

them back where they came from." Thirdly, it enables them to vote so they can make choices about who should run the country, state or city.

Voting is something that comes naturally to people from the English-speaking Caribbean where parliamentary democracy is taken seriously. People routinely join political parties, become candidates for elected office or campaign for persons they believe are best suited to serve in national parliaments or local government bodies.

That experience should prove to be a powerful magnet for citizenship and political participation.

That's why it is so baffling that so many of them fail to become citizens.

The reluctance can't be explained simply by a devotion to their original nationality. After all, almost every Caribbean state recognizes dual citizenship, meaning that naturalization adds to their life but doesn't detract from their standing as people from the Caribbean.

One possible explanation is that some can't be bothered to go through the process. The result is they often end up placing their children and themselves at a disadvantage.

That's a crying shame. It explains why Congressman Meeks' appeal was relevant and should be listened to.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6,
ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the last time Congress enacted an energy bill was in 1992—13 years ago. Since that time, Republicans and Democrats alike have made clear that as a part of our national homeland security strategy, we must wean the country off of foreign oil. Yet, the bill before us would not achieve that goal. For that reason Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

There is no doubt that the final House-Senate energy bill is vastly better than the House-passed bill. It extends the renewable electricity production tax credit and provides tax credits for energy efficiency, which, together, will catalyze investment and usage of the next generation of energy technology. It also would re-fund the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, which provided \$42 million to clean-up the Delaware River after the November 2004 oil spill and was on track to be depleted by 2009. I hope no other region in the country experiences a similar incident; we must be prepared to adequately respond if it does.

Additionally, the bill does not include unnecessary liability protections for the manufacturers of the gasoline additive known as MTBE or allow for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—authorities that would have put our precious natural resources at-risk while doing very little to reduce our dependence on imported oil.

While I am pleased with these improvements in the bill, I do not support investing \$14.6 billion in taxpayer funding on energy policies that ultimately will not reduce our dependence on and usage of foreign oil over the next 11 years.

My colleagues, the bill fails to include a renewable energy portfolio standard of 10 percent by 2020.

It fails to adequately invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies by only providing 26 percent of the bill's tax incentives for the development of cleaner, less expensive energy sources under our control; while allocating \$2.6 billion in tax benefits for oil and gas industry. Industries that are already profiting from record high oil prices, which are currently over \$60 per barrel.

It fails to increase to automotive efficiency standards—a policy that would save up to 67 billion barrels of oil over the next 40 years, which is 10 to 20 times greater than the potential oil supply that could be extracted from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. Speaker, the bill fails to send us in a new direction, and that is unacceptable. We cannot leave ourselves positioned to return years from now and still be searching for ways to end our reliance on foreign oil.

With nations like India and China rapidly increasing their consumption of oil we must set the nation on a course to energy independence. That requires a balanced energy policy that aids domestic production but, more importantly, sends us in a new direction by investing in renewable and energy efficient technologies. This conference report failed to accomplish this goal.

I urge a "no" vote on H.R. 6.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6,
ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 Conference Report. Completion of this energy bill is yet another step forward in our struggle for energy security and independence. A reliable and affordable energy supply is crucial to America's economic vitality, security, and quality of life.

While this final conference report is not perfect, we continue to make progress towards promoting energy conservation and efficiency; increasing the use of all domestic energy resources, including coal; improving energy infrastructure; and promoting the development of advanced energy technologies.

The combustion of fossil fuels is essential to our energy policy and must continue to be a part of a balanced energy plan for this country. Coal is absolutely critical to our nation's economic health and global competitiveness. Coal accounts for more than 50 percent of U.S. electricity generation, far ahead of nuclear power, natural gas, hydroelectric power, petroleum and other sources. There is no present alternative to coal to meet our energy needs. New and improved technologies hold the promise of far greater emissions reductions and increased efficiency.

Clean coal provisions are included in the final conference report that would assist in burning coal more efficiently and cleanly. These clean coal technology initiatives encourage the development of new technologies for cleaner, higher efficiency coal combustion in new and established plants with the hope of achieving a healthier environment while maintaining jobs. Specifically, the conference

agreement includes a \$1.8 billion authorization for the Secretary of Energy to carry out the Clean Coal Power Initiative, which will provide funding to those projects that can demonstrate advanced coal-based power generating technologies that achieve significant reductions in emissions. Further, the bill authorizes \$1.14 billion for coal research and development. I fought hard for robust funding for coal within the fossil energy research and development budget and I was glad to see they were included in the final version.

