest Pennsylvania, no matter what we do or where we go, we depend on coal. Our computers, the companies we work for, our homes and schools, are powered by coal. The stigma on the burning of coal has always been its air emissions, but now major developments in clean coal technology will expand the benefits of coal in environmentally friendly ways. Establishing a comprehensive national energy policy which includes clean coal technology is the first step in accomplishing this task.

There is more than 250 years worth of coal energy in the ground of southwestern Pennsylvania. It generates more than 55 percent of Pennsylvania's electricity and more than half of the nation's. Coal is America's most abundant energy resource, but to take full advantage of it we need to reduce emissions. Many plants have turned towards the use of natural gas, which in turn has led to less supply, tripling the price in the past decade. The increases in natural gas prices has cost 90,000 jobs in the chemical industry alone and contributed to three million manufacturing job losses.

The Energy Policy Act allows for more than \$250 million per year for the Department of Energy's fossil program for existing and new coal-based research and development. It calls for a national center for clean power and energy research as well as coal mining research efforts to reduce contaminants in mined coal. Research is to be focused on innovations at existing plants, new advanced gasification and combined cycle plants, advanced combustion systems and turbines as well as fuel-related research.

There is \$1.8 billion included for the development of new clean coal technologies to increase the demand for coal and create 62,000 jobs across the country, from building new plants to mining coal. This includes 10,000

Others of my colleagues will cite subsidies for traditional energy industries, and sometimes on this matter they are right. I tried, but failed, to reduce many of these. But we need to encourage development of multiple domestic sources of energy, and many of the subsidies in this bill will help us develop those sources; and I would remind my colleagues that Congress has not infrequently, indeed, many times in our history, provided economic incentives for the economic development of this country. We are a richer, better, stronger, and happier country for that reason.

Are we overpaying some particulars? Probably. Would this be the bill I would have drawn had I begun with it? No. It is not a perfect bill, but it is a solid and a good beginning to developing an energy strategy for the 21st century. It is the best that can be constructed at this time. It has been done by honorable leadership of our chairman and members of the conference who worked so hard. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I call the body's attention to the quote above the podium from Daniel Webster that starts off: "Let us develop the resources of our land." That is what this bill is all about.

I do not recognize the bill that my friend from Massachusetts just talked about. I think America is a land of hope and opportunity. We are a land of can-do and optimism. America is not a land of fear. It is not a land where we want the government to tell us what to do and how to make choices.

Our country is built on the premise that men and women, given the proper information, can make intelligent choices about what is best for them. This bill before us is based on that principle. We have strong environmental protection. We have strong protections against those that misuse the authorities, but this bill is based on the premise that we believe in private free market capitalism to develop the resources of this land in a cost-efficient fashion which benefits all of America. All of America.

And there are numerous provisions in this bill to give incentives to renewable and clean energy resources. There are numerous provisions in this bill to increase the efficient use of those resources. But, yes, there are provisions in this bill that say it is okay to use clean coal; it is okay to build a new nuclear power plant in this country if we do it in the proper way with the proper permits and the proper inspections. And, yes, it is okay to build new LNG facilities to bring more natural gas into our great Nation if we need it and if it is done with the proper consultation with State, local, and Federal agencies.

This is a very, very good bill. It is for America's future. Please vote "yes" for this bipartisan, bicameral, for-America bill.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of the Domenici-Barton Energy Policy Act.

I want to congratulate the House Conferees and thank them all for their hard work. I would like to especially recognize the efforts of the Chairman of the Conference, Mr. BARTON and the Dean of the House, Mr. DINGELL.

Working together with their Senate counterparts, the House Conferees did what many said was impossible: complete the most comprehensive energy legislation in a generation in less than one month.

Mr. Speaker, completing this job was important for our Nation. Americans have waited too long for this legislation to get finished. Americans need this legislation to lower their energy costs, to drive economic growth and job creation and to promote greater energy independence.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is important to the Nation for a number of reasons.

First, this bill addresses the burden that higher gasoline prices place on American consumers by reducing our dependency on foreign oil.

