

NO MORE SUBSIDIES FOR OIL COMPANIES

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the price of gasoline has reached another record high, nearly \$4 a gallon. And yet when the Democrats, along with Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic majority, have asked the President to stop filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which is 97 percent full and which experts say could lower the price of gasoline by 5 to 24 cents a gallon, the President says he doesn't believe the cost benefit analysis of immediate action for consumers persuaded him.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the President consider how Americans are suffering with the price of gasoline at the pump, how that's limiting their other choices in expenditures, and how it will reduce their opportunity for summer vacations.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I signed on to a bill for a windfall profits tax on oil companies. Oil companies presently have subsidies given to them in the past, which this Congress tried to repeal but we didn't have bipartisan support to repeal those subsidies. So these companies making more money than ever have subsidies rather than windfall profit taxes.

Mr. Speaker, we need to look out for the motoring public.

THE AMAZING BORDER SHERIFFS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the United States is intending to send \$1.4 billion in taxpayer money to Mexico to fight the cartel drug criminals on the border. This may sound good on the surface, but there are problems with sending money south of the border. It's an unfortunate reality that border corruption exists between Mexican law enforcement and the drug cartels. America has no assurance that some of that money or equipment won't end up in the very hands of the people we're trying to stop.

This \$1.4 billion would be better spent if it stayed in America. It should go to the Border Sheriffs Coalition. These are hard-nosed lawmen from Brownsville, Texas, to San Diego, California, that operate on a shoestring budget, and they know better how to stop the drug smugglers and coyotes from entering their counties. I have met with them numerous times along our southern border. These border lawmen are amazing crime fighters and protectors of America.

The 18 Texas border sheriffs unanimously believe that, "the culture of corruption and smuggling both in narcotics and humans and the threat of terrorism on the border will increase" if this money is sent to Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, let's help out our first responders and give them the tools to

fight crime on the border and keep the money in America.

And that's just the way it is.

IT IS UP TO THE DEMOCRATS TO TAKE US OUT OF THE ECONOMIC MESS PRESIDENT BUSH CREATED

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the President wants to blame the Democrats for the economic mess he's made. He is the one who wants to sweep our problems under the rug. He should be ashamed of himself.

When he came into office, the previous administration had created more than 22 million new jobs. The economy was booming. People had the chance to live the American dream. Now gasoline is too high, food is too high, the rent is too high, and nobody can get a raise.

Bush had his hand on the wheel for 7 years. He has been in charge. But he wants to blame the Democrats for the economic mess he made. Well, as they say in the South, that dog won't hunt.

The Republicans got us into the mess, and now it's going to take the Democrats to get us out.

GENERAL ELECTRIC

(Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, there's plenty of bad economic news around, and we've shared in some of that in the upstate of South Carolina. But there are also some real bright spots. One of them is on Garlington Road in Greenville, South Carolina, where General Electric is currently looking for 200 more engineers. That would add to the 3,000 employees they have at that plant. Half are engineers, roughly the other half are manufacturing staff.

One of the most exciting things they're doing there is wind turbines. In fact, General Electric is now the number two installer of wind turbine units in the whole world, and they're made, in significant part, in Greenville, South Carolina.

If the renewable production tax credit is extended, and that's an important "if" for us here in the House, we need to do that; if we do extend that credit, General Electric expects that the United States will surpass Germany as the number one producer of wind energy in the world.

Mr. Speaker, it's an exciting thing when we see new technology create jobs, especially when that new technology moves us away from dependence on oil and helps us break this addiction.

CONGRATULATING DEERE AND COMPANY FOR RANKING FOURTH IN "100 BEST CORPORATE CITIZENS"

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deere and Company for placing 4th among more than 1,000 companies in the annual "100 Best Corporate Citizens" list, compiled by CRO magazine. I'm proud to represent John Deere facilities located in Waterloo, Dubuque, and the Quad Cities in my district.

John Deere has a long history in Iowa. Iowa farmers were using John Deere plows to break the prairie in 1837 before Iowa even became a State. In 1918, John Deere purchased the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company which transformed the company into a national leader for farm machine production. In fact, the "Waterloo Boy" tractor is displayed at the Smithsonian. In the 1940s, Deere expanded by building an industrial equipment factory in Dubuque.

John Deere is the world's leading manufacturer of agricultural and forestry equipment and today employs around 47,000 people worldwide, and nearly 10,000 of them are in my district. I'm proud to have such a John Deere presence in my district, and I'm pleased that the company scored high in the areas of climate change, human rights, and philanthropy. I commend Deere and Company for all it has done in Iowa and the country.

Go green or go home.

IRAQ: PAY FOR ITS SECURITY

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, Iraq's oil revenue is projected to be a record \$70 billion this year, according to a report set to be released today from the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction. The cost of Iraqi oil has skyrocketed in recent years up 250 percent since 2003. With these soaring oil revenues, the time is now for the Iraqi government to take greater responsibility for the security and reconstruction of their country and begin the process of weaning themselves off the largesse of the United States of America.

Recently, Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, announced that he was cutting \$171 million in Pentagon funding for a police station construction in Iraq. This is a good first step towards ensuring that the Iraqi government understands that they need to show a real and sustained commitment to taking control of their country's destiny. By spending some of their record oil revenues, the Iraqis can send a definitive statement that they are serious about investing in their own future.