

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.

□ 1030

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

leased and easily developable acres of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, only to have their profits plunge while trying to reduce gas prices?

Last week, Democrats in Congress supported legislation to increase domestic oil production by requiring oil companies to drill on leases they control or lose those leases to companies that would drill.

The Republicans once again voted no. Republicans won't require oil companies to drill, but they have no problem handing them more leases to hoard while gas pump prices and oil company profits soar.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

APPROVING RENEWAL OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS CONTAINED IN THE BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 93) approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 93

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. RENEWAL OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS UNDER THE BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2003.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Congress approves the renewal of the import restrictions contained in section 3(a)(1) of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This joint resolution shall be deemed to be a “renewal resolution” for purposes of section 9 of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

SEC. 2. CERTAIN COBRA FEES.

Section 13031(j)(3)(B)(i) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(j)(3)(B)(i)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2017” and inserting “October 7, 2017”.

SEC. 3. TIME FOR PAYMENT OF CORPORATE ESTI- MATED TAXES.

The percentage under subparagraph (C) of section 401(l) of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act is increased by 0.25 percentage points.

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This joint resolution and the amendments made by this joint resolution shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this joint resolution or July 26, 2008, whichever occurs first.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The bill before us will renew the import ban on products of Burma. While there can be concerns about the universal effectiveness of unilateral sanctions, Burma clearly presents a unique situation. There is overwhelming evidence that Burma continues to blatantly disregard human rights and suppress democracy, and it is therefore important to continue the import ban for another year.

Under the military regime that rules Burma today, Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi remains under house arrest, which the military regime extended yet again in May. She has been detained for 12 of the last 18 years without being charged or tried. The government is also detaining almost 2,000 other civic activists indefinitely and without charge. The detention of Aung San Suu Kyi and these other activists would be reason enough to renew the sanctions. Unfortunately, there are many more examples of human rights abuses in Burma.

Government security forces killed and injured hundreds of demonstrators during their suppression of pro-democracy protests in September. These forces have also committed other extrajudicial killings, as well as disappearances, rape, and torture in the past year.

Regime-supported organizations and militias have harassed, abused and detained human rights and pro-democracy activists. The government regularly tramples on the Burmese people's privacy and their freedom of speech, press, assembly, association, religion and movement.

Violence and discrimination against women and ethnic minorities; recruitment of child soldiers; and trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, persist. Workers' rights remain restricted and forced labor, including that of children, continues to be a problem.

The military regime's handling of tropical cyclone Nargis this past spring also underscores the poor human rights situation in Burma. The regime did little to warn citizens about the calamitous cyclone. Almost 150,000 people are dead or missing. Nor did the regime provide adequate assistance to hundreds of thousands who survived the cyclone.

While dozens of nations, including our Nation, responded immediately to the cyclone and attempted to provide humanitarian assistance, the government initially denied them permission to enter the country. It continues to severely limit their ability to provide assistance.

As a result, the Burmese people unnecessarily suffer. In light of Burma's continuing dismal record and the lack of any concrete steps to provide basic human rights to its citizens or to implement basic democratic reforms, I urge my colleagues to extend the ban on the import of Burmese products for another year.

I also hope the European Union, ASEAN and other nations around the world will continue to work with the U.S. to increase pressure on the Burmese regime. This week's ASEAN meetings in Singapore offer the opportunity to do so.

I would also like to submit the following letters for the RECORD:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,

Washington, DC, July 9, 2008.

Hon. HOWARD BERMAN,

Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing regarding H. J. Res. 93, which renews the import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (P. L. No. 108-61). This legislation was introduced on June 5, 2008.

As you know, the Committee on Ways & Means has jurisdiction over import matters, such as the import ban imposed by the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act. Accordingly, certain provisions of H. J. Res. 93 fall under the Committee's jurisdiction.

The import ban imposed by this Act must be renewed annually by Congress to remain in effect. Last year, the Committee allowed the renewal legislation to proceed to the floor without a Committee markup. To again expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill and will not oppose its consideration on the suspension calendar. This is done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this, or similar legislation, in the future.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming our understanding with respect to H.J. Res. 93, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,

Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, July 9, 2008.

Hon. CHARLES B. RANGEL,

Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H. J. Res. 93, approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

I appreciate your willingness to waive consideration of this legislation in the interest of expediting its consideration. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. I agree that the inaction of