

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the balance of the time I yield to the Congresswoman from Jacksonville, Florida, (Corrine Brown).

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I first of all want to thank Congressman TOWNS for hosting this energy information transportation session today.

And I was very excited last weekend that I was in your district, and I was able to ride the train from Union Station to downtown New York. That distance, I was able to do it in 2½ hours, and the goal of our Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is to be able to do it in less time.

Mr. TOWNS. From Washington to New York 2½ hours?

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. That is right. And we want to do it in 2 hours.

But the key is we were able to do that, and I was able to take that train ride and read and contemplate what we've got to do. We've passed the Amtrak bill. We've got to move this country forward, and I want to thank you for your leadership on this issue.

We've had our heads in the sand long enough on the issues of global warming, and I'm glad that the House Leadership is making this issue a top priority. You only need to look at the constantly rising gas prices to understand why we need to focus on energy independence.

My home State of Florida is particularly vulnerable to weather pattern changes brought about by climate change. Florida on average sits just 98 feet above sea level and each year battles hurricanes with increased frequency and intensity.

Fortunately, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is taking the bull by the horns and looking at ways that we can decrease the negative effect our transportation system has on the world's ecosystem.

One simple way to do this is increasing the use of passenger and freight rail. Freight railroads have made major gains in fuel efficiency through training and improved locomotive technology. A single intermodal train can take up to 280 trucks off our highways. Today, one gallon of diesel fuel can move a ton of freight an average of 414 miles, a 76 percent improvement since 1980. And General Electric will soon unveil the world's first hybrid locomotive.

Passenger rails' ability to reduce congestion is well known, with ridership numbers increasing steadily each year. One full passenger train can take 250–350 cars off the roads. Passenger rail also consumes less energy than automobiles and commercial airlines. But we need to get people to wake up and start making passenger rail a priority in this country.

Unfortunately, this also brings up the bigger issue of capacity and what we are able to accomplish with the limited rail capacity that currently exists in the United States. We need to find a dedicated source for increasing rail capacity and we need to do it now to prepare for the future.

This may not be an easy task, but it is the right thing to do for future generations.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge Congress to enact legislation to lower gas prices and invest in alternative energy.

In Texas, the price of a gallon of gasoline has risen more than \$1.05 in the past year.

No one drives more than Texans do. With thousands of miles of highways and cities located far from one another, efficient transportation is frequently on our minds.

Nationwide, gas prices have risen from \$2.20 per gallon in December 2005 to \$4.10 per gallon on June 19, 2008, according to the Energy Information Administration, the entity that collects official energy statistics for the United States Government.

Gas prices are hurting our local families. Citizens must make tough economic choices because of the crippling effect that high gas prices is having on their lives.

Congress must show leadership and take action to address this problem of high gas prices.

Congress should work toward the goals of long-term energy solutions that promote economic and environment stability.

We should invest in research to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. Wind-, solar-, hydrogen-, nuclear-, and geothermal energy sources are all viable options that should be considered.

We should mandate stricter fuel economy standards on all automobiles.

We should utilize alternative fuels that are environmentally sustainable.

We should incentivize the use of public transportation and improve our transportation infrastructure.

We should conduct stronger oversight to determine if gas prices are being artificially inflated.

My years on the Transportation and on the Science Committees have heightened my sensitivity to this subject of rising gas prices.

I have worked to help these committees pass legislation that:

Funds research for environmentally-friendly highway materials;

Secures dollars for our local transportation infrastructure; and

Supports research on alternative fuels, plug-in hybrid cars, hydrogen, ethanol, and other energy sources.

In Texas, we spend a lot of time in our cars. High gas prices are particularly impactful to our economy.

There is no simple or quick solution to this problem of gas prices, but Congress must show leadership and take action to address it.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about my constituents. They are asking for relief from escalating gas prices, and I want to be proactive.

The time to act upon this issue is today.

Mr. TOWNS. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. LATTA. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity on this special order this evening to talk about a very, very important issue that's facing this country, if not the most important issue, and that is energy.

We have several Members this evening that will be addressing the

House to talk about the energy policies, or lack thereof, in this country. And the first gentleman that I would like to recognize is the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as I drove around the district today, I got to speak to a number of folks, in fact, even over the weekend; and the number one issue on their mind is our energy policy in this Nation. And they asked me, Rob, what are we going to do about fuel prices? What are we going to do about making sure that we have the long-term interests of this country at heart when we develop this energy policy?

You know, I get to experience that every day. I'm privileged to live close enough to the Capitol here where I commute back and forth every day. I live in a little town that's about 80 miles from here, and I drive that every day. So I get to know what the cost of gas is, and I can really relate to folks back in the district when they ask me, What are we going to do about making sure that we have a good, comprehensive energy policy and making sure that we address fuel prices.

For me, it is about an 80-mile commute, and it is very similar to other folks who live back in the district, whether they live in the upper part of the district in the Fredericksburg area or down in Hampton Roads. Many of them commute day after day. They have to deal with the cost of commuting to get to their work. And they also have to deal with that as they commute to take their families, whether it's to school or whether it's to after-school activities for their children. It's really putting a crimp in their budgets, and they are very, very concerned.

As I drive through the district, I get to see the price of gas each day, and it ranges anywhere from \$4.10 a gallon up in the Washington metro area down to \$3.83 a gallon down in the Tappahannock area. So I know the range of fuel prices in the district, know where the best places are to buy fuel. But it's still extraordinarily expensive for people. And that really makes it difficult on them. It really puts a crimp in their budgets. It creates challenges for them, and it creates hardships for them. And that's something that they say, Why isn't Congress acting? Why aren't you coming up with a solution for these real problems that we have to deal with day in and day out?

And it's frustrating for them. They watch a Congress that really kind of stumbles and doesn't do anything. And I can understand their frustration and understand why they are frustrated with us.

You know, I would like to relate a couple of different stories.

Earlier in the district, I spoke with some folks in the Fredericksburg area,

the Sherman family, and they run a small business, and they rely on diesel trucks in their business. And they said, ROB, we bought diesel trucks for a specific reason. We bought them because of the hauling that we have to do, and diesels are more economical as far as hauling and heavy work. And diesel fuel, when they first bought those vehicles, was less than gasoline. And now we know today diesel is significantly more expensive than gasoline, and they're frustrated. They said, We made that decision. We made that decision based on good business sense, and now today their business is being affected by that.

