

the number one issue facing American agriculture.

Diesel and fertilizer are just two of the petroleum-based products a farmer uses each day. And as the costs of these products rise, their livelihoods continue to be jeopardized.

One beef farmer told me as of right now, he is preparing to lose money on his cattle when they go to slaughter later this year because of the rising cost of oil. He added that he wasn't even sure he would even have a herd next year. All of the farmers agreed that two ways to lower energy prices and reduce our dependence on Middle East oil would be to drill in ANWR and also off the Outer Continental Shelf.

Unless something is done soon, more and more farmers will be forced to make the hard choice of whether or not to continue their livelihood of feeding Americans and the rest of the world.

HONORING JEROME KOHLBERG, JR.

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

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a great American. Jerome Kohlberg, Jr., was born on July 10, 1925. Although he is from New York, his mother was born in Portland, Oregon, and Jerome Kohlberg has always maintained close ties to my State.

Few Americans have been as successful as Jerome Kohlberg, Jr. As a founder of Kohlberg, Kravis & Roberts, one of the world's largest private equity firms, Jerome Kohlberg has been one of this Nation's preeminent financiers for more than four decades.

After service as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, Jerome Kohlberg earned three college degrees under the original GI bill. This past year, Jerome Kohlberg became deeply involved in the fight for a new GI bill for this generation of veterans. He established the Fund For Veterans' Education, a program to provide college funding for returning veterans from all 50 States. His idea—and with the recent passage of the new GI bill, it proved to be a brilliant idea—was to establish a model for what could be done for today's veterans.

He is a role model for all citizens young and old. I am pleased and proud to note the accomplishment of this great American, Jerome Kohlberg, Jr.

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HEROES' HOMECOMING ACT

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, yesterday I introduced H.R. 6446, the Heroes' Homecoming Act, which requires U.S. carriers to do what Congress has asked them to do twice: offer the lowest

available airfare for active duty military trying to return home to their loved ones.

Sometimes active duty servicemembers don't have the luxury of knowing far in advance of when they will be able to leave, oftentimes having less than 24-hours' notice. And purchasing an airline ticket to get home can cost a family a fortune. Our troops deserve better, and Congress has twice asked airlines to give more flexibility for lower airfares for active servicemen and women. I have heard this over and over from soldiers that the airlines are not doing this.

When airlines have come to Congress asking for help with massive bailouts, we helped. Now it's time for airlines to help our most deserving brave men and women who protect our Nation and our Nation's skies.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting our troops and our families by cosponsoring the Heroes' Homecoming Act and help our soldiers get better fares when they're returning home.

THE ROLE IMMIGRANTS HAVE SERVED IN SERVING OUR ARMED FORCES

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, immigrants have served in our Armed Forces with courage and dignity since the Revolutionary War. Even today, they continue to defend our country's freedom. They've even earned the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Nation's highest military decoration. For example, Alfred Rascon, an undocumented immigrant during his service in the Vietnam War received the Medal of Honor for his courage and dedication to America.

Immigrants have also reached the highest ranks in the U.S. military. General John Shalikashvili, an immigrant from Poland who came to the United States after World War II, was a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

From 2002 to 2005, over 15,000 immigrants have served in our armed services and later completed their naturalization process. There are thousands of other success stories that we should honor. We cannot ignore these positive contributions and the unique and valuable functions that immigrants perform.

I urge my colleagues to support a comprehensive immigration reform on behalf of those servicemen and women and their families.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO PUT ALL ENERGY OPTIONS ON THE TABLE

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

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, this past weekend I met a single mother in

my South Central Michigan district who drives an hour each way to the hospital where she works. Because of high gas prices, this woman recently requested and received permission to begin working back-to-back 8-hour shifts 2 days per week so she doesn't have to make the hour-long commute each day. Unfortunately, situations like these are becoming more and more common as gas prices continue to rise and congressional leadership continues to resist action.

High gas prices demand action from Congress, and we need to put all energy options on the table. We need more production of American energy, more energy from alternative fuel sources, and increases in innovative solutions like coal-to-liquids technology. Just as with the Manhattan Project or the race to the Moon, breaking our dependence on foreign oil should be a national priority. Unfortunately, House leadership will not even let this House vote on an energy plan that increases American energy production. Important bills like the No More Executions Energy Act are ready to help American families. And my constituents, Madam Speaker, call for a vote on these bills now.

DEMOCRATS ARE URGING THE RELEASE OF OIL FROM THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE TO LOWER GAS PRICES

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, with record-high gas prices filling oil companies' wallets with record profits and pinching the wallets of American consumers, why isn't President Bush taking action to bring down prices at the pump now?

Democrats in Congress are urging the President to release oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve which will increase the supply of oil in the market, send a strong message to speculators, and most importantly, reduce gas prices today. This administration has used the Petroleum Reserve in the past, as have the administrations of both President Clinton and President Bush I. The reserve is currently 97 percent full, the highest level ever, with enough oil to meet our national security needs and provide relief at the pump.

So why, when Americans continue to feel the squeeze of devastatingly high gas prices, does the President not take action? Madam Speaker, President Bush continues to talk about new drilling. But his own administration says it can't be done for at least another decade.

