

HONORING THE LIFE OF JACK MILDREN

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

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable Oklahoman.

Jack Mildren passed away on Thursday, May 22, following a 2-year battle with cancer.

Jack was born in 1949 and later was a Texas high school football star who chose to attend college in Oklahoma.

Known as the "Godfather of the Wishbone," Jack led the University of Oklahoma football team in an appearance in the 1971 "Game of the Century," along with being the MVP of a Sugar Bowl win. He's most widely recognized for laying the foundation for the success of the Sooners football program for years after his graduation. Jack left OU an Academic All-American and went on to play professional football for three seasons.

Jack was not only a football star but also a civic leader and an outstanding public servant. He was elected as Oklahoma's 22nd Lieutenant Governor. Most recently, he served as a banker as well as a beloved Oklahoma sports radio host.

Jack Mildren will not only be remembered by his wife, Janis; and children, Leigh, Lauren, and Drew; but by all Oklahomans for his contributions to the history of our State.

We will miss you, Jack.

CLEAN COAL-DERIVED FUELS FOR ENERGY SECURITY ACT

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today because gas prices at the pump are just a symptom of our growing addiction to foreign oil and inaction by this House leadership.

For our wallets and for our national security, we need to become more energy independent. Congress should start now to develop more of our domestic energy supply. And one of those more affordable and abundant supplies of energy we have now is coal. With over 250 years of reserves, the United States has the world's largest coal reserves.

Last night I introduced H.R. 6170, the Clean Coal-Derived Fuels for Energy Security Act, to reduce our reliance on foreign oil. My bill is clear: It will establish and mandate 6 billion gallons of clean coal-to-liquid fuel by the year 2022. Coal can be converted through proven, existing modern technology into clean, synthetic oil and be economically viable, resulting in lower prices at the gas pump.

We need to be serious about becoming more energy independent. West Virginians deserve a comprehensive long-term solution that provides real

stability and actually leads to the creation of new energy. Coal-to-liquid fuel will create an investment in rural communities, good-paying jobs for Americans, and cheaper energy for Americans.

SUPPORT H.R. 3021, 21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3021, a bill that will help our local schools build the high-quality classrooms that our students deserve.

This responsible legislation, which we will consider today, provides for needed investments in public school facilities, investments that will result in improved student performance.

Our Nation's public school facilities are in disrepair. This is a disgrace, and it impedes our students' ability to learn. Local education agencies want to make a difference, but they need our help.

With our younger students, we know that maintenance issues draw them away from focusing on what they need to focus on in the classroom, when they see chipping paint, water dripping from ceilings, poor heating and cooling. We need to change that. And older students cannot be prepared for the 21st Century if they don't have a 21st Century classroom.

These examples are not just anecdotal. There is firm evidence that suggests that we must invest in our school facilities in order to improve students' performance. By failing to do so, we are sending our youth a message that we don't care about them.

So I hope that my colleagues will vote with the best interests of our students and vote on this legislation in the affirmative today.

AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, it's high time Congress acts on high gas prices. The American people are crying out for help and assistance; yet this Democrat Congress is doing nothing when it comes to energy independence for Americans.

Finding a comprehensive long-term solution is what the American people want so that we can be energy independent, or at least more energy independent than we are today.

Conserving is a sign of personal virtue, but we cannot conserve our way to American energy independence. The Democrat plan is only conservation and it's only tax increases.

On our side of the aisle, we are trying to reach out to the Democrats and say

that we must have energy exploration here domestically.

When it comes to energy, America needs to rely on its own ingenuity and innovation, not the Saudi royal family.

LEADERSHIP DEMANDS ACTION

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, Americans are demanding action as they're being battered by sky-high gas prices.

The relentless unwillingness to act by this majority has left my constituents fuming and looking for action, not more of the same rhetoric and politics.

We sit at the precipice of four dollar gasoline. How much higher do these costs have to go before the majority will act? Five dollars? Six dollars? Ten dollars? Is the Democrat majority so out of touch with the American people?

On this side of the aisle, we have produced an action plan to increase access to new sources of energy, increase American production, encourage alternative fuels, and incentivize conservation. We are ready to act.

Madam Speaker, gas prices have increased 70 percent since you took control of Congress, and it's your duty to act. I call on you to allow the responsible Republican energy plan to come to this floor.

Madam Speaker, idleness is not leadership.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

HELP OUR FAMILIES

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

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I learned yesterday from reports that the State of South Carolina has the lowest gas in the Nation. It was reported that the average gas price in South Carolina is \$3.79, and most other States have an average of about 20 cents higher or right at \$4.

A lot of people would think that's good news. In fact, some would give me the opportunity to congratulate South Carolina. But I'm not going to use this platform to deliver good news because it's not good news.

It's not good news to the South Carolina citizens or citizens anywhere in this country. What would be good news is to see that the "commonsense" energy plan that was promised by the majority party is brought to the floor.

I am tired of my families putting their hard-earned paychecks into their tanks every week, Madam Speaker. The American citizens need good news, and we need to bring energy legislation

to the floor now to help our hard-working families.

