

even without the \$30 million subsidy—would leach uranium from an aquifer that provides high-quality groundwater to municipal wells in and near these communities—an aquifer that is the sole source of drinking water for an estimated 15,000 Navajos. I thank the conferees for heeding the wishes of over 200 members of the House—as well as the Navajo Nation Council—to strip this provision from the bill.

The liability waiver for oil companies who used methyl tertiary-butyl ether, MTBE, which has contaminated 1,861 water systems serving 45 million Americans in 29 States, including New Mexico, was also changed in the final bill. I strongly opposed that provision, which would have placed the coffers of oil companies ahead of Americans whose lives have been adversely affected by this negligence.

Finally, one of my great concerns with the House-passed bill was a provision allowing drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). I am glad this provision was stripped in conference, and I will continue to oppose efforts by the oil industry to drill in ANWR. I have witnessed first-hand the tremendously diverse wildlife that will be hurt if drilling occurs in the area. The small benefits are simply not worth the cost.

I would like to commend my home State Senators—DOMENICI and BINGAMAN—who worked together in a very bipartisan manner to write this bill. I know it was a difficult task. I look forward to working with them and with their counterparts here in the House, to continue work on energy policy issues such as global warming, fuel efficiency standards, and further reducing our energy dependence.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Conference Report on H.R. 6. This comprehensive energy plan will help America become more energy self-sufficient, create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and spur innovation for accessing new energy sources.

Nearly every sector of our economy is affected by high energy prices. Manufacturing facilities, the transportation industry and agricultural businesses all depend on affordable and reliable supplies of electricity, fuel and fertilizers to thrive in today's international economy.

All Americans, directly and indirectly, pay for the price of products or services that depend on various forms of energy. No one is immune from rising energy costs, and I am pleased the House has taken the lead in passing this long-term energy plan to help address energy reliability, supply and prices.

The Conference Report provides tax incentives within five main categories to improve energy production, transportation and efficiency. This balanced approach helps ensure we are taking care of current energy needs while also planning for future demand.

If America wants an internationally competitive economy that can fully contend with emerging economic superpowers of the 21st

century, we must take actions now to reduce barriers to competitiveness. Having a secure and reliable source of energy is vital to keeping and creating high-quality, high-paying jobs in America. The provisions contained in this energy conference agreement are reliable options the private sector can use to make us more competitive.

Other countries have been more pro-active than we have in preparing for future energy needs. Brazil is projected to be completely energy self-sufficient within a few years. What once was considered an illusory dream may now become reality because Brazil recognized a problem and committed to a long-term solution. It may have taken them years to develop renewable energy sources, but Brazil is now a leader in ethanol production. As a result, its economy has been able to curb costs associated with higher crude oil prices.

H.R. 6 provides a renewable fuel standard that requires 7.5 billion gallons to be used annually by 2012. This provision will help increase our ethanol and biodiesel production at a time when alternatives to foreign oil are greatly needed. By ramping up the production of alternative fuel sources, we are going to take positive steps toward more secure and reliable means of meeting our energy demands into the 21st century.

Kansas' agriculture economy will also reap the benefits of increased uses for crops. We are learning more and more that today's farmers not only put food on our tables but they also play an important role in reducing emissions and helping us become less dependent on Middle East oil for our fuel needs. By expanding markets for agriculture commodities, producers and rural communities will see new sources of revenue.

Another conservation provision in the energy bill is the 4-week extension of Daylight Savings Time. By simply extending Daylight Savings Time 3 weeks in the spring and 1 week in the fall, we will reduce energy consumption equal to about 100,000 barrels of oil per day for four weeks. This energy saving time provision will also contribute to lower crime and fewer traffic fatalities.

As we look toward the future, we also need to be realistic about current energy demands. That is why the energy bill helps oil and gas producers increase domestic production, expand distribution capabilities and increase refining capacity. H.R. 6 provides \$2.6 billion in tax incentives to accomplish these goals. Currently, small refiners are eligible for percentage depletion deductions if their refinery runs do not exceed 50,000 barrels on any day of the year. The energy bill increases that barrel limit to 75,000 barrels, which will encourage greater production by America's smaller refiners.

