

minimum wage, you look at all of these different little policies that we have, they add up to where families and kids can have a better, more prosperous future than their parents had. But those are the kinds of investments that we're making. And just today the minimum wage went up again because of what the Democrats have done.

There's a clear focus and a clear philosophy of what we are trying to implement here, and that's for middle class families to have success and for them to move forward and have their kids have more opportunity than they had. Whether it's energy or health care or education, that's where we are moving towards to make sure that we can advance that cause.

Mr. ALTMIRE. I thank the gentleman. That is something that we have worked on in this Congress and something that we have a great record of achievement is higher education. When you look at families struggling with the economy and look at the problems that we have with increased health care costs, certainly gas prices like we're talking about, the cost of higher education is right there with the struggles that most middle class families or many middle class families in this country are facing. And this Congress took, in the very early days, a step, a very big step, to help families.

We cut in half the interest rates on student loans from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent. And as the gentleman indicates, that by itself is going to save the average student borrower in this country \$4,400 over the lifetime of the loan.

But we didn't stop just there. We increased Pell grants to their highest level in history, and we capped at 15 percent of income the amount of discretionary income that the borrower after they graduate will be required to pay, which will help them minimize their debt, prevent them from getting overextended with their debt obligations when they're not making a lot of money right from the start, and avoid some of the problems that we have seen in the credit market now where people's homes have been foreclosed because they got overextended.

Those are real accomplishments on real issues that matter to the American people and matter to American families, and that's something that we have to stand on when we talk about what this Congress has done proactively.

We're talking about gas prices, and something we didn't even mention, which is a major reform, hadn't been done in 30 years, we increased the average miles-per-gallon standards, the fuel efficiency standards, from 24 miles per gallon on average to 35 miles per gallon. The first time it had been raised for American-made cars or cars sold in America in 30-plus years. So that's another real accomplishment of this Congress.

And we could go on. The gentleman talks about the minimum wage and others. So we are taking steps to help

American families and people struggling in this downturn economy.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And that's the best thing from our vantage point: Prove to the American people as to what your beliefs are and how it's going to affect their lives. And if you have a couple of jobs and you're making the minimum wage, you got a pay raise twice already in the last year, just over the last year. If you're going to school, there is more grant money available for you to go get an education. There is a lower interest rate on the loan that you're going to take out or your parents may take out to send you to school.

□ 2100

Those are significant investments that Democrats have made into the future of our country so that middle-class people can be successful and take advantage of these tools. We can't do it for anybody. But these are tools that average families will use and implement to move forward.

Two of the things that we can't forget, we have also passed the GI Bill out of the House which will say that if you served this country in Iraq or Afghanistan over the past 3 or 4 years that you will have all expenses paid to go to college. In Ohio, there is a policy now that the Governor has implemented that you can come to Ohio, any veteran around the country, can come to Ohio and have in-State tuition rates if you're a veteran.

And look at what we've done for veterans' health care. The largest investment in the 77-year history of the VA was made by the Democratic Congress when we got in here. A lot of us weren't for the war. And I will be the first to say I wasn't for it. But what we all are for is honoring the service of the veterans who go over there and make the great sacrifice and the sacrifices that their family makes. So we have made that investment into the VA program so that the vets have the benefits that they need. And we're honoring their service by making that investment.

And if you look to the previous 7 years or 6 years, what the President made, Mr. Speaker, and what the Republican Congress made, it was \$14 billion in corporate welfare to the oil companies. It was tax cuts to people who make millions and millions of dollars a year. It was an energy policy that got us \$4 a gallon gas. It was a health care policy that gets 15 or 20 percent increase on your health care. A dramatic difference. And I'm proud to stand up here and talk a little bit about what we've done and what we're going to continue to do, because I feel like we're just getting started. And we have an election coming up now in November. And I think there is an opportunity for us to really move forward.

So, I'm honored again to be with the gentleman from Pennsylvania. And Mr. Speaker, we're going to wrap up. Again, congratulations to my brother and sister-in-law, they're grandparents

to Andrea. And we will yield back the balance of our time.

ENERGY IN AMERICA, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SPACE). 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. Mr. Speaker, the American people are demanding action. And that action is about what they know more about than this Congress does. The American people want us to act, because they're hurting at home, at the pump and at work.

My district is the Fifth Congressional District in Ohio. I have, according to the National Manufacturers' Association, a district that is number nine in manufacturing jobs across the entire Congress. And I represent the number one agricultural district in the State of Ohio. My district also has a great distinction in that we have I-75 and the Ohio Turnpike intersecting in northern Wood County. And with that intersection, we have been told that we are within about 60 percent of the United States population in a good hard day's drive. So we rely a lot on transportation. We rely a lot when it comes to having to have energy. And without that energy, we're not going to be working. And without that energy, people are going to be saying that we're paying so much for gasoline. We have to pay so much for home heating oil this winter, more for natural gas, more for when it comes to having to pay for groceries. And not because it's the farmers' fault, because those farmers are out in those fields right now having to pay more for diesel. And the chemicals they put on their yard are petroleum based. The fertilizers are.

So what we have to do is we have to get an energy policy. And we have to get it now. Our national security depends on having a strong economy. And not only do we need a strong economy, but we want to make sure that the folks back home are saving some dollars for their future to be able to make sure that their kids get a good college education that they can help them with. I have in my district a Whirlpool plant in Clyde, Ohio, which is the number one washing machine factory in the world where they produce over 5 million washing machines a year. Twenty percent of those washing machines are exported. That helps balance our trade. We have to make sure we're doing that.

