

are presented by the fact that we're at the mercy of oil-rich countries, many of them who despise us.

Kansans understand that technology changes with time and so should environmental and energy policies. Exploring and drilling can be done with limited environmental impact. China, with Cuba's permission, is tapping our natural resources, our natural gas fields, right off our own coasts, where our companies are banned. They are banned even with advanced technologies and a strong commitment to see that there is no ecological disaster.

While I support increasing the domestic supply of oil and gas, I know it's not the only answer. We need to meet our country's energy needs in a diverse way. It's capturing the power of the sun. It's harnessing the wind that blows across my State of Kansas. It's using heat from within the Earth to generate electricity. All of these and many more energy sources are completely renewable. Renewable energy can create jobs at home and help our economy, improve our environment, and reduce our dependence upon foreign oil.

Energy conservation can also help. Too many of us have gotten away from the things that we always knew. Growing up, it was considered a sin in my family to leave the lights on when you weren't in the room. We need to get back to that mentality of being responsible with our energy use.

Across Kansas, folks are recognizing the benefits of conservation. Farmers are transitioning to no-till practices, which reduce the number of times the tractor passes through the field. Commuters are carpooling. Every gallon that we conserve, every degree we don't heat or cool, every empty room that doesn't have a light on, helps us reduce the demand.

I'm taking steps in my own congressional office to reduce energy use.

Tonight, I'm on the floor delivering a message from Kansans, like Brian and Laura Velasquez from the small town of Reading, Kansas, on the east side of my district:

"Dear Representative MORAN, we are a middle class Kansas family. It has become more difficult the past few years for us to make ends meet in spite of increased income. Since our lifestyle has not changed, the main explanation has to be the fallout from the cost of fuel. We are not the only ones in this predicament. The U.S. is at the mercy of too many oil-rich nations that are not concerned about our welfare. This needs to change now."

I agree with my constituents. It's clear that Americans want Congress to develop policies that increase the supply of energy, and they want Congress to encourage the development of new fuel sources. Until the supply of energy, renewable or fossil fuels, increases, prices will only continue to rise.

We must work together, not just with words but in action to promote energy

conservation, develop domestic production of oil and natural gas, and aggressively pursue alternative fuels. Let all Americans know we hear their concerns and we will act.

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 gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her 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. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY 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 Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

NATIONAL CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION AND AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR AWARENESS WEEK

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

Mr. KUHNL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillator Awareness Week, quite a handle. It commenced just 2 days ago on Sunday and lasts until Saturday.

Last year, I introduced legislation to support designating this first week of June as National CPR and AED Awareness Week, and I am pleased that Congress passed my proposal to help bring an important issue to light.

Heart disease continues to be—and I repeat that—heart disease continues to be the leading cause of death in the United States. So I believe that we must do all we can to bolster our efforts to combat heart disease and sudden cardiac arrest.

Approximately 325,000 coronary heart disease deaths occur outside of the hospital emergency room every year, and roughly 95 percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims die before even reaching the hospital.

These statistics serve as a clear reminder that we must take action to save lives at the local and the community levels, and an annual National CPR and AED Awareness Week will help us do just that.

CPR more than doubles a victim's chances of surviving sudden cardiac arrest by maintaining the vital flow of blood to the heart and to the brain.

□ 1945

Over 75 percent of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur within the home, so CPR can make a difference between life and death.

Additionally, automated external defibrillators are easy for even bystanders to operate and are highly effective in restoring a normal heart rhythm if used within minutes after the sudden onset of cardiac arrest.

Communities with comprehensive AED programs have achieved survival rates of over 40 percent, as opposed to 5 percent, which is the traditional rate of survival. And I am proud to have sponsored the New York State law that required public high schools to have at least one such device on the school grounds.

As a state senator, I worked with my colleague, Assemblyman Harvey Weisenberg, Long Island, who advanced this initiative after a young man named Louis Acompora from Northport, Long Island, died from a blunt impact to the chest while playing lacrosse. He was a goalie and was doing exactly what he was trained to do. Had an AED been available at the time, his life very well might have been saved. Thankfully, our efforts in New York have helped to save over 35 lives in New York State in the 5 years since the law's enactment.

The American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, and the National Safety Council are holding public awareness and training campaigns around the country. And the National Safety Council is also offering a free online course of CPR and AED training all week long. This week, as a result of their efforts, it is our hope to train over 100,000 Americans in CPR and AED treatment opportunities. And Americans will have the opportunity to learn to combat heart disease at the community level and hopefully save lives all across the country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this week, Mr. Speaker, it's a very important initiative.

ENERGY IN AMERICA

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, most Americans think that Members of Congress are somehow privileged and above the ordinary everyday concerns of the constituencies that we represent. I think all 434 of my House colleagues know that that's not true. By normal standards, we do get a very adequate salary, \$162,500 a year, but out of that we have to pay our expenses of living in our districts and here in Washington, D.C. We have the same expenses that every other American family has.

This morning, before I left to fly to Washington, DC, I opened our credit card bill. We have a MasterCard. And on that bill we put most of our gasoline expenses and our routine living expenses. And my wife, Terry, has been working very, very hard this year to minimize the amount of expenses on that credit card. And we've both made an effort to make sure we only put things that we have to put on the credit card. So the vast majority of our MasterCard is now for gasoline.

