

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Chairman, I would yield to the desires of our ranking member on the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, the underlying bill of that amendment offers us clear choices on the environment. It lays before us the kind of choices, the kind of development we should support. My Republican colleagues and I believe that we should support and expand our domestic energy supply.

This picture is a picture of American energy. This offshore rig produces between 100,000 and 150,000 barrels of oil a day from America's Outer Continental Shelf. The production is clean, with a limited impact on the surrounding ocean. The impact it has caused the creation of a new column of ocean life on the legs of the platform.

During Katrina, these did not spill one drop of oil, not one drop, in one of the worst hurricanes in American history. I believe that this clean development is what we should produce more of. That is why I am going to vote for this bill.

Many of our friends see life differently. They are going to say that this is not the way to produce. To quote my friend from New York, "Let us import as much energy as we possibly can."

Now, I have traveled overseas and I have looked at oil production overseas. When they say, let's import as much as we can, some of that production comes from places like this, with absolutely no environmental standards. And we are going to export our problems, export the environmental contamination from this country to others, all in the guise of making ourselves energy independent.

Many in the majority of Congress is going to vote today, and I would recommend that we very carefully think about the problems that we are going to export and think about that tremendous energy industry that has developed here and is a model for the rest of the world.

I thank the ranking member for yielding time and thank the chairman, and appreciate the opportunity to speak.

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Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER) assumed the chair.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly en-

rolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2272. An act to invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

#### NEW DIRECTION FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

The Committee resumed its sitting.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. CASTLE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 15 printed in part B of House Report 110-300.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 15 offered by Mr. CASTLE:  
In title VII, at the end of subtitle F add the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . REPORT ON STATUS OF REGULATIONS WITH RESPECT TO WIND ENERGY PROJECTS.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Minerals Management Service, shall submit a report to Congress on the status of regulations required to be issued under section 8(p)(8) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(p)(8)) with respect to the production of wind energy on the Outer Continental Shelf.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 615, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to join my colleague, Mr. DELAHUNT, in offering this amendment today.

The 2005 energy law required Minerals Management Service, MMS, under the Department of the Interior, to develop regulations for offshore wind development within 270 days. It is now 6 months past the deadline, and it appears we will keep waiting. The delay causes regulatory uncertainty and potential setbacks for pursuing the development of this renewable energy source.

Our amendment to H.R. 3221 would require MMS to report to Congress within 30 days on the status of these regulations. We need to know the reason for the delay and what can be done to move things along so communities wishing to invest in this clean, renewable technology can move forward. This is of critical importance to the State of Delaware, which has not only agreed to produce 20 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020 but has made a strong commitment to

offshore wind resources as a component of its energy portfolio.

Wind power is one of the fastest-growing sources of energy and contributes economically and environmentally to America's energy future. Electricity from wind is inflation proof and is not subject to the price volatility of traditional sources. With growing concern over climate change, wind power offers emission-free energy that will diversify our energy supply domestically, while easing demand for polluting and imported fossil fuels.

For Delaware and many other coastal States, our best wind resource lies not inland but just off our shores. I look forward to learning from and working with the various agencies to make sure our renewable energy resources are developed in a timely and environmentally friendly manner so States like Delaware that have signaled it is time to move forward can do so.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition to the amendment simply to ask some questions, though I will not be in opposition at the end.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gracious gentleman from Texas for yielding.

I rise to support this amendment.

As the gentleman from Delaware indicated, 2 years ago Congress authorized the development of renewable energy from wind and wave and tidal sources in Federal waters, and the Department of the Interior was instructed to establish a program in a uniform set of standards. This initiative was based on the successful example of European countries that are now developing thousands of megawatts of clean, renewable energy from their coastal waters.

In Germany, the United Kingdom and Spain, efforts are well under way to identify offshore renewable energy sites with clear standards to protect the environment, wildlife and mariners and to provide companies with a set of guidelines to develop these areas.

With respect to offshore wind energy, Germany has already zoned much of the North Sea to tap into 25,000 megawatts of energy in the next 20 years. Most of these projects are in deep water, far offshore, and using technologies that create thousands of jobs.

Here in the United States, our coastal waters have the potential to generate close to 900,000 megawatts of energy, and much of this is also in deep water. That is an amount that is close to today's electric capacity for the entire Nation. We have the technology, the capital, and the skilled labor to develop a significant amount of this energy. We could become the Saudi Arabia of wind.

However, what we lack is the Interior Department's program. After 2 years, we don't even have a draft set of guidelines.

There are reports that the Interior Department in this initiative is underfunded, that the studies we have called for have not been done, and that the dedicated staff is overworked. We need to step in now and do what we can to help this effort succeed.

This amendment will help accomplish that goal. I commend my friend and colleague from Delaware, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I yield to the gentleman for questions he may have.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I just want to ask the two authors a few questions.

Is there anything in this amendment that might have the unintended effect of slowing the process down even further of getting these regulations in place?

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Chairman, if there is anything in this amendment that I thought would slow down that process further, I would pull the amendment in a minute.

The whole idea of this amendment is to compel them to look at what they are doing, give us a report, and move forward with it. It is in no way intended, directly or indirectly, to slow anything down. It is an effort to get it done. I think we both strongly believe in the wind energy circumstance.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Is there anything in the amendment that could be construed to be a roadblock for any specific existing project that has not yet been permitted?

Mr. CASTLE. To the best of my knowledge, absolutely not. We have made the amendment very plain, very clear, so there could not be a roadblock and could not be a slow-down circumstance.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, with that understanding, I support the amendment.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CASTLE. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Delaware for yielding, and I want to commend him as well as the gentleman from Massachusetts for bringing this matter before the House.

I think it is appropriate to move along the process of having regulations issued with regard to offshore wind energy, and we support this amendment and would urge its adoption.

Mr. CASTLE. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Virginia; and I appreciate his support as well. I very much appreciate the support of the gentleman from Massachusetts, who has been very involved with this.

I encourage support of the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. WU

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 16 printed in part B of House Report 110-300.

Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 16 offered by Mr. WU:

In subtitle E of title IV, add at the end the following new section:

**SEC. 4417. UNIVERSITY BASED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a competitive grant program, in a geographically diverse manner, for projects submitted for consideration by institutions of higher education to conduct research and development of renewable energy technologies. Each grant made shall not exceed \$2,000,000.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—Priority shall be given to institutions of higher education with—

- (1) established programs of research in renewable energy;
- (2) locations that are low income or outside of an urbanized area;
- (3) a joint venture with an Indian tribe; and
- (4) proximity to trees dying of disease or insect infestation as a source of woody biomass.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$25,000,000 for carrying out this section.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "Indian tribe" has the meaning as defined in section 126(c) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

(2) INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term "institutions of higher education" has the meaning as defined in section 102(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

(3) RENEWABLE ENERGY.—The term "renewable energy" has the meaning as defined in section 902 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

(4) URBANIZED AREA.—The term "urbanized area" has the mean as defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Amend the table of contents accordingly.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 615, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I offer an amendment to invest further in renewable energy by creating a university based research program for biomass energy research. The amendment authorizes funds for competitive grants to support research at institutions of higher education to use trees killed by disease or insect infestation for biomass energy.

Priority will be given to research institutions in low-income or rural communities, those that already conduct research in this field, institutions which can enter joint ventures with Indian tribes and those institutions lo-

cated near forests killed by massive disease or insect infestation.

Mr. Chairman, we must capitalize on America's universities for research and renewable energy. My amendment will harness universities as a resource to advance our renewable energy portfolio.

The amendment also ensures grants will be distributed throughout the United States. If fully funded, at least a dozen universities could be selected from the pool of university applicants.

In the Pacific Northwest, the unfortunate incidence of disease and insect infestation in our forests can be mitigated by turning dead trees into renewable energy. By targeting universities in rural and low-income communities, we create needed jobs and help develop those jobs in communities which frequently have felt neglected in our pursuit of pro-environmental causes.

Dead trees can be an opportunity to create clean, renewable energy, generate jobs and protect our healthy forests by using our dead and dying ones for biomass energy. I urge my colleagues to support this research program.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I have more problems with the amendment than I do with the author, and maybe the author and I can talk here and then get together and work some things out.

Actually, my problems with it is that we are told that it amends the biofuels subtitle and creates a university based research and development competitive grant program in a geographically diverse manner. That's a pretty long sentence there for me to try to figure out exactly what it means. But as I go down through it and see, in awarding the grants, it says that "priority should be given to institutions of higher education with all of the following." I want to point out these "following," and I know that the author is probably going to be able to explain them to me.

But I remember one time in the Texas Senate when we had a man stand up and he was trying to pass a bill as to where all the voting machines had to be constructed, and they all had to be constructed in a county in Texas, and he described the county as being in excess of 20,000 but not in excess of 20,003, and his county had 20,002 in it.

Now, I don't know if your labeling of these narrows it down to one institution or two institutions. I know there aren't any in Texas, because we don't have any Indians in Texas. But could you give me a little explanation on that?

Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HALL of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, there are at least several institutions that I know of in the Pacific Northwest that would qualify; and I suspect that if a fine research institution in Texas were to team up, say, with an Indian tribe in New Mexico or Oklahoma, I am sure that many institutions in Texas would also qualify under these criteria.

I would further like to point out that, unlike other grant programs which specify a handful of States which are to be given priority, this amendment does not do that. It is designed to be open to schools from all 50 States.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Do you mind if I just lay out what is in the bill? It says it has to be an established program of research and renewable energy. That's fine.

Locations that are low income or outside of an urbanized area, I guess that's okay.

A joint venture with an Indian tribe, that's where you start to lose me.

In proximity to trees dying of disease or insect infestation as a source of woody biomass, that one really does get to me. I just don't know how much biomass is adjacent to any of the universities, particularly any of the universities in my area, certainly not in my district.

And the amendment authorizes \$25 million with no fiscal year designation. And a little bit further, it is unclear from the all-inclusive list of how many colleges and universities would be eligible to receive these grants under this section.

If you could just explain a few of those and tell me you would work with me before we get to the front gate, I would be glad to listen.

Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HALL of Texas. I do yield, sir.

Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, it is my recollection that Lyndon Johnson paid a great deal of attention to trees in Texas and their positive and detrimental nature at times. It has come to my attention, through my public and private activities in the Pacific Northwest, that we have a tremendous number of trees, some of which are dying of disease and insect infestation, and those trees become a threat to our healthy forests.

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It was the intent of this author to try to have a win-win by generating energy from dead and dying trees which are otherwise a threat to the healthy forests which remain.

Mr. HALL of Texas. The amendment, while in the biofuels subtitle, does not direct colleges and universities to conduct research and development into biofuels specifically. Is that right?

Mr. WU. If the gentleman would yield.

Mr. HALL of Texas. If the gentleman will work with me from this point forward, we will withdraw our opposition to it, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. WU. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WU. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MS. GIFFORDS

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 17 printed in part B of House Report 110-300.

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 17 offered by Ms. GIFFORDS:

In subtitle D of title IV, before section 4301, insert the following:

**PART 1—RESEARCH AND ADVANCEMENT**

In section 4302, strike "subtitle" and insert "part".

At the end of subtitle D of title IV, add the following new part:

**PART 2—DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF SOLAR ENERGY PRODUCTS**

**SEC. 4311. DEFINITIONS.**

For purposes of this part:

(1) The term "Board" means the Solar Energy Industries Research and Promotion Board established under section 4312(b)(1).

(2) The term "Committee" means the Solar Energy Research and Promotion Operating Committee established under section 4312(b)(4).

(3) The term "Department" means the Department of Energy.

(4) The term "importer" means any person who imports solar energy products from outside the United States.

(5) The term "order" means a solar energy product research and promotion order issued under section 4312.

(6) The term "promotion" means any action to advance the image and desirability of solar energy products with the express intent of improving the competitive position and stimulating sales of solar energy products in the marketplace.