This legislation encourages domestic production of oil by streamlining the permit process for new wells. It also promotes greater refining capacity so more gasoline will be on the market; and it increases gasoline supply by putting an end to the proliferation of boutique fuels.

In addition, this bill helps us reduce our dependence on foreign oil by unleashing the power of the American farmer.

This legislation includes a historic Renewable Fuel Standard, which will result in the doubling of the use of clean-burning and renewable ethanol. The production and use of 7.5 billion gallons of ethanol by 2012 will displace over 2 billion barrels of crude oil. America has a strategic reserve of motor fuels in the cornfields of Illinois, the fields of rice in California, and the cane fields of Florida and its time we tap it.

This legislation also helps alleviate the hidden tax on American consumers, farmers, small businesses and manufacturers that comes in the form of higher natural gas prices. Increased natural gas prices have had an adverse impact on the American economy for too long. Several provisions in H.R. 6, including the streamlining of the LNG infrastructure permitting process and the inventory of America's off-shore resources, are significant steps toward ensuring that our Nation has an adequate and affordable supply of natural gas.

Additionally, this bill provides incentives for the development of clean energy technologies. Included in this legislation are tax credits and funds for the promotion and development of clean coal technologies. There are important incentives for the construction of new nuclear power plants, including the President's proposal for risk insurance to protect against the difficult and lengthy regulatory process of building a nuclear plant. And, this bill continues our Nation's commitment to producing electricity through the use of solar, geothermal and wind power.

Another important component of this legislation enhances our electricity transmission infrastructure so it can meet the needs of our growing economy and help reduce the potential for future blackouts. This bill requires the adoption of strict transmission reliability standards and provides incentives for building addi-

tional transmission capacity. This bill also includes measures to update our Nation's electricity laws which will attract much-needed capital to this vital sector of our economy.

However, this bill is not just about the creation of energy, it also contains several important provisions which will help conserve energy as well. This bill establishes new mandatory efficiency standards for federal buildings. And, it sets new standards and requires product labeling for battery chargers, commercial refrigerators, freezers and other household products.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on about all the positive and important elements in this legislation. But I believe it's enough to say that we should support this bill and send it to the President because it's the right thing for the American people. They should expect to have an affordable, reliable, efficient, and environmentally sound supply of energy and this bill assures that they will.

Again, let me congratulate Mr. BARTON and all the House Conferees and urge my colleagues to support this historic legislation.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the energy legislation that we are debating on the House floor today. As an energy scientist who spent nearly a decade working at one of the Nation's premiere alternative energy research labs I understand the complex and challenging nature of moving toward sustainable energy sources. Having served in this body for more than 6 years, I understand the difficulties in balancing competing interests to obtain a policy that benefits the Nation. Unfortunately, this bill does not strike a balance that provides a productive and clear vision that will lead this Nation towards energy independence.

The Energy Policy Act does not provide any solutions to reaching energy independence or reducing our destruction of the world the next generation will inherit. This legislation provides subsidies to industries that produce environmentally damaging and finite energy sources instead of investing in research that would allow our children to be the first generation to realize a nation that is powered largely by renewable energy sources. It is a bill that is designed to meet the needs of special interests instead of demanding higher standards for corporate America.

Instead of investing in cleaner, long term solutions, this bill brushes aside our Nation's future energy needs in order to provide billions of taxpayer dollars to the oil, gas and other traditional energy industries to promote short-term, polluting energy sources. These tax incentives should not be going to industries that are thriving, but should be used to invest in our future by increasing research funding for alternative energy sources such as wind energy, fuel cells and fusion.

The domination of special interests means much more than wealthy industries receiving tax breaks that will make them even richer. It means that more of our children will suffer from asthma because we did not demand stricter regulations on polluters. It means that children across this Nation will drink contaminated water because we chose to insulate an industry from being held accountable for their negligent actions. It means that our children will not have the opportunity to take their children to view the natural treasures that inspired them in their youth because we needed to open up these lands to allow oil and gas companies to expand their operations.