And I just happened to look down the list of all the gasoline expenses from the early part of last month to right now, and it added up to over \$600. Now, \$600 is not an extraordinary amount, but a year ago that same amount of gasoline would have been about \$300, maybe \$350, and 2 or 3 years ago, it would have been about \$150. And now it's over \$600. And that's not taking any trips. That's not driving to see our families. That is my wife and my stepdaughter and my day-to-day drive to work, drive to school, drive to the grocery store, do all the things that we do in everyday living in central Texas.

Now, as I said earlier, I make a very adequate salary and my wife makes an adequate salary. And it pinches us, but we can afford it. But what if my wife and I were on an income of, say, \$4,000 a month, \$48,000 a year? Having to spend \$600 a month for gasoline just to go back and forth to work and to go to school and to go to church and to go to the grocery store would be a real struggle.

So we have a situation today where the new Democratic majority in the House has come in promising to bring energy prices down and a new common-sense plan for energy. Here we are, with approximately 5 months to go in this session of Congress, at least through the election in November, and energy prices are up almost 200 percent, gasoline prices, since the day that our Speaker, Mrs. PELOSI, took the gavel from Mr. Hastert.

And the response to the higher energy prices, at least so far, has been, at best, symbolic. We passed a bill giving the right to sue OPEC. OPEC supplies about 40 percent right now of our energy, our oil, so we're going to sue OPEC if that bill were to become law.

Several weeks ago we passed a bill suspending shipments of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; that's about 60 to 70 thousand barrels of oil a day. There were great predictions that day that

passage of that one bill would bring prices down \$25 a barrel, and I think one Member said 50 cents a gallon. Well, the day the bill passed, oil prices went up almost \$2 a barrel. And a week after that, they hit an all-time high of \$135 a barrel. They have now come down a little bit, but they're still, I believe today's price is about \$127 a barrel.

So I think it's fair to ask my friends in the majority, where is our energy policy to really bring energy prices down for America? I'm not happy that in my little part of America I'm having to spend over \$600 this month when we pay our MasterCard bill just for gasoline. And if the projections are true, later this summer I may have to spend seven, eight, even nine hundred dollars a month just for basic transportation in Arlington, Texas.

Most people think that we're helpless, that we can't do anything about these high energy prices, that they're almost like one of the Ten Commandments. Luckily, and hopefully, the truth is not that; we have tremendous energy resources in this country that have yet to be developed.

We can do something about these energy prices, and we can do it with made-in-America energy. We've been debating whether we should drill up in Alaska and ANWR for the last 20 years. We actually passed a bill and sent it to the President that would have allowed that in 1996. The President at the time, President Clinton, vetoed that bill. Had he not vetoed that bill or had we been able to override his veto, projections are that ANWR would probably be producing in the neighborhood of two to three million barrels of oil per day right now. I say projections because you never know until you actually drill the wells and start to produce the oil. But there are huge oil reserves in ANWR. And the minimum assumption would be half a million barrels a day within 3 to 4 years of the go-ahead to begin production. And that's just one oil field.

If we want to go off the coast of California where we drilled the original offshore oil wells, where you still have oil seeps that naturally come to the surface, where you do have some producing platforms that were in existence prior to 1968, it's estimated that we probably have three to five billion barrels of oil available right there, and that we could produce another half a million to a million barrels just off the coast of California.

If you want to go to the east coast, where we've done almost no exploration at all because of various moratoria, if the Gulf of Mexico is any indication, we probably have billions and billions of barrels of oil reserves and natural gas reserves off of that coast.

We know that there is oil and gas off the coast of Florida that's not being drilled right now because of a moratorium. Interestingly, the communist Chinese are drilling off the coast of Florida through a lease arrangement

with Mr. Castro and the Cuban dictatorship in Cuba. It would be ironic if the communist Chinese ended up getting more oil and gas off the coast of Florida than Americans do.

If you don't want to drill offshore, what about onshore lower 48? We have probably two trillion—trillion is a thousand billion—we have two trillion barrels of shale oil reserves in Wyoming and Colorado. In the Energy Policy Act of 2005, we passed a procedure to inventory those and to do an expedited permitting process of the Minerals Management Service so that they could perhaps come into production, but on the floor of the House last year this Congress put a moratorium on implementing those rules. So we're putting our shale oil reserves off limits.

So it comes as no surprise, if you look at all these areas where we've put the stop sign up, that oil production in the United States is going down. At our peek, we produced over 10 million barrels of oil per day in the United States of America. At one time we were the number one producer of oil in the world. That's down to a little less than six million barrels a day. We use the equivalent of nine to ten million barrels of oil per day just for mobility purposes. We're only producing in the neighborhood of six million barrels.

We have tremendous energy reserves in this country. And if we want to bring these prices down, we don't have to look overseas to the Middle East, we don't have to beg OPEC, we don't have to sue OPEC, we do have to take our energy future into our own hands and begin to produce more American energy.

It's more than just oil and gas, obviously. We have tremendous coal resources in the United States. We have somewhere between 250 and 400 years of coal reserves. We've got lots of research being done to convert that coal to a liquid, a diesel-like fuel that we could use to fuel our transportation fleet.

