

# AMERICAN-MADE OIL AND GAS: A HISTORY OF SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION

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

Mr. CONAWAY. As you see, the theme this morning is to talk about gasoline prices, and as we look at the various solutions that are available to our country, it's interesting to note how votes happen in this House. It's rare that a particular position is supported or opposed 100 percent by either party. But let me walk you through a couple of solutions that have been voted on in this House over the last 14 years.

Drilling in ANWR; 91 percent of Republicans supported it, 86 percent of Democrats opposed it. Coal-to-liquids; 97 percent of Republicans supported it, 78 percent of Democrats opposed it. Oil shale exploration; 90 percent Republican support, 86 percent Democrat opposition. Drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf, 81 percent of Republicans support it, 83 percent of Democrats oppose it. Increased refinery capacity; Republicans support that by 97 percent, Democrats oppose it by 96 percent.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to begin to look rationally at the solutions that will help address America's need for energy, gasoline and electricity as we move forward.

## A POLICY OF "NO" IS NOT WORKING

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, it's not working. The policy of "no" to producing America's resources is not working for the American people. Today, America will write a check for \$1 billion to buy enough energy to run our economy for one day. Let me repeat that. Today, America will write a check for \$1 billion to run our economy for one day. That means for the year, it takes \$365 billion to export to other countries that have said "yes" to developing their resources.

Think about what we could do with \$1 billion if we invested that in developing American resources; the jobs that it would create, the fact it would make America more independent and less dependent on those other countries.

The policy of "no" is not working. We need to say "yes" to producing more of America's resources; "yes" to drilling in areas where we have found abundant resources; "yes" to using a 250-year supply of coal; "yes" to building new nuclear power plants; "yes" to developing America's resources, reinvesting in America.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to bring legislation to the floor that will help

America build a stronger energy independence.

## DRILL NOW IN ANWR

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

Mr. KINGSTON. I just returned from the Middle East. I went with a bipartisan group to Saudi Arabia, to the United Arab Emirates and to Kazakhstan and talked to the folks who have oil about what we can do internationally to bring the price down, bring the supply up, do whatever it takes to give middle class Americans some relief at the gas pump. It was interesting the response that I got.

Number one, I can tell you without question the Middle East is happy with the current gas prices. We all know that they are enjoying the wealth which we are transferring over there. But the thing that they said to us, How dare you come to Saudi Arabia, how dare you come to the United Arab Emirates, how dare you come to Kazakhstan and ask us to reduce our prices when you won't even drill for oil yourself. You won't even build refineries. Yet you want us to do something. You can do it for yourself.

Think about this, ladies and gentlemen. ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve, is the size of South Carolina. The proposed drilling area is 2,000 acres. That is smaller than the average airport. Yet, for some reason, we are afraid to drill there. That is absurd. We need to drill now.

## WE NEED AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION

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

Mr. MCCOTTER. Over the recess, I had the opportunity to meet with a manufacturing community in my district; talk to managers, talk to owners, talk to employees. The one thing they all agree on is the cost of American energy is adding to their fixed costs at the very time international pressure is forcing them to reduce the cost of their product. In short, they're facing the nightmare scenario of energy prices forcing them to lay off workers in the manufacturing sector or to, unfortunately, terminate their employment altogether.

What we need in the United States is American energy production, conservation, and free market innovation if we are to protect these jobs and help these workers. It is very cold comfort for the people of Michigan and the manufacturing workers of the United States to hear that some day a green collar job will come and take away your blue collar job. When you're putting them out of work today, the prospects for tomorrow look much more bleak than they do to some academic or to some politician who is engaging in rhetoric that

somehow the government will innovate us out of this effort.

We need American production to help protect manufacturing jobs and help provide prosperity for the American people.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

## AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 311) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 311

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),*

### SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF SOAP BOX DERBY RACES ON CAPITOL GROUNDS.

The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association (in this resolution referred to as the "Association") shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, soap box derby races, on the Capitol Grounds on June 21, 2008, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate may jointly designate.

