

law." Protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

Yet, Madam Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

But perhaps tonight, Madam Speaker, maybe someone new who hears this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that can never be expressed, and that 12,819 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough, and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn children than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time. And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of the innocent unborn. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is February 27, 2008, 12,819 days since *Roe v. Wade* first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children. This, in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LOEBSACK). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear

hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HAYES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you again to the Speaker of the House, Ms. PELOSI, for giving the opportunity to the 30-Something Working Group to come to the floor once again to talk about some of the great progress that we believe this House is making on behalf of our constituents, the American people.

We are going to have an abbreviated edition of the 30-Somethings today, and I am going to turn this over to Mr. MEEK in a moment.

But suffice it to say that once again I think we did some justice when it comes to energy policy on the floor this week. We have passed, once again, a bill that will extend enormous tax benefits to thousands of Americans and, even more, small businessmen and the people who profit from those businesses, who work for those businesses, so that they can invest in the new American economy that is the green economy and do it through no additional cost to the taxpayers by simply repealing billions of dollars that we have given to the oil industry under the Republican Congress and turn those tax subsidies around to average consumers and average small businesses who are now going to do right by this new renewable economy that we are building.

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It is a start. It is not everything. We have not done a 180 on energy policy, but we are beginning what will be a long but continuous path to energy independence.

And I yield to my friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK).

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. MURPHY, it is an honor to be on the floor with you. We appreciate all that you have done during your time here in Congress.

I can tell you, Mr. MURPHY, one of the very important measures that passed today on the House floor was the energy bill, the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act, and

I think it is important as we look at this piece of legislation because it is actually paid for, and we pay for it with the subsidies that previous Congresses gave big oil companies, those subsidies they didn't ask for. Well, maybe they did ask for them.

I had a chart, Mr. MURPHY, in previous Congresses that I used to bring to the floor. I am talking about the meeting Vice President DICK CHENEY had in 2001 in his office with all of the major oil executives, and in that chart it showed how profits went up from that point on.

"Profits" is not a bad word, but when you look at it, especially in how the big oil companies increased prices on individuals that were not only paying taxes, U.S. taxpayers that were paying for the subsidies they were getting, but also were paying more at the pump, and it is so very, very important that we identify that and reverse that.

This piece of legislation that we passed today actually does that, H.R. 5351. So many times in America, Americans, they look at Congress and they look at what we do and how we do it and they don't quite understand how it happens to them twice: A, we are subsidizing big oil companies; and, B, why are they paying more for gas.

What we have done in this Congress and in previous energy bills that we have passed, we have focused on green and focused on innovation and focused on how can ethanol, and we focused on making sure that cars can go further with less.

We have also stood under the banner of investing in the Midwest versus the Middle East. And I think it is important that we continue with that theme. Today's legislation that passed the floor continues that theme.

I talked a little earlier about the big five oil companies that recently reported record profits in 2007. Exxon earned \$40.6 billion, the largest corporate profit in the history of the United States of America. Some of that came about because of the tax dollars being generated back into dollars that they didn't have to spend. Usually with profits of any business, you take those dollars out to be able to do more and better in the future. Well, we don't have a problem with that happening, but we don't want it to be on the backs of the U.S. taxpayers.

I also think, Mr. MURPHY, one other point that I want to make, with the economy now and how these energy prices continue to squeeze American families, I think it is important that since August, when the House took up the bill, and the price of oil has risen almost \$25 per barrel to a new record high of \$102 per barrel today. Gas is up 17 cents a gallon in the last 2 weeks, and up 75 cents from a year ago. Gas prices also doubled on home heating costs, and tripled on American families since 2001.

When we start looking at those statistics, we have to do something about

them, and today's legislation does something about them. I am proud to be a Member of the 110th Congress that is turning this ship around as it relates to how the U.S. taxpayers view Congress, one; and two, making sure that we can reverse some of those cake and ice cream giveaways that were given under the Republican-led Congress.

