

support increased funding for research, development and greater consumer use of renewable energy. Over the last 7 years the Federal government has invested some \$2.2 billion in renewable energy. I also remain a steadfast supporter of fusion energy research, much of which is conducted in New Jersey at Princeton University. Fusion energy has the potential to become an unlimited, safe, environmentally friendly, affordable energy source. I appreciate the budget support, some \$240 million this year for continued research, from the President and Secretary of Energy, Spencer Abraham.

As a nation, we want the lights to come on whenever we flip the switch. We expect our computers to run and the air conditioning to work. Fortunately for New Jerseyans, unlike our fellow Americans in California, our power still flows—the lights come on, the computer runs and the air conditioning works. This is in large part due to the fact that most of New Jersey's electric power is generated by nuclear energy—75 percent of our electricity comes to us thanks to nuclear power. Nuclear energy has come a long way. It's proven to be safe, stable and reliable. But much of our nation does not have the benefit of such an abundant, reliable source of energy and that's exactly why we need a comprehensive national energy plan. As a nation, we cannot afford any more "California" crises.

The bottom line is America must be energy self-sufficient. Currently, our nation imports over 55% of the oil we consume from foreign oil cartels. This must change. When more than half of our energy needs comes from foreign sources, particularly OPEC, that alone is a security risk. We need more American oil, more American gas, and more use of American clean-coal technology, to name just a few. This is the only way to guarantee an uninterrupted supply of energy when we need it. But this drive to produce more energy domestically does not mean that energy development and environmental priorities cannot co-exist. They must. There must be a balance between energy development and the protection of our environment. For the record, when I say balance is needed, I mean drilling in the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge, or off the coasts of New Jersey or Florida are not options.

Obviously energy has enormous implications for large and small businesses, homeowners, our economy, environment, and our national security. Under the President's leadership, I am confident that we will better manage America's energy problems. It won't be easy and there will be many disagreements. No one person, or no one political party, has all the answers. That's why the debate in Congress on America's energy plan for the 21st Century is so important. And, part of our obligation is to listen to our constituents and educate all Americans about the reality of our energy situation, and what it will actually take to improve it.

Mr. Chairman, the situation is not as 'cut and dry' as some people on both sides of the issue would like to make it. We cannot simply throw caution to the wind and build pipelines all over the place, and drill for oil or gas anywhere the oil companies want. Neither can we simply oppose an energy plan because we are pure environmentalists. The reality is we are a nation of homeowners, commuters and computer users—we consume energy in practically everything we do. That's why I am working to

provide the necessary balance to our energy plan that will help us better manage our energy production and consumption. There's no way to escape it—we need a strategy on energy, and that's exactly what we are working on. At the same time, we can ill-afford to give up on our historic obligation to our children to protect our nation's air, water, wildlife and open spaces.

We can, and will, do both.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I support H.R. 4 and urge my colleagues to do the same.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE
ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this bill. This bill does not enhance our security: it endangers it. It does not protect our environment: it threatens it.

Increasing global warming does not enhance our security. Increasing our reliance on nuclear power plants and creating more nuclear waste does not enhance our security. Making only token changes in fuel economy standards does not enhance our security.

This bill does not enhance our security. Instead it jeopardizes wilderness, ignores consumers, and rewards the fossil fuel industry at the public expense.

This bill subsidizes the oil industry and gives billions in tax breaks to oil producers in an age of record-breaking profits.

In contrast, it does nothing for California consumers and taxpayers who have paid billions in unjust and unjustified energy costs.

Instead of promoting cost-based rates and badly needed refunds, it increases tax breaks and handouts for the oil, coal, and nuclear industries.

When Minority Leader DICK GEPHARDT and other members of Congress came to my district of Oakland, California, they saw the faces of this crisis. They heard from small business owners who face potential bankruptcy. They heard from persons with disabilities for whom blackouts are nightmares and rising bills are an impossible expense. They heard from school administrators who have been forced to divert money from much needed textbooks, teacher salaries, and instructional supplies to paying energy costs. They heard from the people of California who have been paying the price in this crisis for the last year.