### SEC. 2. CONDITIONS.

The event to be carried out under this resolution shall be free of admission charge to the public and arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress, under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board; except that the Association shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

### SEC. 3. STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT.

For the purposes of this resolution, the Association is authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds, subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment as may be required for the event to be carried out under this resolution.

### SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board are authorized to make any such additional arrangements that may be required to carry out the event under this resolution.

### SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code,

concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, with respect to the event to be carried out under this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KUHLM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 311.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 311 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the annual Soap Box Derby. As all Members are aware, this is an annual event held here on Capitol Hill. Activities planned for this event will be coordinated with the Office of the Architect of the Capitol and, like all events on Capitol Hill grounds, will be free and open to the public.

The 2008 Greater Washington Soap Box Derby will take place on Constitution Avenue between Delaware Avenue and Third Streets, Northwest, on June 22.

□ 1030

The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby has been held on the U.S. Capitol Grounds since 1991 and has attracted over 60 youth participants in each of those years.

In 2007, for the first time in the 66 year history of the D.C. Soap Box Derby, a local participant won the Masters title in the national competition in Akron, Ohio. The All-American Derby Youth Program is administered by the International Soap Box Derby, Incorporated, an Akron-based non-profit corporation. This is a family-oriented event and is supported by hundreds of parents and volunteers.

I urge support for the resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KUHLM of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Concurrent Resolution 311, sponsored by the majority leader, Representative HOYER, authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the 67th Annual Washington Soap Box Derby on June 22, just a couple of weeks away, this year. For many years, Majority Leader HOYER and Congress have supported this fun event, which allows children to show off their hard work and their creativity as they compete for trophies and the opportunity to race others in competition.

Boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 17 will race down Capitol Hill in

homemade cars, hopefully without injury. Winners in each of the three divisions go on to compete in the National Soap Box Derby in Akron, Ohio. Last year, the Soap Box Derby marked a historic event when racer Kacie Rader won both the District's race and the national title in her division.

I support this resolution, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

The authorization of the use of the Capitol Grounds is part of the managerial work that we do here in Congress. But the issues the American people want addressed are being ignored. While Americans struggle, particularly in my district, to put fuel in their cars, we authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds. Gas prices are soaring above \$4 in many parts of the country and this Congress must act. We must work to find a way to ease the burden of increasing fuel costs.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KUHLM of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER. I am just real pleased, Madam Speaker, to be able to stand up and speak in favor of this, because this is a great example of conserving fuel for America. These cars don't run on gasoline or diesel. These kids are just going to let gravity take its course. I guess this trucker from Houston that I met with this last week who told me that he took a load from Houston to San Diego and got paid \$1,800 and his fuel costs were \$1,700, he probably wishes it was all downhill from Houston to San Diego so he wouldn't have to pay the kind of fuel costs that are being imposed upon the American public.

The American public is asking this House to address this issue. I don't think anybody who went home and talked to their constituents this last week could not have found out that people are frightened at the cost of fuel. Single parents are concerned that they can't get their children to school. They are concerned they are not able to get to do shopping. They are having to choose between food or fuel in families across our country. It is time to use American energy intelligently.

As we look at this great race, which I support, I am excited for these young people and I think it is really Americana at its best. But using America's resources wisely is also Americana at its best, and our citizens expect us to find and use the fuel that is available for them to bring these prices down.

I encourage my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join us on this side of the aisle in trying to find new sources of fuel from all over this Nation, from Alaska to the Gulf of Mexico to offshore. It is important to America. It is important to our families.

I thank you for allowing me to express my opinion.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the majority leader, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, today I rise as a proud sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 311, legislation which will allow the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to hold the 67th Annual Greater Washington Soap Box Derby on the grounds of the United States Capitol on June 22nd.