(7) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Energy.

(8) The term "solar energy products" means solar water heating components and systems and photovoltaic components and systems.

**SEC. 4312. SOLAR RESEARCH AND INFORMATION PROGRAM.**

(a) ISSUANCE OF ORDERS.—

(1) PROPOSED ORDER.—Not later than 30 days after receipt of a proposal for a solar energy product research and promotion order, the Secretary shall publish such proposed order and give due notice and opportunity for public comment on such proposed order. Such proposal may be submitted by any organization meeting the requirements for certification under section 4313 or any interested person, including the Secretary.

(2) FINAL ORDER.—After notice and opportunity for public comment are given, as provided for in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall issue a solar energy product research and promotion order. The order shall become effective not later than 120 days after publication of the proposed order.

(b) REQUIRED TERMS IN ORDERS.—An order issued under subsection (a) shall contain the following terms and conditions:

(1) The order shall provide for the establishment and selection of a Solar Energy Industries Research and Promotion Board. In addition to nonpermanent members of the Board, there shall be two permanent members of the Board, a representative chosen by the Secretary and a representative chosen by one of the organizations certified under section 4313. Nonpermanent members of the Board shall be solar energy products producers and importers appointed by the Secretary from—

(A) nominations submitted by eligible organizations certified under section 4313; and

(B) nominations submitted by importers under such procedures as the Secretary determines appropriate.

The Secretary shall ensure adequate representation of all geographic regions of the United States on the Board.

(2) The order shall define the powers and duties of the Board, which shall be exercised at an annual meeting, and shall include only the following powers:

(A) To administer the order in accordance with its terms and provisions.

(B) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of the order.

(C) To elect members of the Board to serve on the Committee.

(D) To approve or disapprove budgets submitted by the Committee.

(E) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of the order.

(F) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to the order. In addition, the order shall determine the circumstances under which special meetings of the Board may be held.

(3) The order shall provide that the term of appointment for nonpermanent members of the Board shall be 3 years with no nonpermanent member serving more than 2 consecutive terms, except that initial appointments shall be proportionately for 1-year, 2-year, and 3-year terms; and that Board members shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses incurred in performing their duties as members of the Board.

(4)(A) The order shall provide that the Board shall elect from its membership 10 members to serve on the Solar Energy Research and Promotion Operating Committee.

(B) The Committee shall develop plans or projects of research, information, and promotion which shall be paid for with assessments collected by the Board. In developing plans or projects, the Committee shall, to the extent practicable, ensure that all segments of the solar industry receive fair treatment under this part based upon contributions made under paragraph (8).

(C) The Committee shall be responsible for developing and submitting to the Board, for its approval, budgets on a fiscal year basis of its anticipated expenses and disbursements, including probable costs of research, promotion, and information projects. The Board shall approve or disapprove such budgets and, if approved, shall submit such budget to the Secretary for the Secretary's approval.

(D) The total costs of collection of assessments and administrative staff incurred by the Board during any fiscal year shall not exceed 5 percent of the projected total assessments to be collected by the Board for such fiscal year. The Board shall use, to the extent possible, the resources, staffs, and facilities of existing organizations.

(5) The order shall provide that terms of appointment to the Committee shall be 1 year, and that no person may serve on the Committee for more than 6 consecutive terms. Committee members shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed

for their reasonable expenses incurred in performing their duties as members of the Committee. The Committee may utilize the resources, staffs, and facilities of the Board and industry organizations. An employee of an industry organization may not receive compensation for work performed for the Committee, but shall be reimbursed from assessments collected by the Board for reasonable expenses incurred in performing such work.

(6) The order shall provide that, to ensure coordination and efficient use of funds, the Committee shall enter into contracts or agreements for implementing and carrying out the activities authorized by this part with established national nonprofit industry-governed organizations to implement programs of research, promotion, and information. In any fiscal year, the total assessments available for spending for this program (including administrative expenses under paragraph (4)(D)) shall not exceed 50 percent of the projected total assessments for that year. Any such contract or agreement shall provide that—

(A) the person entering the contract or agreement shall develop and submit to the Committee a plan or project together with a budget or budgets that shows estimated costs to be incurred for the plan or project;

(B) the plan or project shall become effective on the approval of the Secretary; and

(C) the person entering the contract or agreement shall keep accurate records of all of its transactions, account for funds received and expended, and make periodic reports to the Committee of activities conducted, and such other reports as the Secretary, the Board, or the Committee may require.

(7) The order shall require the Board and the Committee to—

(A) maintain such books and records, which shall be available to the Secretary for inspection and audit, as the Secretary may prescribe;

(B) prepare and submit to the Secretary, from time to time, such reports as the Secretary may prescribe; and

(C) account for the receipt and disbursement of all funds entrusted to them.

(8)(A) The order shall provide that each manufacturer of a solar energy product shall collect an assessment and pay the assessment to the Board.

(B) The order also shall provide that each importer of solar energy products shall pay an assessment, in the manner prescribed by the order, to the Board.

(C) The assessments shall be used for payment of the costs of plans and projects, as provided for in paragraph (4), and expenses in administering the order, including more administrative costs incurred by the Secretary after the order has been promulgated under this part, and to establish a reasonable reserve. The rate of assessment prescribed by the order shall be determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Solar Energy Industry Association.

(9) The order shall provide that the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may invest, pending disbursement, funds collected through assessments only in obligations of the United States or any agency thereof, in any interest-bearing account or certificate of deposit of a bank that is a member of the Federal Reserve System, or in obligations fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States.

(10) The order shall prohibit any funds collected by the Board under the order from being used in any manner for the purpose of influencing governmental action or policy, with the exception of recommending amendments to the order.