I encourage Members to continue to head down this track of assisting U.S. families. And in the 30-Something Working Group, we work hard towards promoting that kind of philosophy, not only within the Capitol building talking here on the floor, but also back in our districts, to talk about the good things that we are doing that will assist U.S. families talking at their dining room table and when they get together for Little League games and whatever, talking about gas prices and talking about making America greener and talking about investing in the U.S. so we can have U.S. jobs.

With that, I yield back, but I think it is important that we continue to head down this track. Even though we have had some objections from the other side of the aisle, this is the right thing to do because we are on the side of the American people and not the big five oil companies.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Thank you very much, Mr. MEEK.

I want to quickly let people know what this legislation does that we passed here. We have talked about the amount that it invests in this new economy, but let's talk about how it does that.

There is \$8 billion in this new bill in long-term, clean renewable energy tax incentives for energy accrued from sources varying from wind to solar to geothermal, biomass, hydropower, ocean tides, landfill gas. Overnight, this bill is going to invest in these types of renewable energy sources that are going to power the next economy.

We know that energy independence doesn't come easy. We have become addicted over a long period of misguided and shortsighted Federal policy so that we have an unreliable and unsustainable reliance on dirty energy, on energy produced by oil, produced by gas-powered plants, produced by coal-powered plant. You don't change that overnight. It takes time. Now, government can't do it alone. We can't suddenly decide that we are going to take the generosity of the Federal Government and start buying up renewable energy to completely replace those old, dirty sources.

What we can do is use a little bit of Federal incentive to give reason for private individuals and private businesses to make those choices themselves. That is what we have done here. My office went through a long and important process of becoming carbon neutral, becoming energy independent.

How we did that, we brought some energy auditors into our office and we assessed our carbon footprint and then we found a number of ways, a myriad

of different efforts that we could undertake to reduce that carbon footprint. It included everything from changing all the light bulbs in our offices to putting on automatic timers where we could, to making sure that we were printing on both sides of the page.

We tried to reduce our individual carbon footprint, as individuals and businesses can do, seeing that they find that not only the right thing to do by our environment, but the right thing to do from a cost standpoint as well.

But even after doing all of those things, Mr. Speaker, we still found we had an amount of pollution from old, dirtier sources that we couldn't completely eliminate.

So what we did, we went out to offset that remaining dirty carbon footprint by purchasing tax credits for renewable energy. Basically going out and purchasing, putting renewable energy out there on the grid to make up for what dirty energy remained in our office.

What we found for us was that it still cost a little bit more to purchase those renewable energy tax credits, those renewable energy credits, than it would have to have bought oil or gas or coal credits. But it was not four times as much. It is not three or twice as much. It is still a little bit more expensive for an individual homeowner or an individual business to purchase renewable energy, but it is getting less expensive every day. Why is that?

It is getting less expensive every day because the economy, those that invest and fuel the economy from an economic standpoint are figuring out that there is money to be made in renewable energy, that there is a demand for it, and that every cent that they can lower the cost of that renewable energy resource, the more profit there will be built in because of the greater utilization.

And so that is what we are attempting to do here. Rather than putting \$18 billion into more tax subsidies, more regulatory subsidies for the oil industry, we are saying let's take that \$18 billion and let's put it into tax subsidies for homeowners and businesses and local and State governments to make up that little difference between the price of old energy and the price of new energy.

And that small, little incentive not just makes the difference for the bottom line for that particular company or for that particular homeowner, it then starts to increase the volume of renewable energy that we are producing. It starts to create more capital for those companies that are doing the research and development into renewable energy so that they can advance their efforts to create newer, cheaper technologies. That's how we are going to grow this renewable economy.

And for some reason for a very long time, for the 12 years that the Republicans controlled this House, and in particular for the past 7 years, the 6 of it where the President served along with the Republican House, they didn't

get it. They didn't get that you can start to incentivize and create this new renewable economy, this green economy, not with the largess of the Federal Government but with targeted, direct incentives to make up that small difference between old and new energy. And this is about building that new economy and this is also about trying to right some wrongs that this Congress has perpetuated on the American people for far too long.