Additionally, I authored two provisions which were retained in the final conference report and greatly benefit Southern Illinois. First, I secured \$75 million to create a program to develop advanced technologies to remove carbon dioxide from coal emissions and permanently sequester it below ground. Illinois is one of the leading states when it comes to research on carbon sequestration and Southern Illinois is listed as one of the prime spots for carbon sequestration, which is one of the technologies the FutureGen project is designed to use. Second, the bill authorizes the Clean Coal Centers of Excellence. Under this provision, the Secretary of Energy will award competitive, merit-based grants to universities that show the greatest potential for advancing new clean coal technologies. Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC), which I represent, continues to be a leader in clean coal technology research, doing extensive work at its Coal Research Center. With funding and collaborative support from industry and government, SIUC has conducted long-term projects relating to surface mine reclamation, coal subsidence, coal desulfurization, coal characterization and combustion, coal residue management and utilization, coal market modeling, and environmental policy. Faculty, staff, and students in fields as diverse as engineering, science, business, education, law, and agriculture have contributed to the University's international reputation in coal research. The past two energy conference reports named Southern Illinois University as a "Clean Coal Center of Excellence" and the school is well-positioned to be a potential recipient of the award again this year. It is a testament to SIUC's high caliber research program that it was also named as a university to study and commercially deploy transportation fuel technology using Illinois coal. Finally, I am pleased this legislation promotes clean fuels by providing tax incentives for clean coal technology. This will greater enhance our ability to use Illinois basin coal.

In addition to the clean coal provisions, the energy conference agreement contains provisions instrumental in helping increase conservation and lowering consumption. Included in this are ethanol provisions that are used as a replacement and additive for gasoline consumption. Illinois currently produces 800 million gallons of ethanol per year. Under this legislation, ethanol use would increase, nearly doubling the current production level. The renewable fuel standard (RFS) in the bill is expected to increase the average price of corn paid to farmers 6.6 percent, or 16 cents per bushel and increase average net cash income to farmers by \$3.3 billion over the next decade, or more than six percent. Increased production of ethanol will greatly benefit the agricultural industry in Southern Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, this energy bill will shape energy policy for the next decade and beyond. I

am glad coal and ethanol remain an integral part of our energy future and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SUPPORT EXTENDING THE CANCER CARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I praise my colleague Mr. HALL of Texas for introducing a resolution to get a sense of the Congress on the issue of extending the CMS quality of cancer care demonstration project. I recently authored a bipartisan letter to the President along with close to 100 of my colleagues, including Mr. HALL, asking the President to extend the demonstration project at the current \$300 million funding level.

I would like to note that extending the demonstration project is only treating the symptom and not curing the actual problem with the new Medicare payment system introduced this year. The old system overpaid for cancer drugs, which subsidized non-payment and under-payment of essential cancer care services provided by community cancer clinics. However, under the new system, which pays for drugs closer to market rates, certain essential services like treatment cancer planning are not paid for by Medicare.

I urge my colleagues in supporting the extension of the cancer care demonstration project and directing CMS to work with community cancer care on permanent solutions. We have to ensure the viability of our Nation's cancer care delivery system and America's access to quality, affordable, and accessible cancer treatment.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN TWOHEY OF SAINT HELENA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kevin Twohey from my hometown of Saint Helena, California, as he is honored with the 2005 Saint Helena Citizen of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, born in Ohio, Kevin joined our unique community more than 18 years ago. Since that time, Kevin has devoted his life to serving the people of Saint Helena. Kevin is not only a driven, hard working man who is not afraid to roll up his sleeves and get his hands dirty, but he is also selfless and has remained steadfast in his commitment to bettering our town.

Shortly after settling in California, Kevin, an avid and astute horticulturalist, purchased the locally owned Whiting's Nursery which has been a part of our community for nearly 60 years.