(11)(A) The order shall require that each manufacturer or importer making payment to the Board maintain and make available for inspection such books and records as may be required by the order and file reports at the time, in the manner, and having the content prescribed by the order. Such information shall be made available to the Secretary as is appropriate to the administration or enforcement of this part. All information so obtained shall be kept confidential by all officers and employees of the Department, and only such information so obtained as the Secretary deems relevant may be disclosed by them and then only in a suit or administrative hearing brought at the request of the Secretary, or to which the Secretary or any officer of the United States is a party, and involving the order. Nothing in this paragraph may be deemed to prohibit—

(i) the issuance of general statements, based on the reports, of the number of entities subject to the order or statistical data collected therefrom, which statements do not identify the information furnished by an person; or

(ii) the publication, by direction of the Secretary, of the name of any person violating the order, together with a statement of the particular provisions of the order violated by the person.

(B) No information obtained under the authority of this part may be made available to any agency or officer of the United States for any purpose other than the implementation of this part and any investigatory or enforcement act necessary for the implementation of this part. Any person violating the provisions of this paragraph shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000, or to imprisonment for not more than one year, or both, and if an officer or employee of the Board or the Department, shall be removed from office.

(12) The order shall contain terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this part, as necessary to effectuate the provisions of the order.

#### SEC. 4313. CERTIFICATION OF ORGANIZATIONS TO NOMINATE.

(a) ELIGIBILITY.—The eligibility of any national, regional, or State organization to represent manufacturers and to participate in the making of nominations under section 4312(b) shall be certified by the Secretary. The Secretary shall certify any organization that the Secretary determines meets the eligibility criteria established under subsection (b), and such determination as to eligibility shall be final.

(b) CRITERIA.—An organization may be certified as described in subsection (a) if such organization meets all of the following eligibility criteria:

(1) The organization represents a majority of manufacturers of solar energy products in the Nation.

(2) The organization has a history of stability and permanency.

(3) A primary purpose of the organization is to promote the economic welfare of the solar energy products industry.

(c) BASIS FOR CERTIFICATION.—Certification of an organization shall be based upon a factual report submitted by the organization.

#### SEC. 4314. REFERENDUM.

(a) INITIAL REFERENDUM.—For the purpose of determining whether the initial order shall be continued, not later than 48 months after the issuance of the order (or any earlier date recommended by the Board), the Secretary shall conduct a referendum among persons who have been manufacturers or importers of solar energy products during a representative period, as determined by the Secretary. The order shall be continued only if the Secretary determines that it has been

approved by not less than a majority of the manufacturers voting in the referendum who, during a representative period as determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the manufacturing of solar energy products. If continuation of the order is not approved by a majority voting in the referendum, the Secretary shall terminate the collection of assessments under the order within 6 months after the Secretary determines that continuation of the order is not favored by a majority voting in the referendum, and shall terminate the order in an orderly manner as soon as practicable after such determination.

(b) SUBSEQUENT REFERENDA.—After the initial referendum, the Secretary may conduct a referendum on the request of a representative group comprising 25 percent or more of the number of manufacturers of solar energy products to determine whether manufacturers favor the termination or suspension of the order. The Secretary shall suspend or terminate collection of assessments under the order within 6 months after the Secretary determines that suspension or termination of the order is favored by a majority of the manufacturers voting in the referendum who, during a representative period as determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the manufacture of solar energy products, and shall terminate or suspend the order in an orderly manner as soon as practicable after such determination.

(c) PROCEDURES.—The Department shall be reimbursed from assessments collected by the Board for any expenses incurred by the Department in connection with conducting any referendum under this section, except for the salaries of Government employees. Any referendum conducted under this section shall be conducted on a date established by the Secretary, whereby manufacturers shall certify that they were engaged in the production of solar energy products during the representative period and, on the same day, shall be provided an opportunity to vote in the referendum.

#### SEC. 4315. REFUNDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—During the period prior to the approval of the continuation of an order pursuant to the referendum required under section 4314(a), subject to subsection (f) of this section, the Board shall—

(1) establish an escrow account to be used for assessment refunds;

(2) place funds in such account in accordance with subsection (b); and

(3) refund assessments to persons in accordance with this section.

(b) AMOUNTS PLACED IN ACCOUNT.—Subject to subsection (f), the Board shall place in such account, from assessments collected under section 4312 during the period referred to in subsection (a), an amount equal to the product obtained by multiplying the total amount of assessments collected under section 4312 during such period by 15 percent.

(c) FULL REFUND ELECTION.—Subject to subsections (d), (e), and (f) and notwithstanding any other provision of this part, any manufacturer or importer shall have the right to demand and receive from the Board a one-time refund of all assessments collected under section 4312 from such manufacturer or importer during the period referred to in subsection (a) if such manufacturer or importer—

(1) is responsible for paying such assessment; and

(2) does not support the program established under this part.

(d) PROCEDURE.—Such demand shall be made in accordance with regulations, on a form, and within a time period prescribed by the Board.

(e) PROOF.—Such refund shall be made on submission of proof satisfactory to the Board that the manufacturer or importer—

(1) paid the assessment for which refund is sought; and

(2) did not collect such assessment from another manufacturer or importer.

(f) DISTRIBUTION.—If the amount in the escrow account required to be established by subsection (a) is not sufficient to refund the total amount of assessments demanded by all eligible persons under this section, and the continuation of an order is approved pursuant to the referendum required under section 4314(b), the Board shall—

(1) continue to place in such account, from assessments collected under section 4312, the amount required under subsection (b), until such time as the Board is able to comply with paragraph (2); and

(2) provide to all eligible persons the total amount of assessments demanded by all eligible persons under this section.

If the continuation of an order is not approved pursuant to the referendum required under section 4314(b), the Board shall prorate the amount of such refunds among all eligible persons who demand such refund.

#### SEC. 4316. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary believes that the administration and enforcement of this part or an order would be adequately served by such procedure, following an opportunity for an administrative hearing on the record, the Secretary may—

(1) issue an order to restrain or prevent a person from violating an order; and

(2) assess a civil penalty of not more than \$25,000 for violation of such order.

(b) JURISDICTION.—The district courts of the United States are vested with jurisdiction specifically to enforce, and to prevent and restrain a person from violating, an order or regulation made or issued under this part.