When we had the debate on the so-called energy bill last year in this Congress, the rules were set up so that no amendment on coal-to-liquids was made in order in the Energy and Commerce Committee, the committee of principal jurisdiction, nor in the Rules Committee, nor on the floor of the House of Representatives. So we passed an energy bill which I voted against because there really wasn't any energy in it. It had no coal in it. It certainly had no oil or gas drilling in it. It was basically a mandatory conservation bill.

So my statement to the American people this evening, Mr. Speaker, is pretty straightforward. We've got tremendous energy resources in this great Nation of ours. We've got the ability, within a reasonably short period of time, and I would say that would be 2 to 4 years, maybe 2 to 5 years, if we made a decision in this Congress to produce some of the energy reserves that we know we have, we could, in all probability, double the amount of oil

that we're producing right now. We could certainly increase it by three to four million barrels a day, if not double it. And if we did that, energy prices would come down.

On the world market, oil is a fungible product, which means it can move anywhere, it's a commodity. We have the ability, worldwide, to produce on an average day around 85, 86 million barrels of oil. Unfortunately, the demand for oil is about 85 or 86 million barrels per day, give or take a million barrels or so. So we have a situation where you don't have a cushion, you don't have a capacity cushion. And the econometric models have shown that if you don't have about a 5 percent cushion, which would be about four or five million barrels a day, that price is going to tend to spike upwards. And that's what we have today.

□ 2000

Mr. BARTON of Texas. We have a demand-driven price because we do not have on the world markets enough cushion to dampen the speculation, so the American consumers are having to pay right now on average right at \$4 a gallon. I don't know about you, Mr. Speaker, but I don't think American voters and the American citizens are going to be really happy if, in the face of these higher prices, our decision as a Congress is to just shake our fists and say we have the ability to sue the foreign cartel which we call OPEC.

So I have the ranking Republican on the Energy and Commerce Committee. I have been working for the last 6 months with a group of Republicans both on and off the committee. Several weeks ago, we put in a package of 15 bills. These bills, taken together, would produce more American-made energy for American workers and energy consumers. They run the gamut. I'm not going to go through every bill right now, but we look at the oil and gas industry, the coal industry, the nuclear power industry, the alternative energy industry. You name it. We take a look at it, and do something to bring into play American-made resources for American energy consumption.

I would encourage all of our Members of Congress to take a look at these bills. We are going to try to get them to the floor as quickly as possible. I certainly think that if we are naming post offices and are commending watermelon festivals and things of this sort that we certainly can find room to have some real energy bills on the floor and to have a debate and to, hopefully, pass those bills to the other body.

At this point in time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to my good friend from Ohio, Congressman LATTA. Congressman LATTA comes from a distinguished family of congressmen. His father was the ranking Republican on the Budget Committee when I was a young pup. Our current Congressman LATTA has come to Washington with the same common sense that his father exhibited 20 years ago.

So I would yield as much time as he may consume to Mr. LATTA of Ohio.

Mr. LATTA. Well, I appreciate the gentleman from Texas yielding.

I stand here tonight, coming back from Memorial Day break, and people back home, I think, know more about what is going on in this country than we do.

Every place I went—we had meetings across our district—the folks all asked the same thing: When are you going to be doing something about energy in this country? Because we can't afford these prices at the gas pumps. They all said the same thing, what some of them have been saying down here. We have got to start developing our own energy sources in this country. We have got to start acting now.

Why is it important to be acting now?

You know, years back, we had the ability in this country to be able to make some mistakes and to correct them in 5 or 10 years, but we don't have that luxury anymore. That luxury now is gone. What is going on now is that the rest of the world is catching up to us.

I just want to start with this chart, if I may. That is the harsh reality of what we have here. The United States consumes about 21 percent of the world's energy right now with 300 million of the people. When you look at this chart and in looking at 2010, you see that India and China will almost be at a parity with the United States in 2010. In 2015, energy usage in China and in India will exceed that of the United States. By 2020, China alone will be exceeding the energy usage of the United States. When you look at this graph, the United States' usage is very, very slowly going up, but if you look at the energy usage of China, it is skyrocketing straight up.

What does that mean?

People back home understand this, too. "Energy" means jobs. "Jobs" mean people can make sure that they can have those different benefits that the honorable gentleman from Texas was talking about. You know, if you look at this as energy prices keep going up, what happens? Fuel prices go up. Food prices are going up because you've got to get the food to market. Then you have got to have heating. Then the question is what are those people going to do about going out and about buying those necessary goods and services for their families and also to help keep this economy moving. It's tough, and people back home understand it much better than we do. Congress has got to act, and they want it done now.

The other thing is, as for acting right now, if we stood in the well of this House and they stood over in the Senate and we said that the United States has an energy policy right now for developing its own sources within this country alone, you'd see the world speculation go down on what it costs on the oil markets. We're not doing

that and they know it, so they can keep raising that price on us. America can't be tied to Middle Eastern oil for any longer because it is costing us way too much money. We have to be able to control our own destiny in this country.

What are we going to do about this?

Well, to give you an idea of what's happening back home, I come from the ninth largest manufacturing district out of 435, so we depend on energy. In Ohio, 80 percent of the goods and services that are delivered in Ohio are delivered by truck. When you're looking at things being delivered by truck, of course they're using fuel. Their fuel costs are going up, so whatever they are delivering is costing Ohioans more and more dollars, and the same can be said across this great Nation.

