

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE AMERICAN ENERGY, AMERICAN INNOVATION ACT OF 2008

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill reflecting my comprehensive energy plan, the "American Energy, American Innovation" Act of 2008. This bill reflects my effort to really put everything on the table to address rising energy prices, our dependence on foreign oil, and our need to respond to the climate change challenge.

While in Colorado in August, I stood with Senator SALAZAR to embrace the bipartisan process and principles of the so-called Gang of 10—now Gang of 20—energy proposal. But I believe that this proposal doesn't go far enough and that's why I've spent the last 2 months working on this "American Energy, American Innovation" plan.

Since then, while the Senate group has doubled in size, indicating the strong desire in Congress to achieve a compromise on energy legislation, the Senators have yet to introduce the legislation that they outlined in their principles.

And last week, the House passed a comprehensive energy bill (H.R. 6899) that includes an even stronger step towards a compromise, with provisions that will open up more of the Outer Continental Shelf to drilling and establish a national renewable electricity standard to mandate that 15 percent of our electricity be produced from renewable energy by 2020.

Along with these two provisions, that bill included several others from my energy plan and I voted for it.

However, we have not yet achieved an agreement in Congress on a compromise that can move through both bodies and get to the President's desk. And, building upon the Gang of 20 proposal and H.R. 6899, I think my bill provides the next step in that process. That is why I am introducing this bill today, which I do not view as a final product, but more a step to further discussion on our energy policy and keep faith with the promise that I made to Coloradans in August.

My bill involves developing energy of all kinds—oil, gas, wind, solar, biofuels, nuclear. It's a broad and pragmatic approach to solve our critical energy challenge. It reaches out to new partners and promotes new solutions. And my bill includes both short- and long-term efforts to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, lower energy prices, and protect our environment.

First, to deal with immediate problems with energy prices, my bill includes a provision bipartisan effort that will cut down on the manipulation of oil prices and increase transparency and oversight of the commodity markets. Estimates vary as to how much speculative trading on futures markets—as well as unscrupu-

lous market manipulation—affects the cost of oil. Some estimates say as much as \$30 to \$60 per barrel of oil can be attributed to unfair speculative market practices.

This provision will bring transparency to the commodities and futures market by implementing Commodity Futures Trading Commission, CFTC, recommendations to break out index fund and other data in energy and agricultural markets, and require detailed reporting from index traders and swap dealers. This is important because speculators have come up with elaborate and tricky derivatives that obscure the true value of commodities. It will curb excessive speculation by tightening regulation of foreign boards of trade that offer futures contracts in the U.S., and it will give the CFTC the authority and the means to crack down on manipulation in the energy market.

It will help us address gas prices in the short term by including a provision to release additional oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, SPR. This release would provide for a quick increase in the supply of petroleum in our consumer market and so could reduce the likelihood of further short-term increases in the price of gasoline and other refined products. And, it will do this in a way that is both cost-effective and protective of our national-security interests.

Under the bill, the Energy Department, DOE, would sell at least 20 million barrels of light grade oil now stored in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and sales would continue for 6 months or until 70 million barrels have been sold, whichever comes first. But the draw-down would not be permanent because the bill would require the Energy Department to acquire, through purchase (using money from the sales) or exchange, heavy grade petroleum for storage in the strategic reserve, to replace the light grade petroleum that would be sold.

Right now, slightly more than 700 million barrels of oil are stored in the strategic reserve—so the amount to be sold under the bill would be only about 10 percent of the amount on hand.

Importantly, the bill specifies that the amount of oil stored in the strategic reserve could not drop below 90 percent of the amount stored when the bill is enacted. The most recent data I have seen indicate that the reserve is currently filled nearly to capacity, so the bill will not cause a significant reduction in the amount stored.

But, Madam Speaker, this bill recognizes that short-term solutions and fixing past problems are not "silver bullets" for the factors that have led to the current high price of oil and products such as gasoline that are made from oil. We need long-term solutions as well.

First, we need to do all we can to move towards ending dependence on foreign oil and my bill creates a National Commission on Energy Independence to study technical obstacles and policy barriers and make recommendations on how to achieve this goal.