(c) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—A civil action authorized to be brought under this section shall be referred to the Attorney General for appropriate action.

#### SEC. 4317. INVESTIGATIONS.

The Secretary may make such investigations as the Secretary deems necessary for the effective administration of this part or to determine whether any person subject to this part has engaged or is about to engage in any act that constitutes or will constitute a violation of this part, the order, or any rule or regulation issued under this part.

#### SEC. 4318. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION.

The provisions of this part applicable to the order shall be applicable to amendments to the order.

Amend the table of contents accordingly.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 615, the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. GIFFORDS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona.

Ms. GIFFORDS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

If there is one thing that we here in Congress can bank on, it's that the sun is going to come up each and every day. Solar power is a domestic form of renewable energy, and increasing its use will be good for our environment, good for public health, good for our national security and good for our economy.

I hail from the great State of Arizona, of course, which is rich in sunshine, but every single State in our country receives enough sunshine to make valuable use of solar energy. In addition to all the societal benefits

that I mentioned, solar power is also a solid property investment. Solar panels installed on homes or offices enable families or businesses to reduce and often eliminate electricity bills. They often pay for themselves in just a few short years. Solar panels can increase the resale value of a home or a business. Solar products are becoming more efficient and more attractive all the time and, in fact, there are several examples where the solar panels are actually built into and blend with regular roof tiles.

Unfortunately, many consumers are not aware of some of these benefits of solar. They're not aware of the improvements. A challenge for the solar industry to advertise and promote this has been addressed by another industry that I believe that we can learn from. The agriculture industry pioneered a mechanism called the check-off program, and they did this to increase generally an awareness of a product rather than a particular brand. These programs are federally created and they are a proven way of increasing consumer awareness of a category of products. Almost two dozen programs have been created, and some of these we know very well. For example, in the milk industry, the Got Milk? campaign. Beef. Cotton. Pork. The wide familiarity that we can all name in these campaigns is a solid testament to the effectiveness of raising consumer awareness. And increased consumer awareness is exactly what the solar industry needs in order to increase the demand for products here in the United States, which will be to the benefit of the entire country.

I therefore offer an amendment that would create a check-off program for the solar industry. This amendment has been explicitly requested by the solar industry. It is structured to incur no cost for the government. All costs are borne by the solar industry, yet individual companies have the ability to opt out of the program.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment. It is a proven idea with a good track record. It will address global warming, energy independence, American competitiveness, and I believe it's a winning proposition.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I seek time for the Science Committee.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As I read this amendment, it creates both a Solar Energy Industries Research and Promotion Board and then also creates a Solar Energy Research and Promotion Operating Committee, which would be established and administered with fees assessed involuntarily against solar manufacturers and importers. I guess one of the things that I'm concerned about is this will eventually be passed on to consumers, to customers, that will wind up paying it.

I would like to know more about how voluntary it is.

Actually, it creates two additional layers of bureaucracy for the Secretary of Energy to promote solar power. I don't see any reason why we don't just give DOE a grant to promote solar power, if that's the goal for it. There's no really added benefit to creating both a solar board and a solar committee. I don't understand why you'd have to have both of those or why you don't lessen it down just to one solar organization.

I note that the solar manufacturers and importers don't have a chance nor a choice as to the creation of the board or the payment of the fees assessed to promote the use of solar power. I see somewhere in the bill here where there's a huge fine there, a civil penalty, if certain things aren't done. I think it's something that really needs to be looked at and really needs some work on it between now and the time the Senate works on it or the time we get to conference.

As I read it again, it has the payment of a fee that also might be enforced by a civil action by the Secretary of Energy and the Attorney General, with a civil penalty of up to \$25,000. That's a pretty serious fee. And I can see how that might be passed on to any area there of operation.

So here you have a fee, you have a board, you have a committee, an inspection of company books and records and the possibility of a civil penalty all being thrust upon solar manufacturers and importers, possibly against their wishes, all intending to help them.

But at this point I guess I just have to ask the obvious question of why this program, if it really will help the manufacturers and importers to find customers for their solar products and technology, why it would not be offered the opportunity to participate in some type of a voluntary check-off program or a time when they can opt out?

Would the gentlelady yield for a question?

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Chairman, I will yield.

Mr. HALL of Texas. How long would it be before they could opt out if this is passed? What period is the opt-out period, and explain that to us, if you would.

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Chairman, the companies would be able to opt out immediately.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I beg your pardon?

Ms. GIFFORDS. To my knowledge, those companies will be able to opt out if they do not want to participate in the program. Again, this is an amendment that was brought to me by the Solar Energy Industries Association. The solar companies in Arizona that I have worked with are all in favor of this amendment. Again, it's a voluntary program where the companies can choose to opt out if they so choose. But it has been successful, Mr. Chairman, in many other industries. And the

agriculture industries that I mentioned are good examples.

I am certainly willing to work with my friend from Texas as this bill moves forward, but I do think that there are some real benefits to offering this amendment.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I would hope that you would. A lot of the companies that would be affected by this may be small businesses, they may not have the ability to opt out, and then have to bring a receipt to show, to maybe claim back some of their outlay. But they might be small businesses and startups, and I'm really concerned that it might have some unintended consequences.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. GIFFORDS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MRS. TAUSCHER

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 18 printed in part B of House Report 110-300.

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk made in order by the rule.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 18 offered by Mrs. TAUSCHER:

Page 436, before line 8, insert the following (and conform the table of contents of the bill accordingly):

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . CAPITAL COST OF CONTRACTING VAN-POOL PILOT PROGRAM.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Transportation shall establish and implement a pilot program to carry out vanpool demonstration projects in not more than 3 urbanized areas and not more than 2 other than urbanized areas.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 5323(i) of title 49, United States Code, for each project selected for participation in the pilot program, the Secretary shall allow the non-Federal share provided by a recipient of assistance for a capital project under chapter 53 of such title to include the amounts described in paragraph (2).