□ 2045

In fact, they're having to park their trucks, and it's cutting into their business. So not only is it costing them more to operate, but they also have to make up for that by parking trucks, which reduces the amount of business that they're able to do and affects their bottom line. So not only are they in a situation of having to deal with higher fuel prices, but their margins get pressed, and they do less business because of these higher fuel prices. And they said, ROB, we can't stand that for very long. This really is going to affect what they're able to do.

So we don't have businesses that are growing. We have businesses that are retracting, and they're asking me, ROB, what are you going to do? Why isn't the Congress coming up with a sensible energy policy? And why isn't there a sense of urgency?

You know, folks are saying, look, this is something that affects us day in and day out. We want to feel like Congress has a sense of urgency and is going to Washington to get things done. And they don't want us to sit by idle. They are tired of words. They want action, and I can't blame them.

You know, we have the opportunity to work together to develop a comprehensive energy policy that provides relief to consumers for these high gas and diesel fuel prices and also addresses the issue of our reliance on foreign oil.

A lady today told me she had a great analogy, and I think it's perfect. She said, ROB, did you ever see the movie "Apollo 13?" And I said, yes, I did. She reminded me of a scene there where, as the command module and the service module were going to the moon, there was an explosion in one of the oxygen tanks there, and it damaged the primary oxygen tank, which was there to fuel the rocket to send it to the moon. So, obviously, they cut that trip short. But then all the members of the crew, the three members had to move to the command module, and the command module wasn't designed for them to stay in there. You know, those command modules had scrubbers to take out carbon dioxide, these lithium oxide scrubbers, and they weren't designed to keep folks alive for 4 days.

So what happened? They called back to mission control, and the folks in

mission control went to the engineers, and they went together and they put together all the pieces of equipment that they had on board in both the service and command modules, and they put it in a box and they took it in the room with the engineers, and they dumped those items on the table, and they said, come up with a solution to the problem. And they gave them a very specific time limit because obviously their oxygen was going to run out. And those engineers took that time and they came up with an idea, and they solved that problem which assured that those astronauts got back to Earth alive.

That's the same sort of spirit of ingenuity to solve problems that we need to bear with this energy problem. We can do it. We've seen that. We've seen that American ingenuity come to light. We've seen it solve problems, and we know with this particular situation we can put together a comprehensive energy policy that includes everything. We need to put everything in that box, just like those Apollo engineers did, and put it on the table and say let's develop a comprehensive energy policy for this country.

And again, it has to include everything. We have to make sure that we look at domestic sources of energy, again to create energy independence, and looking at our refining capacity to make sure that meets our future needs.

You know, we have vast resources here of energy. We need to make sure that we bring those things to the table, whether it's oil shale out west, oil sands, oil and natural gas in the Outer Continental Shelf. And we can do those things, and we can do those things in an environmentally sound manner. We have the technology to do that to make sure that we don't harm the environment, at the same time creating energy independence for this country. And we do have that ability. Whether it's in ANWR, whether it's offshore, or oil sands, or oil shales, we need to be doing that.

You know, we haven't constructed a refinery in this country in over 30 years. We need to do that. We have the ability to do that. We have the ability to create and build environmentally sensitive refineries and develop our energy here in environmentally sensitive ways.

You know, at the same time, it's critical that we encourage the development of clean energy sources, again, all different parts of the puzzle, and we need to bring those pieces together. We need to look at clean energy sources like wind, solar, hydroelectric, geothermal power. The technology is there. The technology is really developing at this particular point. We need to make sure that we enhance that, that we encourage that.

You know, environmentally friendly power production needs to be part of our portfolio, too, in addition to conservation. You know, I think we all agree that development of our domes-

tic sources has to be part of the puzzle, but we can't take that off the table. It has to be part of what we do in this suite of available resources that we have to solve our energy problems here and to come up with a comprehensive energy policy.

You know, it's that energy policy that's going to determine the health of our economy in years to come. We have to conserve. We have to look at alternative and renewable sources of energy. We have to look at the existing sources that we have here. We have to look at nuclear power. We have to look at every available means to make sure that this country can meet its energy needs and to create energy independence.

You know, we have to really ramp up the effort for research and development, not only of these resources, but of conservation and of other sources of energy. And we have to do that aggressively, in addition to aggressively pursuing the sources of energy that we have already. And we can incentivize conservation, and we can make sure that we encourage the use of more energy efficient equipment, in addition to developing our domestic sources.

So, again, we have to look at an across-the-board comprehensive energy policy and realize that there's no silver bullet for increasing gas prices. You can't just say we're going to do one thing and that's going to create a solution to this problem. We have to, just as the *Apollo 13* engineers did, put everything on the table, put everything in that box, and then put that on the table for us to solve these issues.

But the American people are looking for Congress to take clear-cut action to try to solve this problem, and they expect us to work to come up with that policy. They expect us to hear them, to literally feel their pain, and to make sure that we get things done here. They want to make sure that we're investing in these clean sources, in addition to investing and making sure that we develop the sources that we have here in our continental United States.

And you know, we should not cut off resources within our borders. I mean, we have that available. We don't see other countries throughout the world saying, well, we have these resources and we're not going to use them. And you know, we're in a world economy where we're competing against those other nations, and those other nations are buying energy abroad. They're developing their own sources. If we are going to compete with those economies, we cannot neglect the resources that we have here. We have to make sure that we have those resources available for us just to be able to compete.

I know there's some folks that say, well, you know, that's not going to come on line for 2, 3, 4, 15, 20 years down the road. Well, we need to do this now because it does have an effect on price. We all talk about speculation in the market, and speculation is based

on the expected supply, and if the expected supply goes up because the United States develops its own sources, that will have an effect on prices, in addition to the effect on prices that conservation and other alternative sources will have. So we can multiply that effect if we make sure that we don't take anything off the table in developing this energy policy.

And you know, as I said, I know that we as Members of Congress have an obligation to act, and the American people demand that we act, and they demand that we take a comprehensive look at what we do to address these energy needs, and we come up with a comprehensive energy policy.

