

Madam Speaker, I suggest that if families not being able to put food on the table or freezing this winter isn't an emergency, I don't know what is.

AMERICA WILL VOTE TO DRILL

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

Mr. PENCE. Well, back in Indiana, Hoosier families are hurting. Pain at the pump is harming the vitality of our families, our family farms, and small businesses, and the time has come for Congress to act.

Madam Speaker, we've heard from many of our Democrat colleagues that the answer is to go deeper into our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. I believe the answer is to go deeper into the reserves that are in the Outer Continental Shelf, in Alaska, and in the Gulf of Mexico.

The American people know the only way to lessen our dependence on foreign oil is to lessen our dependence on foreign oil by giving the American people more access to American oil.

I joined all my Indiana colleagues this past Monday at a press conference in Hoosier State urging you, Madam Speaker, to bring to this floor a vote on allowing American oil companies access to the Outer Continental Shelf. The President's lifted his executive ban. Now the only thing standing in between the American people and more access to American oil is one up-or-down vote on the floor of the Congress.

I urge you respectfully, Madam Speaker, bring the bill to the floor to allow the American people access to the reserves in this Outer Continental Shelf, and that bill will pass. If Congress is allowed to work its will, America will vote to drill.

JOB LOSSES CONTINUE FOR SIX CONSECUTIVE MONTHS AS ECONOMY GETS WORSE

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, our economy has now lost 430,000 jobs this year. The latest employment numbers show 62,000 jobs lost last month alone. This only adds to the growing financial insecurity among America's middle income families.

For the past 7 years, this administration has been supporting the same old policies that got us into this recession. The 3.8 million Americans who continue to struggle to find work in this sluggish economy can no longer afford the poisonous policies of the past. They can't afford to drive their kids to school because of over \$4 a gallon in gasoline.

A Teamster told me at home last weekend that it cost him \$1,000 to fill his rig. He can't afford to stay in the business. No one can afford to buy gro-

ceries because the price of milk and bread has soared past inflation.

And while Senator JOHN MCCAIN's chief economic adviser says Americans are simply whining about the economy, Democrats believe that we need to actually do something.

Madam Speaker, this new law that we passed 13 weeks ago to help 1.6 million Americans will help middle class families.

WISHFUL THINKING WON'T BRING DOWN GAS PRICES

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I say that wishful thinking on the part of Congress will not bring down gas prices. I truly believe, and evidence shows, that action to bring about more supply will bring down gas prices.

More supply perhaps from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve? Maybe, but not without replacing those reserves, and we know we can do that with Outer Continental Shelf drilling, as well as responsible, environmentally sensitive drilling in Alaska. We can do that.

Consumers will benefit, such as the single mom in my district who called and told me that a one-way drive to work so that she can feed her family is 40 miles, one way. There's no option of a subway. There's no option of public transportation. She has to pay for it. These gas prices are hurting her and her family.

And, Madam Speaker, we can do better. We must do better.

INCREASE LIHEAP FUNDING

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, there's one thing on which everyone in this Chamber agrees, it's that we're in an energy crisis, and the American people are paying the price.

So, as we consider a second stimulus package to provide immediate relief and spur long-term growth, I urge my colleagues to also offer assistance where we know people need it: immediately paying for energy.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, provides critical heating and cooling assistance to millions of hardworking, low-income Americans across this country, and now, in the middle of a hot summer and trying economic times, this assistance is more important than ever.

In Kentucky, 300,000 people qualify for LIHEAP, but because we have yet to fully fund the program, only a third are receiving the help they need, leaving 192,000 Kentuckians underserved, forced to choose between food for their children and critical cooling and heating needed to get through a long summer and winter.

Eligible families spend, on average, a fifth of their incomes on energy. I urge my colleagues to fully fund LIHEAP and provide desperately needed help to struggling American families.

ENERGY

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, this is energy morning here on the House floor, and I'm no different from anyone else.

We're hearing a lot this morning about opening the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Well, if we're willing to say supply matters—and I'll agree with that, yes, supply does matter—opening the Strategic Petroleum Reserve only make sense if it's part of a comprehensive plan, and yes, this is an emergency. This is an emergency that requires all hands on deck.

Supply is critical. Access to new supply in the Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico is critical, as are alternative sources of energy, as are conservation measures.

Today, this morning, I'm asking the majority party to work with us and help the people who are impacted most by the rising energy prices, the people who can least afford it. That includes the vulnerable, the elderly, the impoverished.

It's time to stop pandering to wealthy environmentalists and start addressing the problems caused by impeding domestic production of energy. Stop protesting the siting of transmission lines for wind, solar, and hydroelectric power. Allow the rigs and pipelines to function, and allow the American workforce and American ingenuity to go to work and get this done for America.

Please stop the restrictions for responsible exploration for our natural resources like coal, natural gas, and crude oil. End the heavy-handed restrictions on energy exploration.

LIHEAP

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

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, in the wake of skyrocketing energy prices, I rise today to urge this Congress to fully fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP, as part of the economic stimulus legislation that's being considered.

Americans are feeling the pinch. Sixty percent of families are cutting spending as they struggle to pay for rising electric bills and gas prices. Let me speak directly about the situation of one Maryland family.