The energy Conference agreement contains just over \$3 billion in tax incentives that will bolster our electricity infrastructure. Measures such as reducing the depreciation period for assets used in the transmission and distribution of electricity from 20 years to 15 years will encourage more upgrades to the system. And tax credits, such as the one for new nuclear power facilities, will help investors and utilities take risks needed to create clean, reliable sources of electricity.

Three separate tax credits were established for investments in clean coal facilities that produce electricity, and power plants will be able to amortize the cost of air pollution con-

trol facilities over 84 months. These incentives help energy producers meet stringent air quality standards. By rewarding power plants that accelerate implementation of pollution controls, we are helping create a cleaner environment.

Kansas is known for many wonderful things; one trait not so popular is our abundant source of wind. But as we find better ways to harness this natural Kansas resource, Kansas' abundant supply of wind may prove invaluable. The energy bill contains numerous tax incentives aimed at helping expand alternative sources of energy such as wind. Many Kansas landowners have also expressed strong support for expanded use of wind energy. Small wind farms can provide increases in the local tax base while creating additional revenue for the landowners.

Hydrogen fuel cell technology continues to improve, and I am pleased the final energy bill included many options for integration of this emerging technology into the marketplace. I am hopeful we will see more and more public marketplace uses for hydrogen fuel cells. The fuel cell provisions in H.R. 6 help take us in that direction.

This is a good plan that House Republicans and the Bush Administration have been working on non-stop for more than 4 years. I am very pleased we are finally successful in sending a national energy plan to the President's desk.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Conference Report to H.R. 6, the so-called comprehensive energy bill before us today. I urge my colleagues to vote against this legislation, which represents bad energy policy, bad environmental policy, bad fiscal policy, and bad nonproliferation policy.

H.R. 6 does nothing to address the issue of America's continuing dependency on imported oil. It does nothing to require more fuel efficient vehicles. It does nothing to reduce pump prices now or in the future, but it does shower wealthy oil and natural gas companies with unneeded tax breaks, royalty-free drilling on public lands, and exemptions from environmental laws.

We can and must do better if we are to seriously address the energy needs of our Nation. We should strike a sound policy balance by pursuing improvements in fuel technology and energy efficiency, maintaining a clean environment, and preserving our wilderness areas and public lands.

Frankly, this bill is an embarrassment—after six years of discussion and negotiation, the best we have to offer is a bill that in effect preserves the status quo? Instead of providing forward-looking policy ideas for a sound energy future, H.R. 6 is content to drive us into the future by looking through the rearview mirror with its heavily weighted dependence on fossil fuels.

Mr. Speaker, the majority of subsidies in H.R. 6 go to the oil, gas, coal and nuclear industries, leading to more pollution, more oil

drilling and more radioactive-waste-producing nuclear power.

By contrast, only a small percentage of the tax breaks would go to energy efficiency and renewable energy incentives that could actually save consumers money and reduce our dependence on dirty energy sources.

By refusing to commit to improving and investing in sustainable fuel technology, we are putting our technology and manufacturing industries at a competitive disadvantage at a time when the rest of the planet is searching for alternatives to fossil fuels.

American consumers are being squeezed at the pump while the big oil companies are reaping record profits and the Republican Leadership is passing an energy bill that will further raise gas prices.

How in good faith can we go back to our constituents with a national energy policy that does not address the future, does not address short term fixes or long term solutions?

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation so we can develop a comprehensive energy policy that looks to the future and doesn't rely on repackaged out-dated technologies from the past.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, the Energy Policy Act that the House passed yesterday includes a commitment by Congress to make a significant investment for research and development into renewable and alternative sources of energy. As demand for clean and reliable energy increases, it is imperative that America's young people be introduced and educated in conservation and alternative energy. To decrease foreign dependence, we must increase our knowledge and ability to foster our own forms of energy. With that in mind, it is with great pleasure that I inform this body of some recent educational achievements in alternative energy sources.

The Dell-Winston Solar Challenge is an educational competition among high school teams from across our Nation using solar powered cars. The competition began ten years ago at the Winston School in Dallas, Texas, to promote science and engineering to high school students. This unique competition has grown significantly since its inception. Technology and Learning magazine has named this Solar Race Challenge as one of the 10 Most Innovative Projects in Education.

In an effort to produce a competitive solar-powered vehicle, teams spent up to eighteen months designing and building the sun-fueled racers. The nine teams crossed the finish line at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, after an eight-day race that began in Round Rock, Texas. The 1600-mile competition concluded this year as the winning team set a new race record with a top speed of 57 miles per hour. I am immensely proud that the winner of this race is located in my district, from the city of Houston, Mississippi.