You know, we had the opportunity years ago when we went through an energy crisis to develop a policy, and we didn't. Now, we have a renewed opportunity to do that and do what's best for the American people. They demand it. They tell me every day the things that I need to be doing as a Congress Member, and they say, look, you and your colleagues need to be doing that across the board.

So I think we need to make sure that we're cognizant of what the demand is and what the requirement is from the American public on what we should be doing here, and that's a comprehensive energy policy that includes everything.

Again, we need to take that *Apollo 13* box, dump it out there, and say let's have at it, let's create a comprehensive energy policy that ensures the long-term economic viability of this country.

I can tell you, we can no longer afford to wait, and my constituents demand that as well of every other Member of Congress. Now is the time to create a comprehensive energy policy, taking all the tools that we have.

Mr. LATTA. I thank the gentleman for his statement on energy policy in this country.

I'd like to next recognize the gentelady from Minnesota, Representative BACHMANN. Good evening.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I thank Representative LATTA. I appreciate your leadership on the issue of energy, and although you are a brand new Member of Congress—you haven't been here for a long time—you've shown just extraordinary leadership on the issue that's probably facing more Americans today than any other, and that's the dramatic increase in the price of energy, and I know how passionate you've been on this issue. You've worked tirelessly in your district, and the people of your district in Ohio are fortunate to have you as their representative. Thank you so much for working so hard on this issue.

It's one, Mr. Speaker, that I believe probably every Member of this body is hearing from their constituents over and over and over again. I know that I have as well. I had conducted a meeting with several members of my community who own gas stations, independent owners of gas stations. And

one thing that they told me that broke my heart, they told me that they are seeing 30 percent fewer sales at the pump, and they're also seeing 30 percent fewer sales inside their store, and they're hurting.

One gentleman told me that normally he would spend \$10,000 to purchase the gasoline that would go into the ground in the holding tanks, \$10,000, and that's money that's out of his pocket, sitting there in inventory until it can be sold. And he said, now, I pay \$40,000 to have that inventory in the ground, and now sales are 30 percent less. And so he has more money in the ground, not producing for him, at a higher and higher price level, and he said this is eating up my entire profit margin. There are people going out of business.

And so what he told me is we've got to do something to get gasoline back down from its \$4 a gallon, and that's what we're about here tonight to say there's very good news on the horizon.

It's doom and gloom when you wake up in the morning and you see and you hear on the radio and you see when you drive to the gas station what the price at the pump is. But the good news is, there is an answer, and America can go back to \$2 a gallon gasoline or less. It's entirely possible.

Why? Because we have the answer right here in our country. We are standing on our own solution. We have energy that's available to us, 86 billion barrels, that's according to our own United States department, 86 billion barrels of energy right now that's available to us in the form of oil in the Outer Continental Shelf area.

We have over 10 billion barrels of oil that's fully recoverable up in the arctic energy slope. This is an area of land that Congress originally set aside specifically for the purpose of accessing that energy through drilling to bring back down to the United States. I had the privilege back in the mid-1970s of working two summers up on the Aleutian Chain in Alaska. That's when the Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, trans-Alaska oil pipeline was built. That oil pipeline is currently up. It's running, but it is only half full.

With very little effort, we could actually tap into that oil pipeline, the 10 billion barrels that we know are already in Alaska, and we could fill that pipeline. Rather than having it half empty, we could fill it and bring down another million barrels of oil a day.

And Mr. Speaker, 1 million barrels of oil a day translates into 27 million gallons of gasoline, and that would mean a 50 percent increase in American reserves than we're already tapping today. That's just those 10 billion barrels. That doesn't include the 85 billion barrels that are also available in the Outer Continental Shelf in the deep sea energy reserves that America only has.

But Mr. Speaker, I think most Americans aren't even aware that America is the only country in the world that has voluntarily made it illegal to ac-

cess its own energy. That's right, Mr. Speaker, we are the only country in the world that's made it illegal to access our own energy.

Congress caused this problem. The problem is not OPEC and the problem is not speculators. The problem is the United States Congress. I believe part of the reason why we are seeing Congress's approval ratings at an astoundingly low 12 percent is because Congress has chosen to make it illegal to access the answer that we need, and that's our own energy resources.

Here's another great fact. In the gulf coast region, we have what is probably the world's largest reserve of natural gas. We have 420 trillion, 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas that's available to us right now off the shore in the Gulf of Mexico. We can access this, and we can bring natural gas into our country, use it to fire up our electrical grid, and also, we could even change our cars and buses, run them on natural gas as well.

□ 2100

America also is home to 25 percent of the Earth's supply of coal right here in the United States, almost an unlimited supply. We have clean coal technology today that's available to us that can process coal and transmit that almost unlimited supply of energy all across the United States.

And as well, nuclear energy. I have a nuclear energy facility in my home district in the Sixth Congressional District of Minnesota, Mr. Speaker. And I'm so grateful we have that because nuclear power supplies almost 20, 25 percent of Minnesota's energy needs. It's a clean, safe, reliable form of energy, and it has zero emissions. I am so excited about this wonderful technology, but unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, again, Congress has made it illegal for us to be able to tap into this wonderful source of energy.

Whether it's nuclear, whether it's coal, whether it's natural gas, whether it's the oil reserves that we have, America has the answer. In fact, this is the industry that we can tap into right now. We don't need to find a magic bullet or a magic alternative. This is energy that we have available to us today that we could tap into today so we can see the American people very soon get back to paying \$2 a gallon.

One thing that happened not too long ago was this body, the United States Congress, sent out stimulus checks to Americans all across the country. Why, Mr. Speaker? Because people in the United States Congress were worried about the economy, so we went to the United States Treasury and we wrote checks that are still being sent out to Americans all across this country. Why? We wanted to encourage Americans to spend money to stimulate the economy.

Do you know what I believe the greatest stimulus would be to Americans? It would be to get gasoline back to \$2 a gallon. And it's so possible. It

was just about 18 months ago that the Democrat majority took over in this body. And when they took over, gasoline, on average, at the national level was \$2.33 a gallon. Mr. Speaker, that average today is about \$4.07 a gallon. That's a dramatic increase in the price of gasoline, unheard of increase in the price of gasoline. It took us 25 years in the United States for gasoline to go from \$1 a gallon to \$2 a gallon. And just in the time that the Democrats have held the gavel they have taken this country from \$2.33 to \$4.08 a gallon.