This bill also includes opening up new areas of the Outer Continental Shelf, OCS, to oil and

gas drilling. Specifically, the bill would end the current moratorium on OCS drilling and would permit leasing between 50 and 100 miles offshore if a State "opts-in" to allow it off of their coast, while providing protection for environmentally sensitive areas. I think this strikes a responsible balance between adding more drilling offshore and respecting State concerns—States should have a say about drilling activity affecting their beaches, lands and resources.

A separate provision in the bill deals with Federal lands that have been leased for energy exploration and development under the Mineral Leasing Act but where such activities have not yet occurred. While it is important to understand the reality that oil and gas exploration is a complicated commercial and scientific enterprise involving efforts not easily fitting within strict regulatory timelines, I think that this is a reasonable response to current conditions. In essence, it would bar the current holders of federal mineral leases—whether for onshore or offshore areas—from obtaining additional leases unless they are able to show that they are "diligently developing" the leases they already hold. The Secretary of the Interior would be responsible for spelling out in regulations exactly what would be needed to show such "due diligence."

But we must reach beyond oil and gas. My bill includes provisions to advance clean coal technology, including carbon capture and sequestration technology. And I believe that nuclear energy will continue to be an important part of our energy portfolio, so we must move forward on building new nuclear energy facilities. My bill will help streamline the licensing process for these new plants and will give the Nuclear Regulatory Commission additional staff to ensure that these facilities are safe and secure.

As co-chair of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus, I understand the important role that both renewable energy and energy efficiency will play in meeting our energy needs. My bill also includes my proposal for a Renewable Electricity Standard—just like the one that has been so successful in Colorado. Under my plan, by the year 2020, utility companies will be producing at least 20 percent of our electricity from American-made renewable sources like wind and solar.

My bill also includes extension of critical renewable energy tax credits. The Production Tax Credit, PTC, in particular has been instrumental in promoting the creation of a renewable energy industry. An extended PTC will provide more market certainty and we must have an extension of this key tax credit before the current credit expires at the end of 2008. My bill extends the PTC for 4 years.

The bill also authorizes new clean renewable energy bonds, CREBS, for public power providers and electric cooperatives. This is a critical tool, especially for Colorado's rural co-ops and municipal utilities.

Of course, the cheapest kilowatt of energy is the one we don't use and energy efficiency also has a key role in addressing our energy

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

needs. This bill will provide incentives for smart grid systems, as well as for energy efficient buildings. And it includes new energy efficiency standards for appliances.

Transportation is another area where we can do more to improve our efficiency. And my bill will move us forward by requiring that all new vehicles achieve 35 miles per gallon by 2015 and 50 miles per gallon by 2030. It also includes additional incentives for Americans to purchase high efficiency vehicles and for manufacturers to produce many vehicles that use alternative fuels.

Americans want fuel choice and my bill will require 50 percent of all new vehicles to be capable of burning various biofuels (in addition to gasoline) by 2012 and 80 percent by 2015.

We need additional incentives for fuel efficiency vehicles. It also includes funding for research and development focused on the major technological barriers to alternative fuel vehicles, such as advanced batteries, to develop the next generation vehicles. And it provides incentives for Americans to purchase these new vehicles that use alternative fuels or are more efficient.

And we must pay for this new energy policy. My bill does that by ending unneeded tax breaks for the oil and gas industry and closing tax loopholes.

In conclusion, let me again emphasize that we must all work together and bring everything to the table to address our energy challenge. This bill is a good draft to start with and I will continue to work with my colleagues to enact a comprehensive energy policy to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, lower gas prices, and protect our environment.

#### SUPPORTING VETERANS IN AUBURN, WASHINGTON

#### HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the city of Auburn, WA, the Auburn City Council and Mayor Pete Lewis for exemplary and steadfast support of the Washington National Guard. They demonstrated their patriotism and support for the military in their quick and sincere actions to create an event to honor the deployment of the 81st Heavy Combat Brigade of the Washington National Guard on August 19, 2008.