Soap Box Derby racing in our Nation's Capital has a long and rich tradition. In 1938, Norman Rocca beat out 223 other racers to win the Inaugural Greater Washington Soap Box Derby, which was held on New Hampshire Avenue. Over the years, thousands of the region's young people have participated in this great race.

Although the location has moved from the original site on New Hampshire Avenue to Capitol Hill, with stops on Massachusetts Avenue, Pennsylvania Avenue and Eastern Avenue along the way, the essence of the race has remained the same; homemade, gravity-powered cars, the spirit of competition, and the pure joy of racing. Community groups, police departments, fire departments and other sponsors sponsor children each year, children who may not otherwise be able to participate.

The Soap Box Derby is not simply a race, Madam Speaker; it is an enriching way to reach out to our youth and teach them the importance of community, responsibility, hard work and innovation.

The Soap Box Derby consists of dozens of drivers, both boys and girls, ranging in age from 8 to 17. These racers are divided into three divisions; stock, super stock and masters. The local winners of each division will automatically qualify to compete with racers from around the world in the 71st All-American Soap Box Derby in Akron, Ohio, on July 26th.

Madam Speaker, this event has been called "the greatest amateur racing event in the world." It is an excellent opportunity for contestants from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia to learn basic building skills while gaining a real sense of accomplishment.

Further, I hope that this year's winner from the Greater Washington area will have the same success as one of last year's participants, Ms. Kacie Rader. Kacie's win in Washington was only the beginning. Not only is Kacie a constituent and a neighbor, she also is the 2007 All-American Soap Box Derby Masters Division champion.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to join with me and the other original cosponsors, Representatives FRANK WOLF, JIM MORAN, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, in supporting this resolution.

Mr. KUHLM of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may

consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

Mr. CHABOT. I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding.

I think it is wonderful that we are talking about the Soap Box Derby. It is a good thing that it doesn't require any energy or any gasoline, because the gas prices in this country are higher than I think anybody would have expected in our lifetimes. It is about \$4 a gallon now, and people are asking me in my district, what are we going to do about this? What can we do about it?

Well, we should have done something about this a long time ago. The principal reason we are seeing these high gas prices is because we are far too dependent on foreign sources of energy. Why is that? Well, I know that as this one Member from Ohio can tell you, I voted 11 times in the last 14 years to open ANWR in Alaska for exploration and drilling. We think we have somewhere between 10 and 16 billion barrels of oil there. Unfortunately, we have handcuffed ourselves and put that off limits.

We also have the Outer Continental Shelf, where we have upwards of 86 billion barrels of oil and huge amounts of natural gas. If we had access to that natural gas, we wouldn't see the high heating prices for heating one's home in the wintertime.

But this is essentially the policy that this new majority here in Congress has put into effect. In reality, over the last decade, decade-and-a-half, even though they were in the minority in the time, they were able to block it over in the other body, in the Senate. So we had the votes here in the House to do it, but they didn't have the votes over there.

When you put huge amounts of energy like that off limits, it means we have to get that oil somewhere, so that means, unfortunately, we have to import it from OPEC nations, for example, who literally just keep the spigot turned down so that there isn't enough supply out there. Then when you have economies in India and China expanding and growing, it is a supply and demand issue. So the price goes up and continues to go up, because we are far too dependent on buying that oil from somewhere else. About two-thirds of our oil we buy elsewhere.

I know when the new Speaker of the House, Ms. PELOSI, took over here, a few months before the election she made the statement that the gas prices were outrageous. They made a big campaign issue about that. At that time they were \$2.30 a gallon. She said that was outrageous, and they had a plan to do something about that. Well, the plan that we have seen from this new majority here in the House of Representatives has resulted in it going from \$2.30 a gallon to about \$4.00 a gallon in less than 2 years.

So the problem is this new majority that talks about an energy policy, and they actually passed an energy bill recently, it was a no-energy bill, because

it didn't open up ANWR, it didn't open up the Outer Continental Shelf. It did nothing about making it possible for us to build oil refineries in this country.