(2) CONDITIONS ON ACQUISITION OF VANS.—The amount expended by a private provider of public transportation by vanpool for the acquisition of vans to be used by such private provider in the recipient's service area, excluding any amounts the provider may have received in Federal, State, or local government assistance for such acquisition, if the private provider enters into a legally binding agreement with the recipient that requires the private provider to use all revenues it receives in providing public transportation in such service area, in excess of its operating costs, for the purpose of acquiring vans to be used by the private provider in such service area.

(c) PROGRAM TERM.—The Secretary may approve an application for a vanpool demonstration project for fiscal years 2008 through 2009.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,

the Secretary shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, a report containing an assessment of the costs, benefits, and efficiencies of the vanpool demonstration projects.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 615, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield myself as much time as I may consume, and I will be very brief.

I rise today to offer an amendment with my friend MIKE ROGERS of Michigan to provide commuters relief from soaring gas prices by making van pooling a more viable option. Our initiative creates a 2-year pilot program in five regions across the country. It will allow State and local governments access to a Federal Transit Administration policy known as the Federal Capital Cost of Contracting. While the change is fairly technical, its impact is not. It is estimated that this alteration could more than triple van pooling across the Nation, conserving over 500 million gallons of fuel per year and greatly reducing ozone emissions. Moreover, it won't impact the Federal budget, and the vehicles used are made by American manufacturers.

Mr. Chairman, this commonsense amendment will give Americans access to another form of transportation that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, reduces congestion and saves fossil fuels.

I ask my colleagues to support the amendment, I understand that Chairman OBERSTAR is willing to accept the amendment, and I am happy to reserve my time.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition only to claim time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. And I do not oppose it. I think it's one of the best amendments that's been offered. Anything we can do to help. This is obviously something that needs to be done. Not only van pooling but car pooling, also. And the more emphasis we can put on this, this is one of the most cost-efficient ways to save transportation fuels out there.

All you have to do is go to any freeway in any urban area in America and see all the cars and trucks that have only one person in them to understand how important this particular amendment is. I'm in very strong support of it and would urge its adoption.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his kind words. I once again thank Chairman OBERSTAR for his support. I urge my colleagues' support.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS).

Our Nation is experiencing a public transportation renaissance. Last year, people took over 10.1 billion trips on public transportation. Transit experienced its highest ridership in 47 years.

Currently, transit use reduces U.S. gasoline consumption by approximately 1.4 billion gallons per year, or 3.9 million gallons per day. However, transit could play a much larger role in reducing our dependence on foreign oil if the traveling public had additional transit options.

One of the lowest cost modes of public transportation is vanpooling. Vanpooling is an arrangement by which commuters travel together in a van, usually 6 to 15 passengers. Vanpooling is used often in para-transit and special needs services, such as providing transportation services for the elderly. It is also used by employers to transport commuters to and from work. Vanpools provide transit services in a variety of ways. Public transportation agencies own and operate vanpools, and often times, the public agencies contract with private operators to provide vanpool service.

This amendment creates a new vanpool demonstration program through the Department of Transportation to explore the cost and energy efficiencies of transit vanpool services. It will enhance the ability of communities to offer vanpool transit services by providing State and local governments access to a Federal Transit Administration policy known as the "Federal Capital Cost of Contracting" policy. The provision simply provides local governments with an additional option for using Federal formula transit dollars. It also allows private sector vanpool providers to leverage private investment with Federal transit funds, by using private capital as a local match, in order to lower the cost of joining a vanpool.

It is estimated that this program could conserve over 500 million gallons of fuel per year and greatly reduce ozone emissions. The program will also provide commuters with increased transit services and options which will help reduce congestion nationwide without having an impact on the Federal budget.

I urge my colleagues to support the Tauscher/Rogers amendment.

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MR. HOLT

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 19 printed in part B of House Report 110-300.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk made in order under the rule.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 19 offered by Mr. HOLT:

In section 8101(c)(1) of the bill—

(1) strike "and" before "to alleviate"; and

(2) insert before the period at the end " , and to examine the potential fuel savings

from intelligent transportation systems that help businesses and consumers to plan their travel and avoid delays, including web-based real-time transit information systems, congestion information systems, carpool information systems, parking information systems, freight route management, and traffic management systems”.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 615, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I shall be brief.

Suppose you are driving to work. Now, today you can listen to the radio and avoid some delays. But what if you had real-time information in your car that would instruct you to turn now and save 10 minutes on your commute? What if you could use that technology every day? What if millions of Americans used that technology every day? You would save time, fuel and money.

Mr. Chairman, this is not far-fetched. The technology exists today, but it is not widely implemented, although it could be. Information technology is becoming cheaper and cheaper. Electronic systems are now relatively inexpensive and easy to install, but we've really not looked at using them systematically. My amendment would mandate a study of this new technology, such as web-based real-time information systems, freight route management, congestion information systems, car pool information systems, parking information and so forth and would examine the fuel savings.

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This amendment, which is supported by the Intelligent Transportation Society of America, simply calls for a study of the energy savings from intelligent transportation systems. It, indeed, I would argue, is an intelligent amendment, and I believe Mr. OBERSTAR from Minnesota would agree.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOLT. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. In the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, in our title of this bill we provide strengthening language for the Center for Climate Change and Environment in the Department of Transportation. And we require the Center to study and track low-cost solutions to reducing transportation-related energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, which is exactly in the line that the gentleman proposes, potential fuel savings and benefits derived from intelligent transportation systems.

We have to use the available technology on the ground as we do in the air for ITS to save fuel and energy for aviation. We can apply that technology to the ground, as the gentleman is proposing. So we support this amendment.

Mr. HOLT. I thank the gentleman.

Again, this is very much in line with what the gentleman and his committee have authorized. The amendment just goes a step farther to require a study of the energy savings. I expect we will find that they are great, but let's do the study.