I hope that people will look at the facts that underlie this chart standing beside me right now. The price of gas, and this is looking at increases in commodities and profits from 2001 to 2008, a 113 percent increase in the price of gas. Much of that has come just in the last few years, as more and more motorists, more and more commuters have found it almost impossible to make their budgets meet now that gas prices seems to be staying above that \$3 a gallon level.

We all feel this one. There is a 213 percent increase in the price of home heating oil. My wife and I are flabbergasted on a weekly and monthly basis as we look at the amount that we are paying to heat our own very small and modest home. Even with all of the different improvements that we have tried to make regarding oil efficiency and heat efficiency, we, along with millions of other American homeowners, have an old house. We cannot make it completely, totally energy efficient, and so we are paying through the nose, as are millions of other American homeowners, for this 213 percent increase in heating oil profits.

The price of crude oil has gone up 215 percent during that time. And all the while, during that same period of time over the last 7 years, the profits of American oil companies have gone up 310 percent.

There aren't many things in this world in a 7-year span that increase threefold. Wages for the average Americans are lucky to creep up by 1 percent a year. Profits for most American businesses, in particular those small businesses and medium-sized businesses that power our economy, are lucky to grow by 5 or 10 percent every year. Even in robust economic times, 310 percent growth in profits over a 7-year period is unheard of.

And when those profits are derived in large part due to Federal policy through these \$18 billion in Federal tax breaks that have gone to the oil companies, it should have a long time ago caused this Congress to step back and ask why.

Well, there are a lot of different reasons, and I am not here to suggest that those \$18 billion in oil subsidies are the sole reason why you see a 310 percent spike in oil company profits. We have increased demand around the globe for oil, not just here in the United States but in India and China and in developing nations.

But I would also posit that another reason is not just because of the subsidies we have given these industries,

but also because we have done almost nothing here in this Congress, before 2007 when the 110th Congress was sworn in, to really start to work with the competitors of the oil industry, to try to give at least the same benefit that we give to the oil industry to the wind industry, to the solar industry, the geothermal industry, the tidal industry, all of the other energy competitors who ultimately will make sure that we never see another 310 percent, 7-year growth in profits.

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And so I think a lot of us are really excited about the direction we're going with energy policy. It's not just the bill that we passed today which shifts that \$18 billion in oil company energy profits to incentives and tax subsidies to individuals and small businesses and governments that are prepared to do the right thing and invest in renewable energy sources. This is also about what we've done to increase the fuel efficiency of vehicles, the first time in 30 years this Congress has passed and signed by the President an increase in fuel efficiency standards so that the average fleet sold here in the United States will now have to be up around the 35 mile per gallon standard, still not what it could be, but a lot better than the level that we've been sitting at for the last 30 years.

A new investment in green technology and green jobs, grants now going to businesses and nonprofit organizations that are going to do the training necessary to teach a whole new workforce how to compete and how to win in a renewable energy economy; and legislation that will say no more going to the store and looking at one product that's energy star or energy efficient rated and another product that hasn't had any improvements on it in the last 20 years, now every appliance, every microwave, every toaster that you buy, by virtue of legislation passed in the House and the Senate and signed by the President will make sure that appliances that you buy are going to meet the highest energy efficiency standards.

We still have to go farther. There's still so much more we can do. We can pass a renewable energy portfolio standard to say that 15 to 20 percent of the energy produced in this country comes from renewable energy sources. We should pass a cap and trade system that limits the amount of pollution and carbon that we emit into the air. But these are monumental steps forward that would have never happened if we didn't have a change in control of this Congress, because you've got a whole new group of people here. Mr. ALTMIRE and I are the two members of the 30-Something Group that are part of this new class of freshman Members of Congress. But you have a new group of Members here, in particular this freshman class, that really had a sense, from spending the last 2 years, 2005 and 2006, out campaigning for office but

just frankly being on the outside of this institution for all of our lives, that the public got it; that the public understood that it was about time that we started shifting our resources, both privately and publicly, into a renewable economy. They understood that energy independence is the Holy Grail of Federal and State energy, of Federal and State policy, period, because it's not just about energy prices, the fact that by investing in renewable energy, increasing volume, increasing research and development, that you will eventually drive down energy prices.