We haven't built an oil refinery since 1976, over 30 years, making it virtually impossible to build an oil refinery. Therefore, even if we had enough crude in this country, we couldn't refine it quickly enough to be able to put it in our cars.

They have also been instrumental in pushing for these boutique fuels, where different States have different blends so the supply is very difficult to get around. That has driven the price up.

Also the liberals here in the House of Representatives over the years, and in this country, for that matter, their policy has been no new nuclear power plants. Now, France has 80 percent of their electricity produced by nuclear power plants. About 20 years ago, the liberals in this country were able to effectively shut down new nuclear power plants being built in this country. We have over 100 of them right now, but that means we haven't built any newer ones. China and India and other countries around the world are building them and relying more and more upon nuclear, but not the United States.

Many of us said what we are seeing now was where we were heading if we didn't change these policies. Unfortunately, this new majority here in the House of Representatives has gone just in the opposite direction from where they need to go. They have restricted us. They continue to restrict us from getting access to new energy which we have under our control in this country. They keep saying, let's just buy it from someplace else. Let's buy it from the OPEC countries. They will be nice to us. Well, they are not being nice to us. It is in their economic interests to continue to have this price continue to go up.

It is an absolute shame. It is a disgrace. It is unconscionable that this Congress consistently votes to make it harder and harder to be energy self-sufficient. That is where we need to go, not being more and more dependent upon foreign sources of energy. If we don't change it, the prices that we see right now, which are extremely high and are hurting an awful lot of people, will continue to go up.

Diesel is another problem. If you talk to any truckers right now, the price now is driving a lot of these people out of business. I was visiting with a fellow who is a farmer in my district last Friday who also has a side business. He had a truck. He pointed out it was behind one of his barns. He said, "I just park it now." It costs \$1,500 to fill up his tanks in that truck now. He just can't afford to do it.

□ 1045

And that is affecting every American, because everything that we buy, whether it is furniture, whether it is food goods, almost anything that we purchase in this country is transported

at some point or another over truck. That means those prices are going to continue to go up again. So I challenge this majority to change their policies, to take a good look at what they have been doing and the direction that we are heading and reverse that and allow us to become less dependent on foreign sources of energy. Let's bring these gas prices down before it cripples this country and cripples our economy.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, how much time do we have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Texas has 15½ minutes. The gentleman from New York has 10 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KUHLMAN of New York. Madam Speaker, at this time I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California, Representative DOOLITTLE.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, I have watched over the years on energy what has been happening in this country. Now we are in a big mess, with gasoline prices over \$4 a gallon. This didn't just happen by accident; the Democrats have been working to make this happen for the 18 years that I have been a Member of this House. Very interesting.

You know, ANWR exploration, House Republicans, 91 percent of us supported drilling in ANWR. Actually, both houses of Congress in 1995, I believe it was, passed legislation directing drilling in ANWR, and President Bill Clinton vetoed the bill. The Democrats opposed this bill. If we had passed that legislation, if President Clinton had signed it into law, we wouldn't be paying \$4 a gallon. And while 91 percent of House Republicans supported drilling in ANWR, 86 percent of House Democrats and President Clinton opposed it.

Converting coal to liquid, 97 percent of House Republicans voted to do that. Do you know that Wyoming is considered the Saudi Arabia of coal in the world? It is one of our greatest natural resources. 97 percent of Republicans voted for that policy to allow the conversion so that it could be used; 78 percent of House Democrats opposed it. It never became law.

Oil shale. We have got lots of oil locked up in shale in the Intermountain West; 90 percent of House Republicans supported oil shale exploration, 86 percent of House Democrats opposed it.

Is there a pattern that you are beginning to see here, Madam Speaker? The fact of the matter is, Republicans have supported every feasible possibility for new forms of energy and it seems like the Democrats, most of them, have opposed it.