For the past 17 years, Kevin has served as a volunteer firefighter for the St. Helena Fire Department and has held the position of fire chief for 11 years. An integral and highly revered member of this team, Kevin has be-

come a mentor to his fellow firefighters, helping them and guiding them through fires and life. What Kevin enjoys most about volunteering is the camaraderie and the ability to positively affect people's lives every single day.

When not fighting fires or running the nursery, Kevin can be found at the Saint Helena public pool coaching the Waves, Saint Helena's Swim Team. Kevin is also a passionate fly fisherman and fitness guru.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure Kevin's wife, Margaret, and their daughter, Kathleen, are extremely proud of him. I believe I speak for Kevin's family, friends, and community when I say Kevin Twohey is an exemplary citizen and an inspiration to all of us. My fellow colleagues, it is appropriate that we take this time to thank and honor Kevin Twohey for his numerous, invaluable contributions to Saint Helena.

IN RECOGNITION OF H.R. 3199: USA PATRIOT ACT AND TERRORISM PREVENTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this measure which expands expiring provisions of the Patriot Act by granting unlimited investigative powers to our government. This bill gives the government broad powers to secretly collect personal information on medical, library and business and financial records of our Nation's citizens. Additionally, this legislation sunsets provisions that are not about combating terrorism or making us safer, but about intruding upon our privacy and infringing upon our civil liberties.

Mr. Chairman, there is no limit to these surveillance and intelligence powers once they are given to our government. There are no guarantees to the American people that our Nation will be more stable and secure by enforcing these policies, which allow the government to conduct secret searches of your home or office—the so-called sneak and peek warrant—for an indefinite period of time. Our country takes great pride in upholding the true values of our constitution and freedom. However, these provisions certainly contradict these beliefs and, more importantly, the checks and balances intended to safeguard our liberty.

We must understand that neither the original U.S. Patriot Act, nor this legislation, have been subject to the proper oversight. We have evidence that the repercussions of the original Patriot Act has led to abusive powers by this Administration. Since the September 11th attacks, our government has detained and verbally and physically abused thousands of immigrants, without time limits, for unknown and unspecified reasons, and targeted the Arab-American community for intensive interrogations and immigration screenings.

A clear example of this happened in my Congressional district at the Metropolitan Detention Center where 84 detainees were mistreated under the conditions of confinement. This mistreatment was reported and documented by the Department of Justice where it

has acknowledged the abuses which were documented by the Inspector General. I clearly recognize the outrage of terrorist attacks and the need to heighten our Nation's security—but not at the expense of undermining our freedom and our democratic values and ideals.

We have not been given the actual facts or had the time to accurately evaluate the ramifications of many of these provisions. Reauthorizing a bill which lacks oversights and expands provisions that violate the privacy of our citizens is undermining the American public's civil rights and misleading our Nation.

This bill fails to protect our Nation and, our civil liberties. It strikes the essence of our checks and balances, subjects individuals to repeated abuse and violates the confidentiality of our personal records. This is plain wrong. If we want to fight terrorism, let's do it the right way, by providing the adequate resources and funding to our homeland security and our local enforcement, by being consistent with our democracy and our true values and principles, I urge my colleagues to vote no on the underlying bill.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2361, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Senate passed amendment to the Interior Appropriations bill to include \$1.5 billion in emergency supplemental funding to the veterans budget.

However, this funding comes more than a month late. We had a chance to get this emergency spending to the people who need the funding before we left for the July Fourth recess.

After the budget shortfall was announced, both sides of the aisle in the Senate came together to take immediate action to address this issue. They passed a \$1.5 billion emergency funding amendment to immediately get the funds to the people who need it, our veterans, those who have defended this Nation against its enemies.

As we have seen by the slow movement of these badly needed funds, all Republicans do is talk, when it comes to a veteran in need.

The Republican Leadership in the House decided to sit on their hands and wait for President Bush to pull a number out of the air. That number was \$975 million.

However, it turns out that the Bush level was \$300 million short to fund veterans health.

This would be a good start to resolving the funding crisis in veterans healthcare, but I know this administration will continue to try to balance the budget on the backs of the men and women who have sacrificed to defend this great Nation of ours.

The Fiscal Year 2006 budget is short, and the FY 2007 budget is being calculated as we stand here.

Let this be the beginning of full funding for veterans healthcare, now and in the future.