The same can be said when you talk about farms. There are farmers out in northwestern Ohio right now. They have been planting corn. They are out there, putting in soybeans. It's the same thing. Diesel prices are up. Fertilizer prices are up. Chemical prices are up. Why? Because they're all petroleum-based. So those costs are, unfortunately, going to have to be passed along to the people back home and across the country.

Before we broke for Memorial Day, at one of our town hall meetings that we had, at the teletown hall, one of the questions that we posed was an informal poll. We said, "What should we be doing? Should the United States be out, drilling in this country?" Overwhelmingly, 6 to 1 said that the United States must be drilling at this time so we can meet our own energy needs.

If we don't meet those energy needs, what is going to be happening, especially with those jobs back home?

At one of the float glass facilities in my district, their costs in the last 5 years have gone up from \$10 million in energy costs to \$30 million in energy costs. Why is this significant? There are only 37 float glass facilities left in the United States while there are, right now, 40 being built in China. So, if they can put cheaper people on these production lines with the price of the fuel, the countries around the world are going to do one thing. They are going to be buying those goods not from the United States but from China, and we are going to watch more and more of our facilities closing because of the costs of high energy in this country, and we can't afford that.

What do we have to do?

Well, I think there are several things we have to do in this country. One, I think we have to go out and develop our nuclear energy that we have at our disposal.

What is the rest of the world doing?

You know, a lot of people always have jokes about the French every so often. I come from the ancestry of the French. 70 to 80 percent of all energy in France is derived from nuclear energy. They are actually exporting energy into Europe from France. Russia currently has 31 reactors in operation. It

is projected that 37 to 42 nuclear reactors that are currently or will be under construction are all scheduled to be in operation by 2020. Japan has 55 nuclear reactors in operation, and two or more are in construction right now.

What is China doing on the nuclear side?

Well, right now, in the next 25 to 30 years, it is pretty much, in looking at China, that they will be building at least 40 new nuclear power stations across that country. Right now, China has 21 nuclear reactors under construction or about to be under construction. They are moving ahead.

What is India doing?

India is the second leading country right now in the development of nuclear energy. India is building small nuclear reactor plants, and in the next 25 years, they will probably have 30 in operation. They are moving ahead.

What is the United States doing?

Well, the last nuclear power plant that was licensed in the United States was the Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant in 1977. The last plant to go on line was in Tennessee in 1996. The last new licensed nuclear reactor to go on line was in 1996. We are way behind. Not only are we behind in getting these plants on line, but we are also behind in that there is only one place on Earth where a lot of these parts can be manufactured to get these plants on line, and that is in Japan. So, if the United States isn't out either building its own machinery that we have to have to run these nuclear power plants, we are in trouble because the rest of the world is already in line to get these plants built. So we have got to get moving, and we have got to get moving quickly. That's what the people back home know and what we talk and talk and talk about in Congress.

Coal. The United States has about 24 percent of the world's coal. What are we doing with it? Well, on the majority's side, they don't want to do anything with coal. In Ohio, I can tell you a lot about coal. We, unfortunately, have what you call high-sulfur coal. So, in a lot of places, it is very, very expensive to have to go out and burn that coal because you have to put a lot of scrubbers on.

Now, we have an individual in my district who has developed clean coal technology where you can burn this coal in a closed environment and produce methane. But, again, are we doing that in this country? No, we are not doing it. You know, when you talk to people out there in the scientific world as to how much coal we actually have in this country, some people say we might have 250 to 350 years of coal, and we're not doing anything with it. We have got to do something.

The Chinese today are going to invest around \$24 billion in clean coal technology while the United States sits. We have got to be doing something.

Hydroelectric. You know, we all know that the Chinese are building

their hydroelectric dam right now to produce more power. We're not doing it either. We're not doing anything.

Drilling. That's where the American people really get it. They really got it when gasoline prices hit \$3.50 a gallon, especially in my district. I think that was the breaking point for people in northwest Ohio. They say, "Why aren't we doing something in this country?" You know, we see these gas prices rising. I know, when I got home over the Memorial Day break, I should have filled up my gas in the car before I left that week because it was around \$3.83 when I left Bowling Green. I got home that following Friday. It was \$4.99 a gallon.

People say, "What are we doing in Congress?" Again, nothing. As the gentleman from Texas alluded to in talking about ANWR, you're talking about only drilling at around 2,000 acres, which is only one-half of 1 percent of an area. Nothing is being done. You know, it's estimated there are 9 to 16 billion barrels of recoverable oil there, and we're not doing anything.

We're not doing anything offshore. You know, the Chinese, as were alluded to a little earlier, and the other countries around the world are drilling offshore. They're drilling offshore in the United States, but we're not doing anything. It's time to act.

Where I come from in northwest Ohio there was at one time one of the largest oil fields in the United States in the 1800s. They say there's probably as much oil out there today as there was then, but it's too costly to get it up. We ought to have credits out there for individuals and companies to go out there and get that oil and bring it up. We need to be doing that. We've got to get these prices down because, again, our jobs and our livelihoods and our country depend on action today.

You know, if we got that oil here, the other problem we'd have is that we haven't been building refineries in this country. It's been about two-and-a-half decades since a refinery has been built in this country. It's time we got going. We've got to get this thing done now because we don't have time in the future to do it. If you look, as the energy usage is going up across the world, the United States is getting farther and farther behind everyone else. When they have energy and we don't, that's when we're going to be in big trouble.