I urge support of this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. We support the amendment and seek no time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 20 printed in part B of House Report 110-300.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 20 offered by Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

At the end of subtitle A of title II of the bill, insert the following:

**SEC. 2104. REPORT ON PROGRESS MADE IN PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY IN EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES RESOURCE PAYMENTS.**

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to—

(1) ensure greater United States energy security by combating corruption in the governments of foreign countries that receive revenues from the sale of their natural resources, and

(2) enhance the development of democracy and increase political and economic stability in such resource-rich foreign countries.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States is the world's largest consumer of oil. The United States accounts for 25 percent of global daily oil demand—despite having less than 3 percent of the world's proven reserves.

(2) 6 of the top 10 suppliers of United States crude oil imports rank in the bottom third of the world's most corrupt countries, according to Transparency International.

(3) Corrupt and non-transparent foreign governments have a much higher risk of instability and violent unrest, often leading to disruptions of energy supplies. In addition, the citizens of such countries often remain impoverished despite significant resource wealth.

(4) Oil is a fungible commodity. Therefore supply disruptions due to political instability in other parts of the world affect United States domestic price and supply regardless of the source of supply.

(5) Transparency in extractive revenue transactions is important to decreasing corruption and increasing energy security.

(6) The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) serves to improve investment climates through the audited disclosure of revenue payments.

(c) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to increase energy security by decreasing energy reliance on corrupt foreign governments;

(2) to promote global energy security through promotion of programs such as EITI that seek to instill transparency and accountability into extractive industries resource payments.

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should further global energy security and promote democratic development in resource-rich foreign countries by—

(1) encouraging further participation in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) by eligible countries and companies;

(2) promoting the efficacy of the EITI program by ensuring a robust and candid review mechanism;

(3) establishing a domestic reporting requirement for all companies that purchase natural resources from or make payments to government officials or entities connected with the extraction of such resources so that citizens can monitor expenditures by government officials to ensure accountability for illicit diversion and wasteful use of revenues received; and

(4) seeking to establish an international reporting requirement similar to the reporting requirement described in paragraph (3) in order to ensure that all international companies and foreign countries are competing and cooperating on a level playing field.

(e) REPORT.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report on progress made in promoting transparency in extractive industries resource payments.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include a detailed description of United States participation in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), bilateral and multilateral diplomatic efforts to further participation in the EITI, and other United States initiatives to strengthen energy security, deter energy kleptocracy, and promote transparency in the extractive industries.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 615, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is aimed at combating corruption in energy-exporting countries and promoting a global energy security.

In my capacity as chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I have held a series of hearings on the issue of global energy security. I offer this amendment today as a culmination of findings from those hearings.

This amendment encourages international participation in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and similar efforts. This amendment will increase the accountability of where our energy comes from by urging international disclosure of energy transactions and requiring the Secretary of State to submit an annual report on EITI compliance. It also states

that it is the power of the United States to decrease reliance, energy reliance on corrupt foreign governments.

I thank Chairmen LANTOS and DINGELL and my colleagues of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and the staff of the Helsinki Commission, and mine, for their anticipated support.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to the H.R. 3221, the New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act. The purpose of this amendment is two-fold: to combat corruption in energy-exporting countries and to promote democracy and the rule of law in these countries as well.

In my capacity as Chairman of the bipartisan, bicameral Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), I have held a series of hearings on the issue of global energy security in the 110th Congress. The topics of those hearings have spanned the vast diversity energy concerns of the 56 CSCE member nations. I offer this amendment today as a culmination of findings from those hearings.

The United States is the world's largest consumer of oil, accounting for 25 percent of global daily oil demand, despite having less than 3 percent of the world's proven reserves. As a result, we are increasingly dependent on foreign sources of energy.

Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, the countries that the U.S. has become dependent on for that energy are not reliable politically. In fact, only two of the world's top 10 exporters, Norway and Mexico, are established democracies. The non-democratic exporting countries face political instability, which pose a serious threat to the supply and transit of the oil and gas that America runs on.

While it is imperative that we work to limit our dependence on foreign oil and change the dynamic of supply and demand, it is just as important to create more stable and reliable sources of energy. As the National Petroleum Council recently reported, "There can be no U.S. energy security without global energy security."

Mr. Chairman, my amendment meets our objective of global energy security by supporting international participation in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and similar efforts. This amendment also urges these countries to establish domestic reporting requirements for all companies that purchase natural resources or make payments connected with the extraction of such resources to increase the accessibility of these transactions for accountable monitoring.

My amendment further requires that the Secretary of State submit to the Congress an annual report which details the United States' own participation in the Extractive Industries transparency Initiative, as well as our bilateral and multilateral diplomatic efforts to further global participation in EITI. This annual report would also entail other U.S. initiatives to strengthen energy security, deter energy kleptocracy, and promote transparency in the extractive industries.

Finally, my amendment states that it is the energy policy of the United States "to increase energy security by decreasing energy reliance on corrupt foreign governments."

Mr. Chairman, in order to have a comprehensive energy security policy for the nation, we must develop a complete strategy to improve transparency and accountability in oil-exporting states. My amendment will do just that.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN).

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Chairman, this amendment affects the portion of the bill within the jurisdiction of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Chairman LANTOS accepts the amendment and commends the gentleman for his excellent work.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I am going to rise in confused opposition.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. We have been trying to figure out what this amendment actually does. Would the author try to explain, in terms a Texan could understand, what you're attempting here with this amendment?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Sure. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. There is a requirement for countries to participate in the extractive industries reporting.