Auburn, located in the 8th District of Washington, the District I represent, is not unlike many communities around the country where budgets are tight and funds are allocated only after careful consideration. However, in this case, Auburn and its able leadership approved, without any hesitation, city resources to secure a location and provide funds to support a family BBQ with a festival-like atmosphere for deploying Guardsmen and their families. Hundreds of Guard families and Auburn residents showed up to participate in the event and enjoy the send off activities.

Auburn's action in this instance reflects a deep and great respect for service members and veterans and is the latest example of their steadfast commitment. Every November, Auburn hosts one of the largest Veterans Day parades on the west coast of the United States. Their Veterans Park is a permanent

reminder of the city's dedication and affection for veterans. Under Mayor Lewis and the current City Council, Auburn is taking the lead in Washington in supporting the military and our many brave veterans and I applaud their efforts.

#### COMPREHENSIVE IRAN SANCTIONS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND DIVESTMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

#### HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for this bill. There is no doubt about Iran's intentions any longer: they are determined to do everything they can to harm the U.S. and annihilate our ally, Israel. They are well on their way to developing a nuclear weapon and they will not hesitate to use it against innocent civilian populations throughout the Middle East. They have armed terrorists in the past, they have built up their conventional weapons, and now they are doing everything they can to obtain the ultimate weapon.

A nuclear armed Iran is a threat to everyone, everywhere and no one can afford any longer to sit back and wait for our allies to do the "dirty work" for us and disarm Iran. We, too, must act.

The time is long past due for us to pass these sanctions against that regime and stop their nuclear ambitions before they wipe our allies off the map.

#### HONORING KYLE THEODORE BUCK

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Theodore Buck of Kansas City, Missouri. Kyle is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle Theodore Buck for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### HONORING MR. DONALD "MAC" MACGREGOR

#### HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bucks

County resident Donald "Mac" Macgregor. On July 4th, 2008, Mac retired after a 35 year career as the director of the Bucks County Youth Center. During those 35 years, Mac revolutionized the detention center and its program, setting a high standard for working with delinquent children requiring secure care.

Madam Speaker, Mac has served his community and has helped troubled children his entire life. In addition to serving as a Juvenile Police Officer with Upper Moreland Township, Mac also operated, along with his wife Bonnie, the first group home in Bucks County with 6 delinquent youths.

Mr. Macgregor came to the troubled Bucks County Youth Center at a time when his predecessors faced near riots within the facility. With his unique innovative approach that showed how respecting children can help them respect themselves, Mac turned he facility into a leading youth center that has helped many Bucks County kids turn their lives around.

In addition to bringing a new approach to troubled youth care, Mac also oversaw the construction and planning of the award winning Bucks County Juvenile Detention Center. This state-of-the-art facility has become a must-visit for all Pennsylvania municipalities who are looking to improve their youth detention facilities and programs.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Macgregor's commitment to working with troubled children is an inspiration to the Bucks County community and the nation as a whole. During his many years of service, he has created a new way of thinking about and treating delinquent youth that has changed countless lives for the better. I would like to thank Mr. Macgregor for his lifetime of dedication to our community.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF DALE MYERS, U.S. AIR FORCE

#### HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Dale Myers, United States Air Force. While serving on my staff as a Legislative Fellow during this Second Session of the 110th Congress, Dale has shown an exceptional commitment to duty in his daily pursuit of excellence. During his tenure here on the Hill, Dale worked on a myriad of legislative matters for me from developing draft legislation to staffing hearings and briefings.

A natural leader, Dale personifies his strengths while engaged in matters relating to taking care of our men and women in uniform. His contributions to my efforts on the House Armed Services Committee and the House Veterans' Affairs Committee will have a resonating impact on our military service members and veterans for years to come.

Further, Dale has made a positive and lasting impact on my staff by increasing their knowledge of the inner workings of the Department of Defense. In doing this, he has given them a greater appreciation and respect for the hard work and dedication exemplified by those individuals working exhaustively to support the men and women serving on the forefront of America's defense. As he transitions to his next Air Force assignment, I thank