I was listening to the previous discussion that occurred, and I heard some suggestions about why the price of gasoline has gone up so dramatically. And I find it interesting, because if you look at the votes from 1994 until today, this Congress has already voted on whether or not we should explore in ANWR. We voted on it. In fact, the Congress, back in 1995, sent a bill to President Bill Clinton to say that we should be drilling in ANWR. The House passed that bill, the Senate passed that bill. Unfortunately, it was President Bill Clinton that vetoed that bill; otherwise, we would have already been drilling in ANWR. We wouldn't be in the pickle that we're in today.

But this is the vote and these are the facts. I'm not trying to be partisan because we need to come together, as Democrats and Republicans, and solve this problem now because Americans are feeling real pain and the economy is reeling over energy prices. But here's the facts, Mr. Speaker. This is a fact. Any American can go and find out what the voting has been on ANWR exploration, of bringing energy down from Alaska.

Ninety-one percent of Republicans have voted to explore in ANWR and drill for oil in ANWR, 91 percent; 86 percent of Democrats have opposed drilling. And that hasn't changed today because we already know what the Democrat plan is for energy, they've made it abundantly clear. It is very simple. Their plan has been, let's have the United States Government—that created this problem—take over the oil industry and nationalize oil refineries. That's what they said last week at a press conference, let's nationalize oil refineries. Well, that's not a new idea, but it's not an American idea. And that's not an idea that the American public wants us to embrace. They don't want us to embrace socialism. But that's what we heard Democrats say last week.

Here's the other part of their plan: It is, drive less and pay more. Drive less and pay more. That's not what the American people want. But Senator OBAMA, the nominee of the Democrat party, just recently said it isn't the high price of gasoline that has him worried, it's how quickly that price went up. Well, I'll tell you one thing, Congressman BOB LATTA, Congressman PAUL BROUN and also Congressman ROB WITTMAN, who was on the floor tonight, it's the high price of gasoline that's bothering us.

Republicans don't want to see gas at \$4.08 a gallon, or \$5 or \$6—or whatever that price could be by the end of summer. We don't want it that price because we know for a fact we can get gasoline back down to \$2 a gallon or less very simply if all we do is explore what we already know we have. We've got the resources, we've got the technology. We can do this thing, we're Americans. We're Americans, and we can do this, just like Congressman WITTMAN said, like we did with the *Apollo 13*. We can do this, and it's exciting.

We don't have to go with the Democrat agenda, which is, nationalize the oil industry, take over the oil refineries. We think the United States Government—who didn't do such a great job at Walter Reed Hospital—is going to be brilliant and bring down the price of gas by taking over oil refineries? I don't think so. I don't think that's who I want to trust, not with the American people saying that we have a 12 percent approval rating; I don't think they would trust us either.

And I don't think the American people want us to drive less and pay more. I think what the American people want is what the Republicans are offering. And that's why I'm so grateful to Congressman LATTA tonight for sponsoring this important hour on energy. Because what Congressman LATTA is trying to let the American people know is that we can get back down to \$2 a gallon of gas or less if we open up the key to our own answer, which is, open up America's supplies and do it in a clean, safe, environmentally sensitive way, which we've already done.

How do I know that to be true? Because the United States was one of the only countries in the world last year that actually reduced its emissions. That's right, Mr. Speaker, the United States is one of the only countries in the world that reduced its emissions. All these other countries that signed onto the Kyoto Treaty, the EU, that signed onto this elaborate, bureaucratic-driven cap and trade system, their emissions all went up, ours went down. What's the difference?

We, in this country, believe in freedom. We believe in freedom and we believe in free markets to solve our problems. And they do, free markets solve the problems. It's not socializing our oil industry like the Democrats have suggested. It's not sitting home, putting a sweater on, turning our thermostat down, that's not going to solve the problem. It's not going to be paying more at the pump; that's not going to solve the problem. It is unleashing American ingenuity and finding these new sources of supply, which we already have, with technology that we already have, and bring the supplies in so we can make it happen.

I am so excited about what Congressman LATTA is doing. And I just want to end now with these other statistics, and they're very simple. House Republicans voted 97 percent of the time to

have coal-to-liquid technology, to give us more oil at cheaper prices. Democrats opposed it 78 percent of the time.

Oil shale exploration. The United States is the Saudi Arabia of oil. We have more oil just in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming than all of Saudi Arabia, over 1.3 trillion barrels of oil. Republicans said yes, let's explore that oil 90 percent of the time. Democrats opposed exploring that oil 86 percent of the time.

Outer Continental Shelf, where we have 86 billion barrels of oil. House Republicans voted 81 percent of the time, let's explore, let's access that energy. Democrats, almost the flip, 83 percent opposed exploration.

On refinery increase. Because, you know, we had over 300 refineries not too long ago in this country, we're now down to somewhere near 150 refineries. The Republicans voted 97 percent to increase the number of refineries, Democrats opposed it 96 percent.

I don't take any glory in reading those numbers, but if you average them all together, over 90 percent of the time, Mr. Speaker, Republicans have voted to explore American energy, explore it now so that Americans can pay less. That's our answer. We're not new to this dance. This has been the answer that Republicans have been giving since 1994. That's the answer we want to have. Democrats, since 1994, almost 90 percent have said no, let's not access American resources; in fact, let's make it illegal to access these resources. Well, that's not what the American people say.

Mr. Speaker, over 70 percent of the American people have had it up to here. They're seeing their lives change; they're seeing jobs lost, jobs sent overseas. They want us to explore here, explore now, so they can pay less.

And, Mr. Speaker, we agree with the American people. And Congressman LATTA is leading the charge tonight to let the American people know that we're with them, we're in their corner. We don't think they are the problem. We think the American people are way out in front on this solution.

So I yield back, Congressman LATTA. I yield back because I can't wait to hear what more you have to say on this issue. And thank you for that opportunity.