Basically what we are doing is, for the first time, asking the Secretary of State to encourage countries to participate in EITI. EITI is to be renewed on September 30. And if we nudge some countries, without mentioning names, some of them may very well determine to participate. That way we will have more assurance of our energy supplies and try, as best we can, not to participate in the future with foreign corrupt governments.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Reclaiming my time, is the gentleman attempting to create a system where we encourage democratic government in these developing countries? Are you trying to get the countries to adopt specific extractive practices? What is the underlying intent?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Extractive practices, if the gentleman would yield.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. This is not an Energy and Commerce issue. The Government Reform Committee is not here. So I would say we will withdraw our opposition and just be neutral based on what the gentleman has said.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MS. SOLIS

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 21 printed in part B of House Report 110-300.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 21 offered by Ms. SOLIS:  
At the end of subtitle B of title II of the bill, insert the following:

**SEC. 2209. REPORT ON IMPACT OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.**

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the impact of global climate change on developing countries.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the current and anticipated needs of developing countries in adapting to the impact of global climate change; and

(2) a strategy to address the current and anticipated needs of developing countries in adapting to the impact of global climate change, including the provision of United States assistance to developing countries, and an identification of existing funding sources and a description of new funding sources that will be required specifically for such purposes.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 615, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Chairman, today I urge my colleagues to support this amendment that I'm offering with my colleagues, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. CARNAHAN and Mr. KIRK.

Climate impacts on developing countries could increase stresses on natural resources such as water, drought and agriculture and compromise public health for the world. Unfortunately, developing nations often have weak or unstable domestic infrastructures magnifying these impacts.

The growing security risk of an unstable climate have been widely noted. On April 17, 2007, the U.N. Security Council held an open debate on the issue of national security and climate change. The issue was also subject of discussion at the Winter Parliamentary Assembly meeting of the OSCE, which I'm a participant in, on February 2007 where I was able to talk about and give a key address on our bipartisan efforts here in the U.S. House.

A military advisory board, which included General Anthony Zinni, Admiral Richard Truly, Admiral Lopez and General Gordon Sullivan, concluded that climate change is the threat multiplier for instability and could push

already weak and failing governments toward authoritarianism and radical ideologies. As a result, the U.S. may be drawn more frequently into these situations to either provide stability or reconstruction.

This amendment, Members, builds on the recognition and requires the Department of State, the Agency for International Development, the Environmental Protection Agency and other relevant agencies to assess specific needs of developing countries in adapting to climate changes. Based on the assessment, our amendment requires a strategy be submitted to the Congress to address these needs, including identification of existing funding and new funding sources which may be required for such purposes.

Please join us in building a foundation to secure developing countries from instability associated with climate change.

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. SHERMAN. The amendment affects a portion of the bill within the jurisdiction of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Chairman LANTOS accepts the amendment and commends the gentlelady and her co-authors on their excellent work.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Chairman, what concerns me most about the amendment is its requirement for a report by the Secretary that includes a strategy to help developing countries to adapt to climate change, and I quote, "including the provision of United States assistance to developing countries and an identification of existing funding sources, and a description of new funding sources that will be required specifically for such purposes."

Mr. Chairman, it's one thing to have the executive branch agencies compose a strategy, but it's quite another to encourage, if not require, such agencies to find new ways to justify further increasing U.S. foreign assistance to these countries.

This strategy would come after the section of the bill, section 2202, which already calls for \$200 million every year from the year 2008 to the year 2012 to be allocated for U.S. assistance and programs in developing countries that "promote clean and efficient energy technologies."

I believe that there is a positive intent behind this amendment, and I commend my colleague, Ms. SOLIS, from California for offering it. But it would be a better proposal if it did not have a requirement that the report from the Secretary of State include a strategy that basically instructs the Secretary to tell us how to spend more money.

So I hope that our colleagues would reject this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SOLIS. Reclaiming my time, I would just like to submit that this is a study bill, and that we are exploring the possibilities of funding here.

I would next like to recognize the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN) for 30 seconds.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise just to add my voice in support of this bill and to submit the rest of my statement for the RECORD.

I would like to thank my distinguished colleagues, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. GILCHREST, and Mr. KIRK for their work on this amendment.

One of the important pieces of this bill is The "International Climate Cooperation Re-engagement" section, which seeks to re-engage U.S. involvement in global climate change and will work to reduce global greenhouse emissions worldwide.

Our amendment will help us take another step in reducing the effects of global climate change.

Numerous reports have found that climate change is directly linked to, and has a disproportionate effect on, developing countries by threatening the world's water supply and contributing to global poverty.

In June 2007, the United Nations High Representative for Least Developed Countries issued a report stating that climate change was the one of the most severe threats facing the least developed countries of the world.

As one of the largest greenhouse gas emitting countries in the world, it is our responsibility to help other countries adapt to the effects of global warming.

This amendment will take a crucial step by requiring a report on the adaptation needs of developing countries, and developing a strategy to address those needs.

Thank you and I urge adoption of our amendment.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to Mr. GILCHREST, who is also one of our major cosponsors of the legislation.

Mr. GILCHREST. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, what I would like to do is, to my colleagues, and certainly to the Speaker, if anybody else is listening, there is a lot of information out there about climate change. There is a lot of information about how it's going to affect the globe and how it's going to affect the United States.

If there is any book that I have ever read with the written and pictorial word of that is "Earth Under Fire: How Global Warming is Changing the World," Gary Braasch.

What we need to do on this issue is understand a quote given by Norman Cousins who wrote the book 30 years ago, "Human Options." And in that book there is a quote. That quote is, "Knowledge is the solvent for danger." And you put that quote next to another one by Thomas Jefferson, which says, "ignorance and a free society and a successful society are not compatible."

What we have here is a study to understand the concept of where human

activity is not compatible with eons of nature design and its impact.

Let's learn about that information. Let's vote for this amendment.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Chairman, I would ask my colleagues to support this very important amendment and ask for an "aye" vote.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SARBANES) having assumed the chair, Mr. SERRANO, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, had come to no resolution thereon.

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PERMISSION TO REDUCE TIME FOR ELECTRONIC VOTING DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3221

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during further consideration of H.R. 3221 pursuant to House Resolution 615, the Chair may reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting under clause 6 of rule XVIII and clauses 8 and 9 of rule XX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Reserving the right to object, and I may not object, I just want to ask of the gentlewoman from California, has this unanimous consent request been cleared with the minority leadership?

Ms. SOLIS. Yes, it has, to my understanding.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. And they have accepted it?

Ms. SOLIS. Yes.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

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GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material into the record on H.R. 3221.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?