Electricity cannot be treated as any other commodity. We cannot force Americans to choose between paying their utility bills and their grocery bills. Between electricity and rent. Between power and prescriptions. Those choices are simply unacceptable.

Nor can we choose to destroy irreplaceable wilderness for short-term gain. There are simply places on earth that are too fragile, too vulnerable, and too special to drill for oil. The

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of those places.

I strongly oppose this bill and I urge you to protect America's wilderness and to protect America's consumers and vote against this bill.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE
ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Chairman, much like the Nation, the U.S. territories are headed down a dangerous path. Our energy demands are outpacing supply, resulting in blackouts, high fuel prices, and increasing dependence on foreign energy sources.

These problems will only grow worse as electricity consumption continues to grow. Although we are hard pressed to pass legislation to address these issues, we must be mindful of the impact unbalanced legislation will have on our economy and our overall quality of life. We must pass legislation that offers a balance environmentally, socially, economically, and cognitively of national security and energy objectives.

Developing a sound national energy policy presents a compelling challenge. It requires balancing policies to encourage energy conservation, efficiency, and supply. H.R. 4, the Securing America's Future Energy (SAFE) Act fails to create this balance.

H.R. 4 fails to include a provision to explore the possibility of Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) as a renewable energy source. It is our responsibility to explore every possible source of renewable energy available and OTEC is a viable option. OTEC can help meet future energy needs for the nation, and it may also be the most viable alternative for the U.S. insular areas.

Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) is an energy technology that converts solar radiation to electric power. OTEC systems use the ocean's natural thermal gradient—the fact that the ocean's layers of water have different temperatures—to drive a power producing cycle. As long as the temperatures between the warm surface and the cold deep water differs about 20 degrees Celsius, an OTEC system can produce a significant amount of power. The oceans are thus a vast renewable resource, with the potential to help produce billions of watts of power.

The economics of energy production today have delayed the financing of a permanent, continuously operating OTEC plant. However, OTEC is very promising as an alternative energy resource for tropical island communities that rely heavily on imported fuel.

OTEC plants in tropical island communities could provide islanders with much needed power, as well as desalinated water and a variety of mariculture products. Because most insular areas are dependent on the importation

of foreign fuel supplies, there is a relatively high cost of diesel-generated electricity. OTEC can be a cost effective source for the Pacific islands.

In addition to hydroelectricity, geothermal and the other renewable resources listed in H.R. 4, Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) must also be considered as a renewable energy source.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE
ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Securing America's Future Energy Act of 2001 (H.R. 4). H.R. 4 represents the first comprehensive national energy policy considered by this House in more than a decade. The President's energy policy will put in place a long-term plan that will provide power to America for generations to come.

In my district in California, my family and my constituents are suffering from the dramatic rise in electricity prices. Sadly, we have learned the consequences of not having a long-term plan to produce energy. The failure of the last decade by the Clinton administration, combined with the failure of the Davis administration in California to develop a reasonable long-term energy plan, created this disaster.

The failed policy they embraced is the policy of the radical environmentalists. These groups promote an energy plan based on fantasy. They oppose nuclear power, hydropower, oil, gas, coal, natural gas, and in some cases even wind power. They cling to the failed belief that we can magically make energy without action. There should be no question that this is a strategy of failure, of skyrocketing costs and blackouts.

I support solar power. I believe that solar power research can and will help us address our future energy needs. Nevertheless, commercial solar power is not available today.

I also believe that fusion power will help us meet our energy needs of the future. I am working closely with the gentlelady from California, Ms. LOFGREN, in pushing a fusion energy research bill, which the Science Committee included in H.R. 4, that will set us on the course to commercial development of fusion power. But fusion power is not available today.