Mr. LATTA. Well, I thank the gentlelady for yielding back, and also for her enthusiasm and her knowledge of this subject because this is what we have to do in this country because we've got to get the word out to the American people. But as you said, the American people are actually far ahead of Congress right now and they know what we need to do. So I just want to thank you very much for your eloquence tonight on your statement.

At this time, I would like to yield now to my good friend, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN), to speak on energy.

I appreciate your being here this evening. Thank you.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I thank my good friend for yielding, and I appreciate what you're doing tonight.

Energy is the lifeblood of the American economy. Our economic prosperity is closely tied to the availability of reliable and affordable supplies of energy. Unfortunately, U.S. energy production has grown only 13 percent while energy consumption has increased 30 percent since 1973.

According to AAA, the average American is paying over \$4.07 per gallon for gasoline today. Instead of traveling to spend time with loved ones, record gas prices will keep many Americans home this 4th of July weekend.

Skyrocketing gas prices and a risky dependence upon fuel supply by volatile foreign nations highlight our need for an American energy policy that emphasizes production and decreases our reliance upon foreign oil.

Many here in Congress bemoan America's addiction to foreign oil, yet they refuse to allow access to American oil and gas supplies necessary to cure this addiction. America has been blessed with abundant natural resources, and we should not be hesitant to tap into them, especially at a time when energy cost is so high.

We've heard time and time again about how drilling off the coast in the Outer Continental Shelf will harm the environment. This is pure hogwash. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed or damaged literally hundreds of drilling rigs without causing the spill of a single drop. Yet congressional Democrats continue to pander to the far left environmental whackos instead of mending the pains of hardworking Americans.

We cannot even drill for oil or gas 200 miles off our own shore. Meanwhile, communist China and Fidel Castro's communist Cuba are moving forward with plans for drilling for oil and gas only 45 miles off of the shores of Key West. Liberal Democrats have also prevented any access to the billions of barrels of oil located in ANWR.

The entire area of ANWR is larger than the combined areas of five States—Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey and Delaware—yet the proposed drilling area is equal to one-sixth the size of Dulles Airport here in Washington, D.C.

Development of American oil and gas on these lands will help bring the price down and help break the stranglehold on energy that hostile countries in the Middle East enjoy. And this can be done in an environmentally sound manner and should be immediately implemented.

The environmental groups haven't allowed a new oil refinery to be built in the United States for decades, about 30 years. It does little good to increase our use of domestic supplies of oil when we do not have the refinery capacity to quickly convert it into a useable form, gasoline. Members on both sides of the aisle need to stand up to these fringe groups and implement policies that en-

courage the construction of new refineries in the United States.

Liberals also suggest mandating ethanol and renewable fuel production and selling it as the answer to America's energy needs. The 2007 "non-energy" energy bill, or "lack of energy" bill has already proven that the Democratic solution is wrong, dead wrong. Mandating the production of renewable fuels has only led to an increase in world food prices. It is, at best, disingenuous, and at worst, an outright lie to say that renewable fuels can meet America's needs in the near future.

□ 2115

As a good southerner, I love my cornbread and grits. It makes no sense to me to put corn in the tank of my pickup truck.

Energy prices are soaring, and the financial pain that families are feeling at the pump is forcing them to decide what they can and cannot spend. Congressional Democrats act as if they have been living under a rock by continuing to ignore the demands of the American people and refusing to do anything to lower these burdensome prices. Skyrocketing gas prices and a risky dependence on fuel supplied by volatile foreign nations highlight our need for an American energy policy that emphasizes production and decreases our reliance upon Middle Eastern oil.

The United States is the only nation on Earth that forbids development of its own natural resources. Listen to me. Right now America is drilling for ice on Mars; yet we cannot drill for oil in America. That makes no sense. It's idiotic. It's stupid. We must drill on our own lands and we must do it now. We must streamline our oil refinery processes, and we must end our dependence upon Middle Eastern oil.

Our energy prices were not created overnight and will not be solved overnight. Congress must act swiftly to address this growing energy crisis. America's energy policy must make us stronger and less reliant on countries that are hostile to freedom. Passing any so-called energy bill that fails to produce even a single kilowatt of new energy or produce a gallon of gas is not a solution. We must pass legislation that will allow for responsible use of our known American supplies of energy, that reduce excessive and burdensome environmental policies, and that encourage the development of alternative forms of energy. We need to increase nuclear power. It's the only thing that has proven to be incredibly safe. It's a successful source of energy, and it's the only thing that makes sense economically.

I stand ready to fight for this, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. LATTA, I appreciate your working tonight to bring this issue forward. It's absolutely critical for the American public that we stop this dependence

upon Middle Eastern oil. These countries want to destroy us. They hate our freedom. They hate our market system. They hate everything that we stand for. They even hate women. They want to use them as tools. And yet we are funding these countries that want to destroy us. It makes no sense. We have got to develop an energy policy that makes sense economically, environmentally, and makes us not dependent upon these countries that want to destroy us.

I highly commend your effort tonight. I am glad to have joined you tonight, and I look forward to working with you and the rest of the Members.

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, I just love you and I appreciate your passion and your fervor in fighting for change in our policy. It's absolutely critical. So I applaud your efforts. I know last week I saw you fighting down here on the floor again for the same issues, and I am at awe of your fervor towards this. But we must end our dependence on foreign oil, and I appreciate both of you as well as Congressman Whitman's participation tonight in this Special Order. Thank you so much, and I just praise God for you and your efforts tonight.

Mr. LATTA. Thank you very much, my good friend from Georgia. I really appreciate your being here tonight. And, again, what you say is absolutely what we have to be doing in this country, and I appreciate it. And, again, as we said a little bit earlier, the American people back home get it, but we are not getting it down here in Congress. So I appreciate your words this evening.

Mr. Speaker, we aren't listening to the folks back home. I got home on Friday night from Washington at about 8 o'clock, and gas down at the local gas station was \$4.03. I had to speak at our Buckeye Boys State, which was going on at Bowling Green State University on Saturday morning, and I attended one of my county fairs that day and also went to an event at Bowling Green State University that evening. And the only topic that people are talking about right now is what are we going to do in this country about the high prices of fuel? And, again, they understand there's a problem, but, unfortunately, here in this Congress there is a real question if we actually are getting it.