Let's provide relief at the pump today by opening up America's Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

GAS PRICES

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. The price of gasoline has spiked up \$2 since the Democrats took control of the Congress in just January 2007. Americans want Democrats and Republicans to work together to find commonsense solutions to the skyrocketing cost of gasoline.

The United States must become energy self-sufficient. Oil, gas, coal, nuclear, solar, and wind, all of it. To bring down the price of gasoline, we must focus on increasing America's energy supply. Congress needs to act now to increase exploration and boost America's refinery capability.

Americans are ready for action. They want an up-or-down vote on energy independence. A Democrat aide is quoted in *The Hill* newspaper as saying, "Right now, our strategy on gas prices is drive small cars and wait for the wind."

If those are their only ideas, then, as the astronaut said when they were in orbit, Houston, we have a problem.

THIS CONGRESS HAS A RECORD TO BE PROUD OF IN SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS AND VETERANS

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, nobody can dispute that this Congress has a record to be proud of in support of our troops and our Nation's veterans. When we learned of the disgraceful treatment of our servicemen and women at Walter Reed, we took immediate action to provide the funding and oversight necessary to hire more case workers and improve the setting and treatment for our brave wounded warriors.

We acted quickly and decisively to provide the largest funding increase in the 78-year history of the VA, and we provided for increased screening and treatment of traumatic brain injury at every VA health care facility in this country.

We modernized and increased the benefits for the GI bill, and we provided additional loans and capital for small business owners who serve our Nation through the Guard and Reserve.

Madam Speaker, this Congress has a record to be proud of in supporting our troops and assisting our Nation's veterans.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY

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

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the serious problem of childhood obesity. Two out of three adults in the United States are overweight. One out of three children are overweight. Childhood obesity rates have tripled since 1980.

We're now seeing children diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and depression.

I approach this subject with a great deal of optimism and hope as someone who has lost 100 pounds over the past year. I have seen firsthand the power of healthy habits. As parents, experts tell us that there are three healthy habits our children should follow every day. First, never skip breakfast; second, play outside 1 hour a day; third, eat five servings of fruits and vegetables every day.

The good news is that no matter what has happened in the past, all of our kids can enjoy healthy and happy lives in the future.

FREE AMERICA'S OIL

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, Americans all over the country want us to do something about gas prices, and every Member in this House wants us to do something about gas prices, too. The Republicans have one strategy. It would bring relief at the pump about 20 years from now, a couple of pennies a gallon. That's their approach.

Democrats have a different approach. We want to free America's oil. We can release oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. We now have 700 million barrels of oil in that. We don't need them. We can drive the price down in the market. We can force the gas companies, the energy companies, as we have tried to do already, to drill on the 68 million acres worth of leases they already own to produce oil.

Finally, we can open up the 23-million-acre Alaskan National Petroleum Reserve area where there are proven oil reserves and where they are eligible for drilling right now. We have the tools at our disposal immediately to drive down gas prices. We ought to take advantage of them.

Free America's oil.

IRAQ URANIUM SHIPMENT NOW IN SAFE HANDS

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, more good news out of Iraq. The AP recently reported that U.S. forces, in cooperation with Iraqi authorities, have just completed a top secret operation that involved shipping 550 metric tons of uranium yellowcake out of Iraq from a cache discovered there. This stockpile of concentrated natural uranium, which is a seed material for higher-grade uranium enrichment, was shipped out of Iraq aboard U.S. cargo planes, then shipped across two oceans, finally arriving in Canada where it will be used by a Canadian firm for nuclear power.

The operation was an important step in ridding Iraq of the last vestiges of Saddam Hussein's one-time nuclear program, and it removed the uranium from the possibility of falling into the hands of insurgents or smugglers crossing into Iran to sell it for use in producing nuclear weapons. This issue certainly has not received much attention in the mainstream press, but it is important news the American people should know.

THE THREE E'S TO GAS RELIEF: EXPLORE, ELIMINATE, AND ENCOURAGE ALTERNATIVES

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Good morning, Madam Speaker. And you know, I have been listening to the complaints by the Republicans about gas prices, but with two oil men in the White House, is it any wonder that oil per barrel has gone from \$30 dollars to almost \$150 driving gas prices through the roof? The question is, what are we going to do about it? And I would say it's the three E's.

The first "E" is explore and extract from the 68 million acres that are under lease today in the United States. That's more oil than anything up in Alaska or in ANWR. So let's explore and extract.

The second "E" is to eliminate the gouging and the speculating and the hoarding that's going on in the marketplace.

And the third "E," the most important "E," is encourage alternatives and efficiency. We cannot be hooked to one commodity forever. We've learned our lesson. It's time to pursue alternatives. So this democratic Congress is doing just that, those three E's: exploring, eliminating, and encouraging alternatives.

OPEN UP AMERICAN SOURCES OF OIL SUPPLY

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

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, we hear a lot about energy. I know I do as well. And the one thing that we know is that we're at a refreshing point of clarity in the energy debate. The reason for that is because the Democrat response has now become very clear.

A leadership aide said this week that the Democrat plan is to have the American people drive small cars and wait for the wind. That is one plan. If the Democrats want the American people to drive less and pay more, that's one plan.

Another plan that the Republicans have been pushing is to make sure that we open up Americans sources of supply. Our goal is to see the American people paying \$2 a gallon or less. It's entirely possible. Congress created this