I am a Californian. We ought to be drilling right now off the coast of California and Florida and every other place in this country where there are large oil reserves, and there are very large oil reserves in those two cases.

Eighty-one percent of House Republicans voted to do that; 83 percent of House Democrats opposed taking that action.

Increasing refinery capacity. We have heard that we haven't built a new refinery in this country for some 35 years. Ninety-seven percent of House Republicans voted to expand the amounts of refineries; 96 percent of House Democrats opposed it.

Madam Speaker, we didn't get here by accident. Democrats have been talking about energy and opposing effective new ways of developing energy. Republicans' talk has been consistent with our actions.

Now, not all Republicans voted the way I would have liked and not all Democrats voted against our position. But the fact of the matter is, you see these statistics, they have been in the 90th percentile, the high 80s; in one case it was 78 Democrats opposed, 78 percent for the coal to liquid. But everything else I have cited, they have been 83 percent or higher opposed to these policies.

It is no accident gas is \$4 a gallon. The policies we vote on do make a difference. Listen and look at the record. The Republicans for years have been trying to get more energy for this country. The Democrats have opposed it. We are reaping a bitter harvest of \$4 a gallon plus.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the Congresswoman from California (Ms. WATSON).

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, please let me set the record straight on congressional action on gas prices.

We now have a law, it is the farm bill, the historic investment in affordable biofuels, and beefed-up oversight on market manipulation. The President's veto was overridden on May 21 of this year. We also have the Renewable Energy and Job Act. It was passed on May 21 and there is a threat of a veto, but it was passed. Then, the Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act, holding OPEC and oil companies accountable for price fixing, and it passed on May 20, it is also under a veto threat.

Now we have a law, Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act. It was passed on May 13 and it had a pretty hefty vote to take it out of this House, it is now law. Let's set the record straight.

We also repealed subsidies to profit-rich big oil companies, and invest in renewable energy. It also is under veto threat. It passed here at the beginning of the year, February 27. We also have a law, Energy Independence Law with Market Manipulation Ban & New Vehicle Mileage Standards. It is now law. It passed the House last year on December 18, 2007.

We have another bill that is under a veto threat, a crackdown on gas price gouging. It passed the House on another pretty hefty vote that was bipartisan; it passed on May 23. And, Hold OPEC Accountable for Oil Price Fix-

ing, it passed on May 22 on a vote of 345-72, and it is under veto threat.

Now, Madam Speaker, you are going to hear that the Democrats aren't doing anything, but let me give you the exact votes on all of these bills.

The Republican leader, JOHN BOEHNER, voted "no" on OPEC price fixing, oil fixing. He voted "no" on price gouging. He voted "no" on renewable energy. He voted "no" on energy security.

ROY BLUNT voted "no" on OPEC price fixing, "no" on price gouging, and "no" on renewable energy.

ADAM PUTNAM voted "no" on price gouging and renewable energy.

THADDEUS MCCOTTER voted "no" on renewable energy and "no" on energy security.

And it goes on and on and on.

So to set the record straight, we are putting out sound bills to address the oil, shall I say, surge in price, because in my city of Los Angeles I was astounded when I got home to see that Diesel 2 sells in Los Angeles on the average for \$4.99.9. I am sure when I get back to Los Angeles in a week it will be \$5. The average price of gas in Los Angeles, in my district, and really throughout California, is \$4.12 a gallon.

Madam Speaker, we are proposing good and sound legislation to address the needs for energy and renewable energy sources in the United States of America so our constituencies can get back and forth to work and enjoy a better life, and so we need the help of the other party because this should not be an issue that is partisan. It is an issue for America.

Mr. KUHLMAN of New York. Madam Speaker, in closing, I would ask my colleagues to support this bill. It is a very meritorious bill. And while the legislative action of this Congress idles relative to energy legislation, certainly the kids of America should be able to carry on tradition. I support and applaud Leader HOYER for bringing this resolution to the floor.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I do have one additional request for time. I yield 3 minutes to Congresswoman KAPTUR from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentlelady for yielding to me, and will place quite a bit of information in the RECORD on what Democrats are trying to do here in order to put America on an energy independent path. But it is pretty difficult when you have a Bush administration that vetoes everything that we try to do, or threatens it, and you have the kind of speeches that are occurring down here today.