Now, I was a history major in college, and in reading our American history, of course of our great Industrial Age, we had all the natural resources. We had the coal that produced the power to make sure that we could make the product, which we were able to export around the world. Well, look at this chart, and you're going to see who is going to be able to do that in the future. We have got to be able to meet our needs, and we have got to meet them today. Time is running out.

You know, the other scary thing about this is we send more and more of our energy overseas. One of the things

we have to think about is who is owning our debt. Right now, \$2.43 trillion is owned by foreign countries. The Chinese own about \$487 billion of our debt, and we can't have that.

I really appreciate the time the gentleman has allotted to me, and I yield back. Thank you.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I appreciate the gentleman from Ohio's insightful comments.

As he has pointed out, it's not a lack of American energy; it's a lack of willpower on this floor to develop that energy. What we need is American-made energy for America's families and factories.

To talk a little bit more about that, I want to recognize the distinguished conference secretary of the Republican Conference, the gentleman from Williamson County, Round Rock, Texas, Congressman CARTER, for such time as he may consume.

□ 2015

Mr. CARTER. I thank the gentleman and my good friend for yielding and allowing me to talk on this. You know, having two Texans here, somebody is going to be saying, Well, there they are in Texas again, talking about energy. And we know something about it. But let me tell you about a couple of energy experts that I ran into when I held a little impromptu event of standing around a service station in my district and talking to the people at the pumps as they pulled up to buy gasoline and diesel.

The first memorable energy expert that I remember was a lady that pulled up there and she had a baby, I would say about 2 years old, and then she had probably the age 6, 7, 8-year-old girl in the car who looked like she was on her way to her ballet lesson. I said, I wanted to ask your opinion on gasoline prices. This lady started crying. She said, I am a single mom. I have got three kids, two of which I have to transport to everything that they go to. I don't want to deprive my children of anything that they can go to, like their ballet lessons or their ball games. But I just don't know how I am going to be able to feed my family and be able to take my kids around, with the price of gasoline.

That is an energy expert. This lady knows that the fact that we have failed in our energy policy in this country has caused her to have a harm imposed upon her family. There's not much you can say to that energy expert but I'm sorry, ma'am. We are trying.

Then we have another energy expert that pulled up there, and he had a plumbing truck. And he was a family plumbing business in Georgetown, Texas. I asked him how he felt about the energy business. He said, Well, I will tell you what, partner. The price of plumbing in this part of Texas is going up, and it's going up in a big way. Me and my boys are running four trucks. And he said, I am telling you, the cost of fuel going up is killing us,

and we are going to pass it on to our customers, and the price of plumbing is going up. And he says, You know the old joke about plumbers charging more than lawyers? Well, I guarantee it's going to be that way from now on. I laughed and said, Yes, sir. I hear what you're saying. He said, I hope you hear what I am saying.

I wanted to share that story with you because that story took place 2½ years ago when gasoline hit \$2.85 a gallon. That was that same 2½ years ago when the Republicans were in the majority in the House of Representatives. When they took their shots, they were taking them at me, because the party that I belong to was the party in power and we were being heavily criticized for \$2.85 a gallon gasoline.

Fortunately, that gasoline went down some and it lightened up after a point in time, but the criticism continued about the price of gasoline. And in the last election, we had promises that there was a plan to bring down the price of gasoline, absolutely common-sense plan to bring down the price of gasoline. Well, since that promise, I think gasoline has gone up \$1.65 a gallon. At least when I was home this last week, gasoline in my part of Texas was \$3.95 a gallon. I understand now it's over \$4 a gallon.

I have to think back to that lady and those kids and that family plumber with his boys and their business and all those people who are having the services and are having the relationships with those people. Those were the kind of oil and gas and energy experts we ought to start listening to.

There is a commonsense solution to our energy problem. I want to tell you that at the time that I was talking about previously, then-Chairman BARTON had presented an energy plan that was excellent; that sought energy from all sources, including renewables, but certainly looked at the oil and gas resources, coal resources, atomic energy resources that are available to this country. Yet, that bill was killed by the Democrats in the Senate and got nowhere. We are now sitting here looking at a worse situation than that by almost two. And we are not getting anything done.

As my colleague pointed out, while we are doing this, the Chinese Communists are drilling off the shores of Florida in Cuban waters. But we don't drill in those waters. Did you know that last year the oil and gas industry in the drilling process spilled one tablespoon of oil worldwide? One tablespoon. Yet, we are not willing to even take a look at seeking the resources that were there.

When I was a kid, I guess I was in high school, they had an article in the Houston paper where they talked about the dwindling resources in the oil and gas business. My father worked for an oil company. So I was concerned. And I asked him about it and he told me, son, there's shale oil in the Rocky Mountains but it's too expensive to go get.

When the price is right, we will be able to harvest trillions of barrels of oil from the mountain regions of our country. That oil is still there and the price is available now to where it's worth going after. We should seek the resources that will bring down the price. The American-made power is what our American citizens are asking us for. They are begging us for it.

When you go home now, I guarantee you there's not a member of this House that if they went home and stayed home this last Memorial Day break, if they didn't have somebody ask them about the price of gasoline, they must have been deaf or slept through the whole period. Because they asked me at church, they asked me at the grocery store, they asked me at the service station, everybody that saw me, and they asked me everywhere I went, even at the hospital.