My district, the Fifth Congressional District, is kind of unique in that we are number nine in manufacturing in the entire United States Congress, ninth out of four hundred thirty-five.

What made this country great was the Industrial Revolution. After the Civil War, we watched what happened as the country took off. We had a situation where we had the resources, we had the people, and we were able to produce a product that the rest of the world wanted. And we did great. But the big thing we have to look at today is that energy equals manufacturing, which equals jobs for Americans, and if

we are not going to be doing that, we're in trouble.

Another great privilege and honor that I have got out there, I am able to go around my district and go to the manufacturing facilities and talk with a lot of the people that are working in these plants. And one of the questions that I always ask them right upfront is how many miles do you drive to work? or how many folks do you have that are driving out of the area? It's not uncommon to hear 30, 40, 50 miles one way for people to come into work. So you multiply that out, and some people driving 500 miles a week. And some people are saying to me, you know what? There's a real problem out there. What happens when gas gets to the price that I'm not going to be able to afford to drive to work and it's not going to be sound for me to do that? We have got a real problem. We have got a real problem. Because the Fifth Congressional District is 140 miles east to west. It's not as large as going to Montana or Wyoming or some other spots in Iowa or some of the other States. But when you're driving that many miles to work, people are going to start asking, is it worth it for me to actually get to work?

At the same time, we have a lot of different manufacturing facilities in Northwest Ohio. We also have certain very unique ones. We have a float glass plant in my district. Five years ago their costs were around \$10 million; today they are \$30 million. There are 40 of these facilities being constructed in China today. Their labor force is cheaper. So when we are competing with cheaper labor compared to our more highly skilled labor, but at the same price of fuel, let's just say, they are going to win because their prices are cheaper. We can't have that happen.

The other thing we have in Northwest Ohio, I come from the largest farming area in Ohio, and when you're looking at the farmers today, they have been planting corn and soybeans, and they are getting ready in the near future to be out there and are going to be harvesting that wheat. But it costs money. It costs a lot in diesel. It costs in chemicals. It costs in fertilizer. And this is all from the same thing, and all of it is coming from petroleum. So when people say they are getting X number of dollars for a bushel of wheat or beans or corn, you've got to look at what that production cost is. And it's rising. And not only is it rising for the farmers and the manufacturers, but also for that man and woman going into that grocery store every week to try to make sure they have food on the table for their family. The costs are going up.

In Ohio 80 percent of all the goods that are delivered are delivered by truck. We don't have a rail system. We don't have a metro system. We don't have a bus system. People in my area, if you're going to get someplace, you can't walk. You can't ride a bicycle. You've got to get in that automobile

and get to work or get to that store. So we have to make sure that folks have that ability to be able to purchase things because if we have too high prices for gasoline, home fuel oil, natural gas, electric costs, rising food bills, that's going to prevent consumers out there from having more disposable income. And when they don't have disposable income out there, what's going to happen? Well, they are going to quit buying, and pretty soon this economy is going to be in shambles. So we have got to do something right now. And, again, the American people understand it, but we have got to understand it here in Congress.

A couple weeks ago when we were having another Special Order, a Member from Texas brought up an example of a person from his district. A trucker from Texas had a load to take to California. It cost \$1,500 in fuel costs to get that to California. That trip cost \$1,500, and he got \$1,700 for the entire trip. By the time you take out all the expenses, the taxes, the depreciation on the truck, he lost money. So we have got a real problem in this country, and that problem is coming up on us right now.

The United States uses about 21 percent of the world's energy as we speak tonight, but the rest of the world is catching up. We were years ago able to make some dumb mistakes in this country because we were always able to correct them quickly because everybody was behind us. After World War II, most of the world all lay in shambles but the United States. But as time went by, these other countries have been catching up, and I think this chart explains it really quickly.

When you look at the energy consumption in this country and where the other countries are, and I'm talking about India and China, you will see that right now we are leading. But in 2015 China and India are going to be at parity with the United States. In 2020 China is going to surpass the United States in energy usage. What does energy usage mean again? Energy usage means jobs. It means manufacturing. And if they get ahead of us, it's going to be very, very tough to catch up. Once again, we have got to do what we have to do for the American people, and that is to make sure that we have the energy to make sure that we have the jobs for the future.

As my colleagues discussed a little bit earlier some of the issues, nuclear, let's just talk about nuclear for a few minutes. France, about 75 percent of all their energy comes from nuclear power. Not only do they have that nuclear power, but they also have that nuclear power they can export to the rest of Europe. So they're producing it and they're shipping it over.

Japan has 55 nuclear reactors with 2 under construction. Russia, 31 reactors in operation and 37 to 42 currently or will be under construction and operational by 2020. India is building 30 new plants in 25 years. They're smaller, about 200 megawatts, but they are

building. China, they are building 40 gigawatt nuclear power stations in the next 25 to 30 years. That's 40 in the next 25 to 30 years.

What about coal? As my colleague from Minnesota brought up about all the coal that we have in this country, what is China doing? Well, right now in China, about 80 percent of their power is electrically generated and 18 percent is hydro, and they are getting into nuclear. China is investing in \$24 billion in clean coal technology.

India, the third largest coal producer and consumer in the world. India is right there at number three. India and China account for 45 percent of coal use.

Hydro, China is constructing the Three Gorges hydro plant, which is going to produce about 18.2 gigawatts, and the Yellow River hydro plan will produce 15.8 gigawatts.

Oil, as my colleague from Georgia has mentioned, drilling offshore, the Chinese, as he just mentioned and as my colleague from Minnesota mentioned, China is negotiating for oil leases off Cuba 50 miles from the U.S. Canada is negotiating. Venezuela is negotiating. Those are in waters that would be considered areas that the United States should be drilling in, and we are not.

The alternatives/supplementals, China is mandating by 2020 15 percent of energy from wind, biomass, solar, and small hydro plants.

Things are happening across the world, but the real question is what is happening in this country? What is happening in this country? And I am afraid to report tonight not much at all.