COAL TO LIQUID AS AN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, according to the Energy Information Agency, the United States currently imports 60 percent of its oil, and that number is expected to rise to 75 percent in the coming decades. As a country, we need to reduce our dependency on foreign fuel sources and start implementing alternative energy sources that can be found here in the United States.

Imported fuels such as crude oil and natural gas are costing this country millions of dollars a year, accounting for about one-third of the U.S. trade deficit. At \$45 a barrel, liquid coal fuel is a desirable alternative to the \$120 or more barrel of oil. Not only does this innovative fuel cost less, but also coal is one of the most abundant resources in our country.

As Congress continues to explore the use of alternative energy sources, we need to look closely at the enormous benefits of coal-to-liquid technology.

PENCE DEMANDS ACTION ON HIGH GAS PRICES

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

Mr. PENCE. The national average cost of gasoline at the pump today is \$3.98 a gallon. When I was home over the Memorial Day break, one Hoosier after another stopped and asked me the same question. They said, MIKE, what is it going to take? What is it going to take for Congress to take action to give the American people more access to American oil?

The reality is today that the Democratic majority thinks that we can tax our way to lower gasoline prices. A few weeks ago, they actually passed legislation suggesting we could actually sue our way to lower gasoline prices. But the American people know the only way to lessen our dependence on foreign oil is to lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

We must take action now to allow additional drilling in environmentally responsible ways on American soil off American shores so the American people can increase global supply, reduce the price of oil, and bring real relief to families and businesses and farmers at the pump.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS HAVE GONE BATTY

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, out on the arid, dusty high plains of west Texas, where the land was once the home of thousands of oil derricks, the landscape is now dotted with windmills—the new turbine clean energy. Texas is the wind energy capital of North America, supplying power to over 1 million homes.

But now the environmental fear lobby wants to stop these turbines because they may pose a threat to bats and birds. They are the same radicals who have successfully prevented America from drilling for more crude oil at home, like in west Texas. These are the same batty people who have demanded we go to wind energy in the first place.

Now they are worried about the bats and the birds that fly at night may be running into the windmills. Of course, there is no evidence to support this bat mania claim. Anyway, we all learned in third grade bats have a radar-like ability to navigate at night in caves and open terrain. The National Academy of Sciences stated: Birds have more to fear from high buildings, power lines, and cats than they do from the blades of windmills.

We cannot allow the rich elites of the environmental fear lobby to destroy America's energy production. Otherwise, we will all end up going back living in the dark caves, with the bats.

And that's just the way it is.

WHY ISN'T AMERICA DOING MORE?

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, back home in Texas I visited with families whose cost is so high that one woman in Bridge City told me she doesn't even go to Wednesday night church. She can't afford to drive to it. Just on Sunday. I talked to small businesses that now work, painters and plumbers and others, who now basically work for free because gas prices have eaten up all their profits. I visited this last week with our law enforcement agencies, who are no longer able to be proactive in the community. They are just responding to calls because they burned through much of their fuel budget for the year already.

In each case, every one of them asked me, Why isn't America doing more? Why isn't America taking more responsibility for our own energy needs? We import two-thirds of all we use. We are capable of doing more. In each case, they said, Look, take a message back to Congress. No more gimmicks. No more gimmicks. We need more American-made energy here in the United States to get our fuel prices down, to be less dependent on Middle East fuel, to have some say over the prices that our families and small businesses pay.

COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY STRATEGY

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, as oil prices continue to climb, increasing American energy production is critical to meeting this challenge. Yesterday, the Department of Energy announced a \$715,000 grant to my alma mater, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, to develop more effective ways to drill for oil. Students and professors will work together, along with industry, to achieve higher energy yields from each drilling hole. Better exploration and drilling procedures and techniques are just two parts of a comprehensive energy strategy that we need to have because a magic bullet will not solve our energy challenges. It will not lower the price at the pump alone. We need a comprehensive strategy.

People of southwest Louisiana and around the country want to increase responsible energy production, they want to see increased refining capacity, they want to unleash American entrepreneurship and ingenuity to solve our energy problems, and they don't want any further delays because gas at the pump, as you can see, is just short of \$4 a gallon.

We have to stop the delay and have a comprehensive energy solution. I challenge the Democratic leadership to work with us and stop the delay. Let's get a solution to our energy problems.

RESULTS OF NOT DEVELOPING AMERICAN ENERGY

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

Mr. AKIN. As America is becoming painfully aware, there has been a result of us not developing American energy. We have reports of police cars sitting idle because of the cost of gasoline; various assembly lines and automobile manufacturers closed down because of the fact that there's no demand for the type of vehicles that are being produced. We have a situation where parents have a hard time just putting enough gasoline in the tank to get the kids to school. And we have the AAA saying that the increase in motorists without gas has increased 15 percent.

Since Speaker PELOSI took office, gasoline prices have skyrocketed 71 percent. Now, I am an engineer. The good news is there's a solution to this. It's called American energy. We need to stop looking at the American energy as something that is an environmental hazard and rather look at it as an asset that we can develop.

The Democrats, year after year after year, 85 percent of the time, are voting against increasing supplies of American energy. We have to develop our own energy.