I believe that conservation will help us solve our energy problems. Which is why I am the sponsor, with the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. MARKEY, of the Energy Efficient Buildings Incentives Act (H.R. 778). This commonsense bipartisan bill provides incentives for conservation and energy efficiency. I am proud that portions of my bill are included in H.R. 4. I am also proud that the President's

plan promotes responsible conservation methods.

Yes, as we in California have learned, we must increase the supply of safe, reliable domestic energy while promoting a clean, safe and healthy environment. Our Nation's energy problems must be addressed by increasing supplies of traditional fossil fuels, developing alternative sources of energy, and improving conservation. It will not be easy and it will not be quick. However, we have the technology and the resources to meet our energy needs for decades, even centuries to come. At the same time, we can ensure a clean environment as a legacy for our children. The President's balanced, comprehensive national energy policy will strengthen our economy, lower consumer prices, create jobs and protect the environment. We should pass H.R. 4 today.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE
ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that the House is considering H.R. 4 today. This legislation is the first step in the development of a comprehensive national energy strategy.

Included in H.R. 4 is an amendment I offered at the full committee markup to have the Department of Energy conduct a study and review of the Federal Energy Savings Performance Contract Program. This program is an existing and innovative program that provides Federal agencies the opportunity to fund the installation of necessary energy efficiency measures. As the single largest consumer of energy, our Federal government facilities offer a significant opportunity to help us meet one of our national energy goals—increased efficiency. Our experience has shown that many of these government facilities have aging and energy inefficient equipment that require modernization in order to allow them to operate at peak efficiency.

We have learned over the past 10 years in the implementation of this program, like so many other government programs, that "one size does not fit all." I believe that there are barriers and obstacles in current law and regulations, including some unnecessary red tape that prevents some Federal agencies from participating in the program. If flexibility is increased, this program could be used more effectively by Federal agencies. It is important that we take a look at the program, determine what barriers or obstacles exist, and implement appropriate changes. This provision provides for a 6-month review, report to Congress, and requires the Department to implement appropriate changes to increase program flexibility and effectiveness. As part of this report and review, it is our intention that the Department of Energy will consult with out-

side parties that have experience participating and working within the program as well as other Federal agencies.

I am hopeful that the end result of this effort will keep us on the road to increasing our nation's energy efficiency, and that the Federal government will indeed be a large contributor to this effort.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE
ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Chairman, I am in support of this important legislation. I want to thank Chairman THOMAS of the Ways and Means Committee, along with Chairman TAUZIN, Chairman HANSEN, and Chairman BOEHLERT for their efforts in getting this legislation to the floor today.

I would like to speak in support of two specific provisions included in H.R. 4. I am pleased that this legislation includes the provisions of a bill I introduced on June 13, 2001, the Save America's Valuable Resources Act (H.R. 2147). These provisions create a \$2,000 tax credit for individuals and businesses to encourage homeowners, builders and contractors to make energy efficiency improvements to homes.

In order to qualify for the credit, homes must be made 30% more energy efficient according to the International Energy Conservation Code, a private sector energy code used in the United States. Except for the first \$1,000 in expenditures which are exempt from certification requirements, energy efficiency improvements must be certified by a utility company, a local building regulatory authority, a manufactured home production inspection primary inspection agency or other specified entity to ensure that real and significant efficiency improvements are made.

In 1998, homes accounted for nearly 20% of all of the energy consumed in the United States. Today, it costs the average American \$1500 to heat and cool their homes every year, which amounts to a cost of \$150 billion nationwide annually. By simply making changes in energy efficiency to their homes, consumers can save real money. Consumers can save 10% or more on energy bills by simply reducing the number of air leaks in their home. Double pane windows with low emissivity coating can reduce heating bills by 34% in cold climates like Chicago. If all households upgraded their insulation to meet the International Energy Conservation Code level, the nation would experience a permanent reduction of annual electric consumption totaling 7% of the total consumed.

I would also like to offer my support for the extension of the tax credit for wind energy. Currently, the wind energy tax credit expires on January 1, 2002. H.R. 4 extends the availability of this credit through January 1, 2007.