As we have talked about, what's been going with nuclear in this country? The last plant to be licensed in this country was in 1977. The last plant to go online was in 1996. When you're looking at these things, we are getting farther and farther behind. There is a lot of different things we can be talking about with alternatives or maybe you want to call them supplementals, types of powers, but I think people have got to know what we're talking about. When we're looking at what one 1,000 megawatt reactor would need, you would have to erect between 1,250 to 1,700 wind turbines to get there. I think wind is great, but I think you have to remember we have to have a base load out there to make sure that we can run our plants.

As the gentlewoman from Minnesota mentioned, the United States has 24 to 25 percent of the world's coal. Well, what are we doing about it? In Ohio we have higher sulfur in our coal, and the problem with that is it costs more to scrub it. But we have the technology. We have an individual from Northwest Ohio that has helped bring about and invent a clean coal technology that we can consume this coal without emitting it. We have hundreds of years of reserves on our coal.

As has been mentioned, the oil shale in Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, over 6

trillion barrels of oil equivalence out there, and what are we doing about it? Absolutely nothing.

□ 2130

Congress is standing in the way. Oil and natural gas. When we reimport 65 percent of our oil in this country, that is a problem. That is a problem. We need to start doing something. Our friend from Virginia, Mr. WITTMAN, said a little earlier that what they did with Apollo 13, they had to come up with a solution, and come up with it now. We have got to do that in this country.

John Kennedy, when he was in office, had said that we were going to put a man on the Moon by the end of the 1960s. We did it with Neil Armstrong in 1969. But we have got to have a purpose and make sure we get that done.

We are talking about places where we are restricting ourselves. The only country in the world to fight with both hands tied behind its back is this country. ANWR, we have approximately 10.3 billion barrels of oil. As has been mentioned, we are talking about an area of over 19 million acres, and only talking about drilling and exploring in 2,000 of those acres. When you are looking at 10.3 billion recoverable barrels of oil up there, we have got to get up there. As mentioned a little bit earlier, President Clinton, in 1995, vetoed that legislation, or we would be getting that oil right.

Also, as has been mentioned, we have 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas offshore. We have 86 billion barrels of oil. Of that, the Federal Government denies access to 92 percent for oil drilling and 90 percent of that area for natural gas. As has been mentioned, even if we got that oil to this country, we haven't done anything for over 2½ decades on refinery.

A bill has been introduced here to say if people have that NIMBY, that "don't put it in my backyard," how about using an abandoned military base to put these facilities in, these refineries.

The scary thing we have got going out there is this, is that as we watch more and more American dollars being spent on all of this fuel and all these other dollars going overseas, and of course we have a \$9 trillion debt right now, the scary thing that we have got going out there is who's buying our debt. Right now, we have about a \$9 trillion national debt. About \$2.6 trillion of that is owned by foreign countries. Japan owns, as of the April statement, about \$592.2 billion, and the Chinese have about a half a trillion dollars of that debt.

We have got to act now. We can't wait. We can't make mistakes. We have to explore, drill, we have got to conserve. We have got to do everything that has been mentioned here tonight. We have got to look at those alternatives of supplementals because, again, you talk to a lot of folks out there and the question as to alter-

natives, well, maybe don't have enough base load out there.

So we have to make sure that we get those wind turbines up. Again, people object to those. In my district, out my back door I can see the only four wind turbines in the State of Ohio. We have solar, with two companies, one in production right now in my district, another going to be going online here in the near future, producing solar panels. I have another company in my district working on hydrogen. There's ethanol, there's biodiesel, but everything put together, we have got to go out there and do it all right, and do it all right, and we've got to do it now.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think that the time is now. The American people are demanding action from this Congress, and we can't make the mistakes of the past because we don't have time to catch up.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LATTA. I yield to my friend from Georgia.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I have got a comment and a question. Last week, we heard members of the other party come to this floor and talk over and over again about the oil companies have thousands of acres that they already have leased and that they are not drilling in them. It's my understanding that a lot of this is land that the oil companies just leased up so that they would have the prerogative to be able to do so in the future.

I think this is correct, is that not so?

Mr. LATTA. To the gentlemen, I believe that is absolutely correct. When you're talking about leases, as you said, you're buying and leasing a lot of an area. It doesn't mean they are all profitable, because if every time you put a well down and struck oil, everybody would be doing it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. That is the point that I was just wanting you to bring up, is that all this land that the oil companies have leased over the years, they have temporary leases, that when those leases expire, the land turn back. In fact, I have got a friend, the Dudleys in Athens, Georgia, who lease some land in Alabama to an oil company to drill for gas. They had that lease for a number of years. The oil company never drilled. That lease has expired. So those friends of mine, Randy and Mary Dudley, in Athens, Georgia, today, don't have the lease money coming in as they did. The oil company never drilled there.

That is true all over this country, from what I understand. We just hear from the Democrats over and over again that the oil companies have all this land, but it's land where there's no oil. They just lease it in case that they may be able to find oil or gas. But we know there's oil, we know there's gas on the Outer Continental Shelf. In fact, it's my understanding that only about 15 percent of the land in the Outer Continental Shelf is actually leased, that we could tap into. Is that correct?

Mr. LATTA. That is correct.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Well, in fact we know that there is oil and gas out there; in fact, trillions of cubic feet of gas. Gas, when we burn it, is a very clean fuel. Those who adhere to this global warming hysteria, which I think is a hysteria and not fact; in fact, I am a medical doctor and scientifically I have looked at this issue, and there are many scientists on both sides, a lot that say that global warming that we are experiencing is due to natural causes and not due to an increase in carbon output by man's use. But we have got propane that is produced from the refinery of oil. We could produce that. There are a lot of cars and buses that run on propane.

We have natural gas that, in my home in Watkinsville, Georgia, I have a natural gas hot water heater, natural gas stove that I cook my wild game on when I get home and have the opportunity to cook my game and fish that I love to hunt and fish. But all these are clean sources of energy, and we are just not tapping into those.

I thank you for bringing these things up. We have got so many sources of clean fuels, even if global warming is caused by human causes, which I am one that I don't think there's enough scientific data to prove that fact. There are a lot of scientists that do say that. But certainly tapping into our own gas and oil resources can make us less dependent upon foreign oil, make us less dependent upon those who want to destroy us as a Nation. It's a national security interest for us to tap into those resources that we have here.

