

and Maria; and a true friend to all he encountered. John, may you forever rest in God's infinite love until, one day, the rest of us Flying Squirrels sneak our way into Heaven's basement to disturb your peace for a moment and "Kick out the Jams."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning John Noxakis' passing; extend our deepest sorrow to all he loved and all who loved him; and commemorate his lifetime of bringing joy to his fellow human beings.

TAX AND SPEND

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, it has only taken seven months, but this new Democrat majority has brought back Washington's favorite pastime—tax and spend.

In their short time in the majority, Democrats have all but openly pledged to raise taxes on the American people by an incredible \$392 billion. That's on top of \$23 billion in new domestic spending. This is real money. It comes from the wallets of American families. Unfortunately, Democrats believe they know better how to spend the hard-earned money of America's workers than the workers themselves.

Republicans are working to restore fiscal sanity to this Congress. We have staunchly opposed the out-of-control spending, and brought some much needed sunshine to earmarks. When taxpayer dollars are being spent, we owe it to each and every American to create transparency and accountability. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring our duty to the American people to remain good stewards of their hard-earned money.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MRS. EVELEEN G. LATHAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire state of Alabama lost a dear friend and educator, and I rise today to honor her and pay tribute to her memory. Eveleen G. Lathan was a devoted teacher and dedicated school administrator whose diligence and guidance greatly impacted the lives of countless students in the Mobile area.

In 1960, Mrs. Lathan began her career in the Mobile County public school system, a dedicated legacy of service that would span over thirty-five years. Mrs. Lathan was a devoted elementary school teacher for over nine years before being named principal at Dauphin Island Elementary. Later, she also served as the head administrator at E.R. Dickson Elementary.

Perhaps her greatest commitment to the education of the children of Mobile, though, is evident in her twenty-five-year service as the

principal at Nan Gray Davis Elementary School. While principal there, she improved the standard of education and instruction tremendously, as well as setting an excellent example for administrators and teachers alike.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated educator and friend to many throughout south Alabama. She will be deeply missed by those who knew her. Mrs. Lathan, whose husband Delvin Lathan preceded her in death, is survived by her three sons, Jerry Lathan, Charles T. Lathan, and Joseph M. Lathan; four grandchildren, Brittany Lathan, Adam Lathan, Charles D. Lathan, and Zachary Lathan; and nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

May her family know that they are in the thoughts and prayers of all who loved and appreciated Mrs. Lathan and her many contributions to our community.

H.R. 3221, THE NEW DIRECTION FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT AND H.R. 2776, THE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this energy package because the energy policies we adopt over the next 5 years will determine the future of life on our planet.

For too long, our energy policies have moved us in the wrong direction. Although we briefly made some progress in the mid-1980s because of increases in fuel economy standards, overall oil consumption has increased by nearly 4 million barrels per day since the mid-1970s. In that time, oil imports have also increased from approximately 40 percent to 60 percent. That dependence is putting our economic leadership and national security in peril according to top business leaders and national security experts.

The threat of global climate change has also grown and threatens to fundamentally change the global landscape. The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has given us a clear picture of the role that human activities, particularly our energy consumption, play in global warming, and it has projected severe impacts for our planet and our way of life.

Dr. James Hansen, NASA's renowned climate expert, now warns that we have less than a decade to start making significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions if we're going to avert the most severe impacts of global climate change.

Top businesses, including the Big Three U.S. automakers, have also agreed that we must reduce greenhouse emissions in the U.S. by 60 percent to 80 percent by 2050.

Just as important, there are 2 billion people living in the developing world, including China and India, who do not have access to reliable sources of energy. They are striving to secure reliable energy and to achieve the prosperity we enjoy.

These factors represent both a challenge and an opportunity for our country and the world.

Silicon Valley, which is in my Congressional district, has reinvented itself time and again to anticipate the next economic challenge and opportunity. Today, the Valley is focused on energy, investing billions in new technologies and start-ups.

It's time for Congress to recognize and respond to these facts by taking a new approach on energy policy, and that is what this bill does.

Instead of addressing issues of supply and demand and promoting dinosaur-age technology, we are fixed on achieving two goals: becoming energy independent and addressing the threat of global warming.

This legislation is not the end of our efforts; it is the first step in meeting these goals. It is signal legislation.