This race team from a town with about 4,000 people consistently dominates the com-

petition from much larger cities and schools. This remarkable team from the Houston Vocational Center is under the guidance of adviser and race coach Keith Reese. The team includes: captain Katie Weaver and members Tyler Davis, Austin Jordan, Stefanie Barkley, Brister Bishop, Matt Jernigan, David Peel, Leign Anna Springer, Mason Faulkner, Quinton Grice, Callie Weaver, Katie Weaver, Jesse Lal, Roderick Wiley, and Andrea Westmoreland. I am proud of each one these individuals. Their hard work and dedication is evident in the finished product.

The winning tradition of this team includes more than the aforementioned teachers and students. This project has grown into a community event. Support from the City of Houston is as consistent as the team's success. It is evident that these constituents have recognized the positive impact projects like these provide.

Year after year dedicated students and teachers build and race these advanced solar powered machines. This year marks the fifth consecutive time the Houston Race Team has won the coveted title. To quote Bubba Weir, the Executive Director of The Mississippi Alternative Energy Enterprise, "The Program integrates classroom principles in a real-life situation that fosters learning and encourages the students to work to the best of their ability."

This team brings much more than a trophy back to Mississippi; they bring a renewed emphasis and excitement to the fields of science and energy research. As the number of students studying math and science decreases nationwide, programs such as these pay dividends in increased interest in these fields. Dr. Lehman Marks, the founder and director of the Dell-Winston Race described it as "A Challenge that helps teach high school students the 21st century skills they need to be successful in the future, whether it's to become the scientists and engineers of tomorrow or wherever their paths may lead."

I am encouraged when I see future leaders taking the initiative to compete and excel in this demanding contest. Programs like this demonstrate the importance of implementing new education techniques. Projects outside the classroom environment generate learning that enhances knowledge students receive from traditional instruction. The challenges in the fields of math and science are changing, and I am proud that Mississippi's educators are training students to meet these challenges head on.

The success of the Houston solar race team has spread statewide, and many other Mississippi schools are beginning to experiment in alternative energy education programs. It is good to see young Mississippians leading the way through these innovative projects. Congratulations to the Houston Solar Race Team for an extraordinary performance and a job well done. The city of Houston, Chickasaw County, the entire State of Mississippi, and the United States of America are very proud of you.

THE WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL
2005 MATH, ENGINEERING, AND
SCIENCE ACHIEVEMENT
COMPETITION

HON. RAUL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the winners of the national 2005 Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement Competition held in Anaheim, California.

Johnnie Gasper, Rosie Mankel, Esther Blue, and Darryl Davis-Rosas, from Tucson, Arizona's Pueblo High Magnet School took first place at the national competition.

The Math, Engineering, Science Achievement Competition, otherwise known as MESA, is a college preparation program founded in 1970 and launched in Arizona in 1983. Students from middle and high schools throughout southern Arizona participate in hands-on activities related to math, engineering, and science and college preparation workshops.

Over 60 schools in Arizona participate in MESA. A total of eight States competed in the competition—California, Colorado, Maryland, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

These Pueblo High students were challenged to build a vehicle out of a mousetrap that could drive 10 meters, up a 30 degree incline, and stop accurately after traveling another five meters. The students had trouble with the original vehicle design, which tested their commitment and determination. Johnnie, Rosie, Esther and Darryl redesigned and built a new vehicle that led them to success. The competition also required them to write a 15-page essay and complete an academic presentation on their work. The students received high marks on all parts of the competition.

I would like to commend these young men and women for their incredible accomplishments in math and science; and to recognize the faculty of Pueblo High School for their guidance of these fine students. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring them today.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL
AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disappointed that this House approved the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement last evening. As I listened to my colleagues who voted for this bill, I could not help but wonder if we were voting on the same piece of legislation.

Contrary to what many of my colleagues have said, the CAFTA will not help American workers and will not save American jobs. Also, our exports to DR-CAFTA countries are already at full capacity for what those countries can consume. Therefore, talk of spurring U.S. exports to the region is empty rhetoric designed to deceive the uninformed person. Instead, DR-CAFTA will increase off-shore production and services and will continue to