As I said a few minutes ago, America is the only Nation in the world that won't tap into and develop its own natural resources. It makes absolutely no sense. It's stunningly stupid, stunningly stupid that we don't do that. Right now, we are drilling for ice on mars, yet we cannot drill for oil in America. I just cannot understand that. It makes no sense.

We are being blocked over and over again by the people on the other side who are pandering to the radical environmentalists. I am a conservationist. I started my political activity coming up here as a volunteer, working on conservation issues. I think it's critical that we develop those oil sources.

I congratulate you on bringing this forward tonight.

Mr. LATTA. Thank you. I yield to my good friend from Minnesota.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Thank you, Congressman LATTA. I want to address a point that was brought up by Congressman BROUN and really the absurdity of the remark regarding the oil leases that oil companies have taken up. These lands are owned by the American people and they are leased out to oil companies or natural gas companies. These oil and gas companies have to pay for these leases. They aren't just given to them free of charge. They have to pay for the right to search for the oil.

They take all the risk, and they find the natural resource and they access that natural resource. It doesn't make any sense economically for a company to lease something and waste money on leases that they aren't going to use. It's already in law that if the companies that lease this land, if they are not productive, it's already a law they have to turn the leases back. They can't just lease them forever, get them for free, not pay for that right to lease the land. They have to already turn them back if they aren't productive, because the companies know if there's oil on the land, or if there's gas on the land, they already know if it's there.

Just because they have leased land doesn't mean that there's oil on it or that there's gas on it. It just doesn't make sense someone is going to waste money if they are in a private company. That takes away from profit, and you need to have profits to be able to go forward.

Again, this is the 75th anniversary of the New Deal, and it reminds me of Solomon, who said in Ecclesiastes, "There is nothing new under the sun." And there is nothing new under the sun with a lot of these suggestions we have seen. As a matter of fact, the plan we have seen so far from the Democrats has been this, and it's pretty simple, it is: Drive less, pay more. That is pretty much the plan that we have seen. Oh, yeah, also, let's increase taxes on the domestic production of American energy. That doesn't take too much for the American people to figure out.

If Congress would decide we are going to start taxing food, do you think food would cost more? Of course it would. What about if Congress decided, Let's add taxes to health care, as if that wasn't expensive enough. Would that cost more? Of course it would.

This is not the way the American people want us to go. They don't want us to jack up taxes on American production of oil. They don't want to drive less, they don't want to pay more. They don't want to have America socializing and taking over oil refineries. What the American people want, pure and simple, is freedom. They want freedom, they want the free market, and they want to see energy prices get back down to \$2 a gallon or less.

I know it's possible, I know it can happen, and that is why I am so thankful for your brilliant leadership tonight, Congressman LATTA, and also for Congressman PAUL BROWN, and also for Congressman WITTMAN, who was here earlier this evening speaking, because here's an answer. Here's an answer.

It's here, it's ours, it's for the taking. We can be environmentally sensitive. We can explore here in America now, and we can have Americans pay less. I yield back.

Mr. LATTA. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight on this Special Order.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the topics of tonight's Special Order speeches.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

KELO THIRD ANNIVERSARY

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. The fifth amendment to the U.S. Constitution states that, "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation."

June 23, 2005, marks a very sad day in our Nation's history. Exactly 3 years ago today, five unelected members of the U.S. Supreme Court made one of the most despised rulings in our Nation's history, one of the most egregious, unconstitutional rulings in our Nation's history in its ruling of *Kelo v. City of New London*.

The courts allowed a small Connecticut town to seize a private home to make way for a riverfront development. This activist decision was an attack on middle-class citizens for the benefit of the rich. There have been no worse interpretations of the intent of the fifth amendment than when the Supreme Court seized a private home for the profit of a private company. Yes, a private company.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, with whom I have disagreed on many of her decisions, was spot on in her dissent when we stated, "the specter of condemnation hangs over all property. Nothing is to prevent the State from replacing any Motel 6 with a Ritz-Carlton, or any home with a shopping mall, or any farm with a factory."

She added that under the Court's decision in *Kelo*, "any property may now be taken for the benefit of another private party," and "the fallout from this decision will not be random. The beneficiaries are likely to be those citizens with disproportionate influence and power in the political process, including large corporations and development firms. As for the victims, the government now has a license to transfer their property from those with fewer resources, to those with more.

□ 2145

The Founders cannot have intended this perverse result."

So detested was the Supreme Court's 2005 ruling that the small home that became the center of the New London land grab has been moved and restored near the center of town as a constant reminder of the town's injustice. That small, pink home once represented a

private home, but now it is a symbol of the evils of an activist court that disregards our constitutional rights.

Our Founding Fathers knew that our liberties were only as secure as our property rights. Property rights are a central institution of Western civilization, yet too often our Nation has violated the basic principles of our Founding Fathers. Federal, State and local governments continue to ignore, neglect, disparage and even fail to understand the importance of property rights.

Today I am pleased to introduce a resolution defending private property rights. This resolution in a very clear manner reflects the intent of our Founding Fathers when they listed private property rights as untouchable by government power. By placing property rights in the fifth amendment to the Constitution, the Founders made the protection of private property a primary aim of the American government. There is no provision in Article I, Section 8, or anywhere else in the Constitution, that allows the unnecessary, predatory seizure of private land.

On this, the third anniversary of one of the Supreme Court's most infamous decisions, I am proud to join property rights advocates all over America in renewing our protest against judicial activism. I applaud the many States that have passed legislation to limit their power to eminent domain and the supreme courts of many States that have barred the practice under their State constitution. I applaud the courage of Susette Kelo and other victims of eminent domain abuse who have stood up to their government and fought for their constitutional rights.

As John Dickinson, signer of the Constitution stated: "Let these truths be indelibly impressed on our minds: (1) that we cannot be happy without being free; (2) that we cannot be free without being secure in our property; and (3) that we cannot be secure in our property if, without our consent, others may as by right take it away."

Private property rights are critical for freedom, and we need to fight for private property rights.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and June 24.

Mr. HILL (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. KANJORSKI (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Ms. KILPATRICK (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. KIND (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of business in the district regarding flooding.

Mr. MCNULTY (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and until 3 p.m. on June 24 on account of personal reasons.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.