We have got an oil man as the President of this country. His right-hand fellow over there from Wyoming, Mr. CHENEY, ran Halliburton, an oil servicing company. So you pretty well know what you have got sitting over there in the White House.

Since they became President and Vice President, this country is import-

ing 1 billion more barrels of oil every year, 1 billion barrels more under the Bush administration. This is not a recipe for energy independence in our country.

This week it was embarrassing to see Secretary Paulson over in Abu Dhabi asking them to, gee, you know, still believe in the dollar, and all of the investors over there made rich by these oil petro dollars, largely U.S. dollars, watching our Secretary give that set of remarks. Similarly, President Bush a couple of weeks ago went to Saudi Arabia and sort of drilled around in the Middle East to see if he could find any additional sources of supply, begging the oil barons.

You know, it wouldn't take that much for him to direct his limousine right up here to Congress, not the Middle East. We have got some rooms over here on this side; we could sit around and talk about what can we agree on in terms of energy independence, what can we agree on here in order to do together what we cannot do alone. Make America energy independent.

As the gentlelady from California said, the President even vetoed the farm bill where we put in a major new title dealing with biofuels. Rural America wants to help lift this country to energy independence.

We are trying to get additions to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve suspended for the moment in order to give some price relief to the American people. Gee, it would be great if President Bush would kind of help us out on that.

He hasn't supported any of our renewable energy bills down here on the floor. In fact, if you look at the energy bill that he produced up there, that big report in his first term, he doesn't even deal with renewables. When you have got an oil perspective at the head of the machine, the car doesn't go in the right direction.

And so it seems to me, look at the record. Look at what he has done and not done on these—The Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act, no support there. Trying to get OPEC and the big oil companies to have some accountability, he doesn't support us on that. Rather than the President taking trips over to the Middle East, he ought to just come right up Pennsylvania Avenue here to the Congress. Meet with the chairs of our committees who really do care about this, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. MARKEY, Speaker PELOSI. We have got a lot of people here willing to talk. But the President is sending the Secretary of the Treasury over to Abu Dhabi and he himself over to Saudi Arabia. What does that tell the American people? A billion more barrels a year imported every year since he became President.

We don't have a partner to deal with over there at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. And that is why the American people are changing the people being elected here. They know America needs change. They want real leadership. They know they are not getting it.

So I say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, it is time to deal. Get the President. Let's talk about something serious for the sake of the Republic.

Here's a list:

**DEMOCRATIC-LED CONGRESS TAKING ACTION  
TO BRING DOWN THE COST OF GAS**

PASSED THIS MONTH

**Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act**—Congress has enacted legislation to suspend the fill of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve through the end of the year, as long as the price of crude oil remains above \$75 per barrel. This is a critical first step for hardworking families, businesses and the economy, which in the past has brought gas prices down. The President, who was previously opposed, suspended shipments and signed the bill because of overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress.

**Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act**—This legislation will extend and expand tax incentives for renewable energy, retain and create hundreds of thousands of green jobs, spur American innovation and business investment, and cut taxes for millions of Americans. These provisions are critical to creating and preserving hundreds of thousands of good-paying green collar American jobs. A recent study showed that allowing the renewable energy incentives to expire would lead to about 116,000 jobs being lost in the wind and solar industries alone through the end of 2009.

**The OPEC and Big Oil companies accountability bill**—This bill will combat record gas prices by authorizing lawsuits against oil cartel members for oil price fixing, and creating an Antitrust Task Force to crack down on oil companies engaged in anticompetitive behavior or market manipulation. President Bush has threatened to veto this bill.