The bill cuts \$16 billion in incentives for the oil and gas industry and invests it in renewable energy and efficiency. This includes eliminating the so-called Hummer tax loophole which gives a \$25,000 tax deduction for the purchase of SUVs weighing more than 6,000 pounds. I introduced the first legislation in the House to close this loophole in 2003. By taking this step alone, we will save nearly \$800 million that will be invested in consumer tax incentives to promote solar energy and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

The bill also raises 43 efficiency standards for appliances and buildings. Once fully implemented, the bill will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 10 billion tons. That is more than the emissions of all the cars on the road today. Included in this effort is a provision I proposed to improve the efficiency of computer data centers—the facilities that are the backbone of our information economy.

I believe we can and should do more.

First, we should do as California and many other States have done: Adopt a national renewable electricity standard (RES) and I will vote for the RES amendment that will require 15 percent of our electricity to come from renewable resources.

Second, we need to address the fuel economy of our automobile fleet. Although this is not part of our debate today, I look forward to addressing it as we take up additional energy legislation in the fall.

Madam Speaker, we have a long way to go toward fully addressing global warming and energy independence. This energy package represents an important first step and I urge my colleagues to support it.

HONORING RAY ADKINS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ray Adkins, a remarkable man with a long history of service to his country. Mr. Adkins, a resident of Harned, Kentucky, has spent the majority of his life serving his country and helping his fellow Veterans.

A Vietnam veteran, Ray Adkins had a distinguished 20-year military career. While serving, Ray was always willing to lend a hand to his fellow soldiers. He and his wife Rosemarie always let new military families stay in their home and assisted them until they got back on their feet.

Mr. Adkins' service did not stop once he retired from the military. He has dedicated his life to assisting veterans in Kentucky. Ray has a veterans ministry at Corinth Baptist Church in McQuady, Kentucky. Also, he is an adjutant in the American Legion Post #1 in Hardinsburg, Kentucky. Ray has been working tirelessly to get a building for his American Legion Post.

It is my privilege to honor Ray Adkins today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for his service to our country and to his fellow Kentucky veterans. I admire his endless dedication to helping veterans in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3221 AND H.R.
2776

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the House Energy Package. And I would like to commend the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Ways and Means Committee for putting together a strong package that will set our Nation on the path

for a more reliable and efficient energy policy. I would also like to thank Chairman DINGELL and Chairman RANGEL for including my bill, H.R. 2505, The E-85 PUMP Act as part of this important legislation.

We all recognize that the path to energy independence will require a number of alternative energy solutions—and ethanol has an important role to play in achieving this goal.

In Indiana's Second District, we have been blessed with the resources to serve as a center for the production of a new generation of ethanol and other bio-fuels. And I am committed to making sure Midwest farmers are an integral part of our Nation's energy strategy.

However, as ethanol production continues to reach record levels, only 1 percent of America's approximately 168,000 gas stations offer E-85 gasoline. That is only one E-85 pump for every 6,000 vehicles on the road.

While there are several reasons why ethanol has yet to fully mature on the market, a significant factor is that many big oil companies use a number of strategies to make it difficult for franchised gas stations to offer E-85.

For example, standard contracts issued by many large oil companies require franchisees to purchase fuel directly from their distributors. Since these distributors do not offer E-85, gas stations are unable to offer an alternative fuel. Other companies prohibit franchisees from

selling E-85 under the main canopy, require E-85 to be displayed on separate signs, and prohibit franchisees from accepting franchise credit cards for the purchase of E-85.

These tactics not only limit consumer choice, but also reinforce our dependence on foreign oil.

My provision would prohibit an oil company from restricting the right of a franchisee to install E-85 pumps or sell or advertise E-85 fuel. In addition, it would also expand the Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Tax Credit to allow gas station owners to claim a credit on 50 percent of the costs associated with installing or converting equipment to sell E-85 up to \$50,000. In short, this bill will provide tax incentives for gas station owners who want to—and should—do the right thing.

These important changes will not only improve consumer access to alternative fuels, but will also make it easier for local businessmen and women to invest in our energy security, environment, and our communities.

Alternative energy sources, like E-85, are critical for ending our dependence on foreign oil, reducing the impact of climate change, and creating jobs across this country. And I greatly appreciate the Committee's inclusion of my E-85 PUMP Act in today's legislation.