It's also about the environment. We could talk for another hour about the benefit that investments in renewable energy will do to the air that we breathe around us, what it will do to combat the growing trend towards the warming of this planet.

It's also about our economy, as we've talked about. And we may not make rubber balls in this country like we used to. We may not have the large volume manufacturing base that we did 20 to 30, 50 years ago, but we can be the center of research and development for renewable energy technology. There are great strides still ahead of us on cellulosic ethanol, on photovoltaics, on the hydrogen economy. Our economic future here in the United States can be based in renewable energy.

And lastly, folks out there know that it's about national security as well. They know that by creating a dependence on domestically produced energy, rather than on foreign produced oil, that we will make decisions with regard to international policy, based not on our national energy interests but on our national security interests.

And so on behalf of the 30-Something Working Group, we're pretty excited about the bill that we were able to pass today, as we are about the entire trend that's happening here in Congress with regard to energy policy. We have farther to go, but the reason that we, as the 30-Something Working Group, talk about this is because the investments that we make today will pay off in 10 and 20 and 30 and 40 years, when our future children and grandchildren are living in this world. They might not have to deal with the consequences of a Congress that ignored the energy crisis in this country if we make the right decisions over the next several Congresses.

So I appreciate, as we always do, the opportunity for the 30-Something Working Group to come down here. It's a busy day and evening here, so Mr. MEEK was only able to join us for a short period of time. Mr. ALTMIRE had to leave before the hour started. We know when we come back to this floor next week, we'll make sure to have the full contingent of 30-somethings down here on the floor. We miss Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ as well.

With that, Mr. Speaker, again I thank you for the opportunity to speak before the floor today. I thank the Speaker for her engagement with the 30-Something Working Group.

ENERGY ISSUES AND THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILSON of Ohio). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, it's good to be with you this afternoon.

I want to spend most of the next hour talking about the oil and gas business and energy issues in general but specifically about the oil and gas business.

In the interest of full and fair disclosure, I grew up in West Texas, home to much of the oil and gas production from the Permian Basin, and I now have the high honor of representing much of that region in Congress. My dad was in the oil business. He had a service company for the last 25 years of his career. I had oil and gas clients in my professional career. And so I hope the fact that I have some background and experience in this area doesn't disqualify me from talking about things that I know and that doesn't discount what I have to say.

In looking at our overall energy picture, almost every legitimate projection of energy usage in this country, over the next 20-plus years, shows that crude oil and natural gas will continue to be a vital part, an important part of the energy complement for this country for the next 20-plus years, as I mentioned.

There are no breakthrough technologies. There are no scientific advances that anyone can anticipate today that would reduce our dependency, particularly as it relates to driving cars and trucks and airplanes, on crude oil and natural gas. We don't produce enough of it domestically to meet the needs of our existing oil and gas needs, so consequently we import 60-plus percent of the crude oil, natural gas and gasoline products that we use every single day. And that percentage is growing, unfortunately.

Most commentators, and I agree, would believe that this importation of crude oil and natural gas from foreign sources coming from countries whose leadership hate us, whose political schemes are directly opposed to what we would want to do, is not in our best interest and represents a strategic vulnerability that our country has to other parts of the world that in many instances can be far less stable than you would want to count on.

So given the fact that we will be using crude oil and natural gas for the next 20, 30-plus years, and that we don't produce enough of it ourselves, it would seem that it would be in our best interest to promote policies that encourage and incentivize additional production of domestic crude oil and natural gas, policies and incentives like allowing the responsible and environmentally sound exploration of areas in this country which we currently, either by law or by executive order, prevent our crude oil and natural gas exploration companies from having access