**RECENT ACTION**

**Energy Independence and Security Act in 2007**—Historic energy legislation with provisions to combat oil market manipulation, increase fuel efficiency to 35 miles per gallon in 2020—the first congressional increase in more than three decades, and promote the use of more affordable American biofuels. Signed into law on December 19, 2007. Under new requirements in the Energy Independence Law and pressure from Congress the FTC announced on May 1, 2008 it would investigate allegations of market manipulation that may have led to last year's record price spikes in gasoline prices.

Reduces our dependence on foreign oil—cutting our consumption of oil by 2.9 million gallons per year in 2030—more than what we currently import from all Persian Gulf countries combined.

Lowers energy costs for consumers with oil prices projected to decline from more than \$100 per barrel to \$57 per barrel in 2016 (in 2006 dollars) in part due to the new energy law.

The new fuel standard for cars and trucks will save American families \$700 to \$1,000 per year at the pump.

Reduces global warming emissions by 2030 by up to 24 percent of what the U.S. needs to do to help save the planet.

Building, appliance, and lighting efficiency standards will save consumers \$400 billion through 2030.

**Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act**—This legislation would end unnecessary subsidies to Big Oil companies, invest in clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency, and help reduce global warming. The bill includes provisions that will generate hundreds of thousands of green jobs including an estimated 70,000 solar energy jobs,

more than 20,000 biodiesel jobs, and protect an additional 75,000 wind industry jobs. President Bush has threatened to veto this bill.

**Energy Price Gouging Prevention Act**—This bill will provide immediate relief to consumers by giving the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) the authority to investigate and punish those who artificially inflate the price of energy. It will ensure the federal government has the tools it needs to adequately respond to energy emergencies and prohibit price gouging—with a priority on refineries and big oil companies. President Bush has threatened to veto this bill.

**No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels (NOPEC) Act**—Legislation to enable the Department of Justice to take legal action against foreign nations for participating in oil cartels that drive up oil prices globally and in the United States. President Bush has threatened to veto this bill.

**Energy Market Manipulation Prevention—The new Farm Bill** increases Commodity Futures Trading Commission oversight authority to detect and prevent manipulation of energy prices. President Bush has vetoed this bill.

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Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I would like to close, Madam Speaker, by simply saying that this resolution was a resolution to allow the International Soap Box Derby, an organization that's a nonprofit based in Akron, Ohio, to use the Capitol Grounds, and I fully support that.

I want to call attention to one thing. In January of 2001, the month that this current President took office, gas was \$1.47 a gallon. Today, the national average is \$3.81, and I just want that for the record, with all the other comments that have been made on this particular bill for the Soap Box Derby.

I urge the passage of the permission to allow the Soap Box Derby to use our Capitol Grounds.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I support House Concurrent Resolution 311, to authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

I especially want to acknowledge the dedication of Mr. HOYER, the resolution's annual sponsor, who faithfully introduces this resolution to authorize use of the Capitol Grounds for such a worthwhile event.

This annual event encourages all boys and girls, ages 9 through 16, to construct and operate their own soap box vehicles. The event is supported by hundreds of volunteers, and parents.

It is an excellent opportunity for parents to have direct involvement in their children's activities. The derby's mission is to provide children with an activity that promotes technical and social skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

The derby organizers will work with the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police to ensure the appropriate rules and regulations are in place.

I urge my colleagues to join me in agreeing to House Concurrent Resolution 311.

Mrs. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms.

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 311.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE  
CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR A CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY**

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 335) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 335

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),*

**SECTION 1. USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (in this resolution referred to as the "sponsor"), shall be permitted to sponsor a public event (in this resolution referred to as the "event") on the Capitol Grounds to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

(b) DATE OF EVENT.—The event shall be held on July 17, 2008, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

**SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

(1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and

(2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsor shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

**SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.**

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsor is authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment as may be required for the event.

**SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.**

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, in connection with the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KUHLMAN) each will control 20 minutes.