So, you know, when you're sitting there realizing that the American family is now suffering and looking down the road and saying there is no relief in sight, it's time for us to wake up America, wake up this Congress. Let's do that bipartisan work that so many people are bragging about right now. Let's do it, and let's do it now.

Let's do all the energy resources that are available to Americans. Let's don't be afraid of one or another industry. The American intelligence can make every one of these resources clean and available and nonpolluting to this country. We have proven it. Let's look off the coast of California and let's look off the coast of Florida and let's look in Alaska, let's go to known reserves, and let's take care of that lady and those three kids so that she has affordable gasoline so she can live her life in the kind of good, free manner that Americans and Texans want to live.

I thank Mr. BARTON, my good friend, for allowing me to come here and talk about this. I am no energy expert. I just know that the American people are. And they want energy that provides the ability to drive their automobiles and heat their homes and light our world and give us the prosperity of industry that will keep us going. If we have that, we will have done our job, and this is our job today.

I thank you for yielding time.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Round Rock.

Mr. Speaker, can I inquire how much time we have remaining in our Special Order, please?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 20 minutes remaining.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Thank you. I would now like to yield such time as he may consume to Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, a physician, who, before he became a Member of Congress, was a baby doctor and delivered over 5,000 American lives into our great Nation, and is concerned about their future and wants to make sure they have affordable energy.

Dr. GINGREY.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the distinguished rank-

ing member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, former chairman of the committee, for yielding time to me.

My other colleague from Texas, our conference secretary, part of our leadership, my good friend, Judge CARTER, just said that he is not an expert on energy. But he certainly is an expert on common sense. He got some of that expertise by talking to his constituents at that impromptu town hall meeting at the gas pump in Texas. That is where we get some of our knowledge from the people that we represent, and they are mad as heck and they are not going to take it any more.

I am absolutely surprised, Mr. Speaker, shocked that this new Democratic majority is apparently not listening to what the American people are saying. Back in April of 2006, then-Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI released a statement saying, and I quote, "Democrats have a plan to lower gas prices." Well, Mr. Speaker, here we are tonight, June 3, 2008, over 2 years after NANCY PELOSI, Speaker PELOSI now, announced that Democrats had this commonsense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices. The average retail price of gasoline is \$3.99 for a gallon of regular. That is what I paid last night to fill up my car, a 25-gallon tank. It cost me almost \$100.

Mr. Speaker, this is something that the American people can no longer afford. I don't know what this comprehensive plan the Speaker had in mind when she spoke to us in January of 2007 for the very first time, I don't know what that comprehensive plan was, but I darn sure know what the results of the plan was. The result is gasoline prices at the pump for regular have gone up more than \$1.65 a gallon. Some plan. The proof of the pudding indeed is in the eating.

There are some things that I want to point out in regard to some of the plans that the Democrats have had in regard to lowering these gas prices and a nationwide average of \$3.98 a gallon; in my district, \$3.99. Here's some of the things that maybe they proposed to bring down the price of a gallon of regular gasoline. Sue OPEC? You save nothing. Launch the seventh investigation into price gougers? You save nothing. Launch the fourth investigation into speculators? You save nothing. Twenty billion dollars in new taxes on oil producers? Increasing the debt. Halt oil shipments to the strategic petroleum reserve? Maybe save a nickel a gallon.

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, the Republican plan to lower gas prices: Bring United States offshore oil drilling, ANWR, saving anywhere from 70 cents to \$1.60 a gallon. Drilling in ANWR. My colleagues talked about that. Probably an additional 1½ million barrels of petroleum a day from that source.

Bring United States deepwater oil on line. Out of the Outer Continental Shelf is what we are referring to. That

could save anywhere from 90 cents to \$2.50 a gallon. Bring new oil refineries on line. Our good friend from Ohio, Representative LATTA, pointed out that we haven't had a new oil refinery or a nuclear power plant license in this country in over 30 years. That could save 15 cents to 45 cents a gallon. Cut earmarks to fund a gas tax holiday. That could save 18 cents a gallon. Again, we agree with the Democrats on this one. Halt the oil shipment to the strategic petroleum reserve, saving a nickel a gallon. Our plan, the Republican plan, my colleagues, in a very conservative way, would save at least \$1.98 a gallon; \$1.98 a gallon. The Democrat plan, at most, a nickel a gallon.

Well, let me just tell you one thing that they did, the Democratic majority, Mr. Speaker, in their energy bill of 2007. There is a section in that bill, a section called 526. Basically, what it says is no agency of the Federal Government, no agency of the Federal Government can utilize a source of energy production that creates a bigger carbon footprint than conventional fuel, conventional gasoline and diesel fuel. They are absolutely not permitted to do that.

Now I want, Mr. Speaker, and all of my colleagues, I want you to think about the consequence of that. The Federal Government on an annual basis utilizes something like 480,000 barrels of refined petroleum products; 480,000 barrels.

□ 2030

I am sorry, that is a day. I said annually. That is a day, 480,000 barrels. And which branch of the Federal Government uses the most of that? Obviously, the Department of Defense. And which branch of the Department of Defense, which service branch, uses the most of that? The United States Air Force, flying the platforms that we have to maintain the security of this country. Almost 480,000 barrels. It is estimated, Mr. Speaker, that the Air Force will spend an additional \$9 billion for that fuel in the year 2008, fiscal year 2008, because of these rapidly increasing prices of oil.