Mr. Delatore works part time as a counselor and gets partial disability because of complications from cerebral

palsy. He's had a tough time making ends meet, especially in the last year. Mr. Delatore is a LIHEAP recipient. He has expressed severe anxiety that he can barely afford to buy what he needs. Without energy assistance, he will be pushed over the edge.

Madam Speaker, many families are living close to the economic edge, and they rely on this LIHEAP support, this critical support, to make ends meet. We have to fully fund this program.

REAL ENERGY SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, everywhere I go across the First Congressional District, my constituents have the same question on their minds: If record-high gas prices that are breaking the backs of families across the Nation won't entice Congress to act now, then what will?

By failing to allow an up-or-down vote on legislation to increase the production of American-made energy, my friends on the other side of the aisle remain the only obstacle to putting America on a path to energy security and decreasing our dependence on foreign oil.

The American people overwhelmingly support a commonsense, all-of-the-above solution to solve this crisis and address our growing energy needs.

The longer we delay in passing a comprehensive energy plan, the longer American families and small businesses will continue to pay more than they should for a tank of gas.

It's time for the majority to live up to their promise and allow a vote on the energy future of this country.

INCREASED FUNDING FOR LIHEAP MUST BE A NATIONAL PRIORITY

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, it may be July, but New Hampshire families are already worried about how are they going to heat their homes this winter. The cost of heating oil has been rising dramatically all year. With \$5 a gallon heating oil forecast, the average New Hampshire family could be spending \$4,000 to heat their homes. This is a daunting figure for most families.

With so many households relying on heating oil and with the Bush administration recommending a \$500,000 cut to the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, for fiscal year 2009, Congress simply must step in and provide the kind of funding relief Americans need.

I have introduced legislation that would provide \$9 billion in emergency funding for LIHEAP, as well as an additional \$1 billion for weatherization programs. Not only would this proposal ensure that Northern States receive in-

creased aid to get through the long winter, but it would also help the Southern States get through their hot summers.

Increased funding for LIHEAP must be a national priority. The administration's effort to slash funding is absolutely inexcusable. Congress must step in and provide adequate funding.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE ACTION ON ENERGY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I've listened to these Democrats talk. It's their typical response: more government funding and creating dependency on the Federal Government.

In 2006, Democrats promised relief from high priced gas prices. Since they gained control of Congress, gas prices have more than doubled. We continue to wait for the Democrats to unveil an energy plan that will actually lower prices for Americans at the pump. So far, all we hear is drilling takes too long.

That's the kind of shortsighted thinking that got us into this reliance on foreign oil in the first place. They don't want to hear about long-term solutions.

So I have good news for you. Even the announcement of drilling will immediately affect the market price of oil.

President Bush announced the lifting of an executive moratorium, and the next day, oil dropped \$8 a barrel. The market responds to information, and it will respond even to the announcement.

A second good piece of news for those who don't want to begin a long-term solution is there is already a pipeline in Alaska. It doesn't hold anywhere near its full capacity. Let's fill it with oil from ANWR. We'll see a price change soon.

What the American people deserve is action. The message to the Democrat majority is do it here, do it now, do it for America.

DRILLING IS NOT THE ANSWER TO HIGH GAS PRICES—DEMOCRATS WORKING ON REAL SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, we cannot drill our way to either energy independence or to lower prices at the pump. The Bush administration's own Energy Information Administration says that opening up new areas for drilling would not affect production or prices for nearly 20 years, and even then it concludes that "any impact on average wellhead prices is expected to be insignificant." So much for the Republican energy plan.

In stark contrast, House Democrats have taken action and passed legisla-

tion that will make America more energy independent and help provide relief to Americans struggling with high gas prices. For the first time in 32 years, we passed a landmark law that will require more fuel efficient vehicles, which will produce nearly \$1,000 in savings for the average American family at the gas pump. This is the kind of relief that my constituents in New Jersey want.

Democrats also forced the President to stop sending oil to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and now we are standing and urging him to start releasing oil from the reserve.

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REPUBLICANS TO INTRODUCE COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY SOLUTION

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, in a recent Reuters/Zogby poll, we learned that 75 percent of Americans support drilling for oil offshore. In other polls, between 68 and 76 percent of all Americans favor immediate oil and gas exploration onshore.

Last week, after reading those polls, the Democrat leadership decided they would take some action and brought forward a faulty bill to try to improve their image. Of course, the bill failed.

Now we do have agreement on one issue, Madam Speaker—that we should be drilling. Republicans are not waiting for others to take action. We are continuing to take action and continuing to bring forward possible solutions to this problem.

Today is one of those. We will introduce a comprehensive energy solution this afternoon that would address America's energy concerns and begin to look at short-term, mid-range and long-range planning for our Nation's energy supply.

What a plan. What a concept. Develop a comprehensive plan to make certain that we address the price at the pump.

ANOTHER QUARTER OF RECORD-BREAKING PROFITS FOR BIG OIL

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

Mr. OLIVER. Madam Speaker, while Americans pump billions of dollars into their gas tanks every week, Big Oil has just completed another quarter of record-breaking profits.

The companies claim they are looking for new oil to bring down the price at the pump, but what they spend on exploration is small compared with their stock buybacks and shareholder dividends. That's great for their investors, but no help for millions of Americans who drive to work every day.

Come to think of it, why would they bring to market the 4 million already