Now, that bill though says they can't go out and utilize anything other than that liquid petroleum we all think about bubbling up out of the ground. Yet in this country, my friend from Texas referred to it, Representative CARTER, is something called shale oil that his grandfather told him about.

Shale oil, Mr. Speaker, is mainly in the West, in several Western States, and the total amount of additional petroleum that could be gotten from that shale oil is something like 3 trillion barrels of refined products. Yet we are not allowing the agencies of our Federal Government to utilize these sources.

Tomorrow in the Science Committee, of which I am a member, the NASA Subcommittee will be marking up the reauthorization of NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

They do research on shale oil, on oil sands, another product that is very plentiful in Canada. A lot of oil could be gotten from that. They are doing that research. They are sharing that research with the Department of Defense, and yet they are not able to utilize any of that additional oil. The amount that we could get from shale oil is equivalent to the amount that we have probably utilized in the world over the last 100 years. That is how much capacity we are talking about.

Those are the sort of things we can do to bring down the price. I could go on and on, but the gentleman has been very generous with his time and I want to yield back to him. But we need a comprehensive plan that includes nuclear, that includes the use of these alternative sources of petroleum products, like oil sands and shale oil. And until we get together and do this on a bipartisan basis, the American public is going to continue to suffer.

I yield back to the distinguished gentleman.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I thank the gentleman. I want to point out he needs to change his sign. He has his "9" upside down. If you subtract 5 cents from \$3.98, you get \$3.94 or \$3.93. You don't get \$3.63. He has his "6" and "9" down there.

Mr. GINGREY. I thank the gentleman for calling that to my attention. We will make that change.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think you begin to get the point we are trying to put across this evening. America has got great energy resources. We are not using those resources right now. For various political reasons, we have put them off limits.

We are not allowing any exploration or production in ANWR in Alaska. We are not allowing any exploration or production off the West Coast of the United States. We are not allowing any exploration or production off the East Coast of the United States. We are not allowing our shale oil resources to be developed in the interior of the United States. We are not developing our coal resources with the clean coal technology that the gentleman from Ohio spoke about. So we are a victim of self-inflicted wounds in this country.

I would like to say that it can't get any worse, but it can. I was just on a congressional delegation that visited Europe. We went to Slovenia and to Italy to interact with the European parliament and then toured some NATO bases in Italy. They are paying the equivalent of \$9 a gallon for gasoline, \$9. So even though we think \$4 a gallon is way too high, there are other parts of the world that are paying double what we are paying.

If our energy prices continue to go up, there will be consequences. General Motors just announced yesterday they are closing four of their automobile assembly plants in this country. Ford Motor Company, one of the icons of American industry, their stock is selling at almost an all-time low, at least

a modern era all-time low. They just divested part of their company. They sold it to an Indian automobile company. The higher prices go, the more uncompetitive America is in world markets and the more Americans are thrown out of work. It is kind of a self-propelling cycle.

We need to do something about it. The good news is that we can do something about it. We have the ability more than any other Nation in the world to produce our own energy for consumption here in the United States. American-made energy for American families and factories is a doable deal. It is not a pipe dream. But we have to start in this Congress.

Now, we have a package of 15 energy bills that have been introduced at various times in this Congress. They are active. They have bill numbers. The Speaker of the House and the majority leader and the chairwoman of the Rules Committee and the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee could schedule these bills for committee action, could schedule these bills for floor action and bring them to the floor.

It wouldn't bother me a bit if the Speaker wanted to bring these to the floor under an open rule; let Members of both political parties go to the Rules Committee and have amendments made in order. Let's have a full, fair, open debate in committee, the Rules Committee and on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Some of these bills would probably pass on a suspension calendar if they were brought to the floor. Some of the bills would be very controversial. The access bill, opening up ANWR, H.R. 6107, would be a close vote, no question about that, but I think a majority of the House of Representatives would vote in the affirmative to let us develop an energy resource that could have as much as 10 billion barrels of oil in it. On a daily basis that would be somewhere between 1 and 2 million barrels per day with existing technology, if we were to make the decision to let that go and to start producing it.

We have a shale oil reserve bill. We have an alternative fuel for defense and aviation bill. Mr. GINGREY talked about that. We have a coal-to-liquids bill that is Mr. SHIMKUS' bill that has a Democrat sponsor, Mr. BOUCHER, the subcommittee chairman of the Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee. We have a renewable fuel standard bill that would take the renewable fuel standard back to the 2005 Energy Policy Act. We have a bill to encourage new refineries, Congresswoman HEATHER WILSON's bill. We have a bill on speculation that was introduced by myself. We have a boutique fuels bill, H.R. 2493, introduced by our Republican whip, Mr. BLUNT. We have a bill that provides for some tax provisions by Mr. TERRY of Nebraska. We have some bills on nuclear energy. We have an Outer

Continental Shelf bill that has been introduced by Congresswoman MYRICK of North Carolina.

I could go on and on. The point I am trying to make is we have American energy resources that could be developed and I think should be developed. We are not hopeless, we are not helpless, but right now we have a majority that, for some reason, has decided that it is okay for American citizens to pay these high energy prices, and, as I said earlier, if we sit here on our hands and do nothing, the prices are going to go up and up and up, which is not a good thing for our economy.

Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, we are planning a series of special orders. We are going to continue to try to educate the American people on the energy situation. But we are not just out here complaining and whining and bemoaning our fate. We have a positive solution that, if implemented and sent to the President and signed into law, would begin to bring immediate results in the terms of additional energy resources and lower energy prices.

Let's work together. As Daniel Webster says in the saying above the Speaker's rostrum, let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote its great interests, and see whether we also in our day and our generation can do something that will be seemed worthy to be remembered by future generations.

THE STATE OF HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I came to the floor of the House tonight to talk, as I frequently do, about the state of health care in this country and some things that may be on the cusp of change and some things that will never change. But I want to start off tonight by talking about what is going to happen to physicians across this country on July 1st, less than a month from now, as far as their Medicare reimbursements.

Now, you may recall I was on the floor of the House last December talking about the need for addressing the reduction of reimbursement rates for physicians across the country. The best we could come up with on the floor of this House was to stall that 10.7 percent reduction in reimbursement for Medicare patients. The best we could come up with was to stall that for 6 months' time. We told ourselves at the time that this gives us a little more time that we can work on a solution that is more meaningful. We want to work on a bigger and grander solution.

But, Mr. Speaker, what has happened? The days and months have ticked by, and now we are less than 4 weeks away from that day when physi-

cians will wake up and find that their reimbursement for seeing a Medicare patient is now 10.9 percent less than it was the day before.

Is this really a big deal? Well, yeah, it is a big deal, because everywhere across the country currently new Medicare patients call up physicians' offices trying to be seen and they find the same situation over and over again. They can barely get the word "Medicare" out of their mouths before they are told by that physician's office that we are not taking any new Medicare patients. And why? Why is that happening? Because of the activities, or, in this case, the inactivity of the United States Congress, of the United States House of Representatives.

It is imperative, it is imperative that we address this issue. It is imperative that we address it in a forward-thinking way so that we solve the problem once and for all and we don't have to come back here year after year and face the same problem over and over again, or, as is the case this year, every 6 months and face the problem over and over again.

I have advocated for such a fix many different times on the floor of this House. It has been very difficult to get colleagues on both sides of the aisle to embrace this concept and understand that we must move forward from where we are now. We need a short-term, mid-term and long-term solution to this problem.

What have we done? Again, we find ourselves just about to go over the cliff, just about to fall over the precipice, where once again we tell the Medicare patients of this country that we don't care about them. We tell the physicians who are seeing Medicare patients in this country that we don't value your service and we are going to hit you with a 10.7 percent cut. And that is not the end of it. December 31st, there will be another 5 percent reduction, so a grand total of 15 percent in reduction of Medicare reimbursement before we reach the end of this year.

Mr. Speaker, can you imagine any other business going into their banker and saying, you know what? I have got a great business plan here. I am going to start a business, or expand my business, because, after all, a physician's office is a small business. I am going to go into business or expand my business, and here is my business plan. And the banker looks at it and says, I see it says here you are going to earn 15 percent less this year than you are earning next year on each patient interaction. How in the world could you expect to be able to maintain your business with this type of business plan?

□ 2045

Reality is this type of business plan would not fly anywhere in this country, and yet we are asking over and over again our doctors, our clinics, our health care providers to live under this regimen.

Now, when I address the need for a short-term, mid-term, and long-term

solution, let me just lay out for you what I have in mind. The short-term solution is available to us right now. We could delay these cuts to the Medicare reimbursement rate. We could do that by passage of a simple measure that was introduced the last week of May, H.R. 6129. This is a bill that is fully paid for, fully paid for and would forestall the 10.7 percent cut July 1, and the 5 percent cut December 31, to February 1. That is not a great length of time, but it allows us a little more time to work on this problem, actually gets us past the first of the year so that we get to the organization of a new Congress. And maybe, if we did our homework and did our legislative work before we all went home and campaigned for reelection, maybe if we did that work in July and August and September of this year, we could actually have ready to go a package for the new Congress to pass shortly after the first of the year that would deal with this problem.

But it is a paid for solution. It doesn't expand the deficit. It actually uses the same mechanism that was used by the Medicaid moratorium that we all passed. I think there were 300 favorable votes for that Medicaid moratorium on the floor of the House a few weeks ago. This is the same mechanism of taking the money out of the physicians assistance quality initiative to pay for this fix on the physicians payment. It would not expand the deficit, and it would get us passed the first of the year.

The cuts that are looming ahead of us under a formula called the sustainable growth rate formula are going to be significantly pernicious, not just to keep our doctors in business, but to keep our doctors seeing our patients, our Medicaid patients, arguably some of the most complex patients there will be in any medical practice because they have multiple simultaneous conditions.

We are going to prevent those patients from having access to a physician because we are telling the doctors that we don't value their service, and we are telling the patients that we don't value their ability to have access to their doctors who prescribe their treatments, who offer those treatments that are going to keep them living longer and healthier lives.

And there is an unintended consequence to this as well. The unintended consequence is that many of the private insurance companies across the country actually peg their rates to what Medicare reimburses. So they have a contract that says we will pay, in the case of TRICARE, 85 percent of the Medicare usual and customary. In the case of some of the other private insurers, it is a little more generous, they pay 110 percent or 115 percent of Medicare rates. But all of those rates are going to be reduced when Medicare rates in turn are reduced if we don't act by the first of July. And actually, the way things work in Washington, if