And right now, a lot of people are talking about what's happening with all the energy. Well, the United States consumes between 21 to 24 percent of all the energy in the world. And with that, we were king of the hill for a long time. But the rest of the world is catching up. And they're catching up fast. Look at this chart. Look at 2010. Right now the United States is ahead of the combination of India and China.

In 2015, those countries are passing us. And when you look at the chart, in 2020, China alone is going to be consuming more energy than the United States. And when you look at the populations of those two countries and you look at the United States having about 300 million people and those countries having 1.3 and 1.1 billion individuals, respectively, they are going to be consuming more. They want to consume more because they're getting more of a middle class there. And that middle class is demanding more when it comes to the better things in life. And a lot of the folks, you will notice, in China are buying more and more automobiles. And with those automobiles, what are they doing? They're consuming energy, especially on the petroleum-based site.

So we have to have a policy. The American people are demanding it right now. It has to happen. And it can't happen in this country if this country is importing 65 to 70 percent of its oil. Because with that, our balance of trade is out of whack. And how out of whack is it? If we just talk about our debt in this country being over \$9 trillion, and with that, who is buying our paper? Well, we're having to rely more and more and more on foreign governments. In fact, \$2.6 trillion is owned by foreign countries. And who is one of the largest holders of our paper? Well, it's China with over \$500 billion. And it keeps going up every month.

And that is not any way to have an oil policy, an energy policy or a fiscal policy, when we're having to rely on the rest of the world to take care of us. The United States has to take care of itself. And that is what we have to do. In fact, you know, we have to have a very balanced all-of-the-above type of a policy in this country because we have to have nuclear.

We have to use clean coal technology. The United States has over 24 percent of all the coal reserves in the world, 24 percent. It is estimated that in the world there is about 164 a year supply of coal. But the United States can get that going right now. But we're not doing it. When you look at what has happened over in China, they're investing in clean coal technology right now. India is the third largest consumer of coal. But in this country, because of this Democratic Congress, we're not using nuclear. We haven't sited a new plant since 1977. And we're not looking at clean coal technology. We've got to be doing it.

But along with that, we need to have the alternatives, the supplementals. And what those are, of course, are wind, solar, ethanol, biodiesel and hydrogen. Those are the things we have to look at in the future. And not too long ago, just this past weekend, Leader JOHN BOEHNER invited ten of the freshmen, I being one, to be able to go with him to Colorado to see the renewable energy lab. And then from there we went up to ANWR in Alaska. It was important that we were there, because it really demonstrated something.

The United States is working on trying to get away from fossil fuels and also other areas so that we can improve our balance in trade and also make sure that we don't have to be relying on oil all the time. I was fascinated because of all the things that we had out there. We were talking about wind, and we were talking about ethanol, hydrogen and solar. They are all occurring in my district, the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio.

We already have a plant that is manufacturing solar panels. Most of the solar panels right now are being exported to Germany. But we have another plant that is going to be opening up. And they're going to be manufacturing solar panels. And one of the things we noticed, if you go back 20, 25 years ago, a lot of people didn't like the idea of solar panels because the problem with them is you either had to put them on the side of your house or on top of your house. And a lot of people didn't think that looked good. But when you saw the technology that they are coming up with right now in a private partnership with government and also private firms out there working together, one of the things you saw are the solar panels are now being integrated into the roof itself. They are being integrated into the shingles. So you have to look very, very hard to see that you actually have solar power on your roof.

Also, when we were looking at some of the hydrogen and the plug-in cars, it's very, very interesting because we hear a lot of talk about what are we going to do about our fossil-fuel burning cars in this country? And they had two different cars out there that day. They had a plug-in, and they also had a hydrogen.

Well, we've got a lot of development. And that is what this is. This is all research out there. Are we there yet to be able to mass produce these? I don't think so. Because in one case, with the hydrogen car that was sitting there, there was a small Mercedes. And I said, well, how much would this vehicle cost as it sits here today? And they said about \$1 million. So we're a long way from getting that to where we need to have it.

But the thing is, we've got to look at those alternatives for the future. Because oil in this country is going to be king for the next 20 to 30 years. So we have to be prepared for the future. But we also have to meet our needs so we don't fall behind the rest of the world. Because there is no there is no time to fall behind.

They had a plug-in car that you plug in from your electrical outlets. And you get that thing charged up. But the problem with that vehicle is you can only go about 60 miles before you have to recharge. But there was an interesting point. We talk about electric cars. And what people don't want to talk about sometimes is this. Once you have that vehicle and you have to plug it in, don't forget, you have got to have

the power some place to be able to get that car generated again. So we have to make sure, in that case, that you have the nuclear and you have to have the coal out there to have what they call the base load capacity so we can make sure that can occur. A lot of people are going to be investing in some of these vehicles until you get more mileage. You not only have to get to work and back but you have to plug your car back in.

So those were things that I was impressed with that they're working on. But the really interesting thing is the hydrogen. The issue with the hydrogen vehicle is where are you going to get the hydrogen to fuel this vehicle? Well, they're thinking about taking a wind turbine and, of course, usually with wind turbines you're putting it into the grid with the electricity. But if you can divert that and put it into a system where you can convert it to hydrogen. Then they are even thinking about taking that idea, what do you do with the hydrogen? How about having a hydrogen fueling station that you can fill up these hydrogen cars with? That is a really, really unique thing out there that they have. But I think it's very, very important that we remember that we're going to have to be doing these things.

I have an ethanol plant in my district about 35 or 40 miles from my home. They're producing about 60 million gallons of ethanol a year there. But it's mainly corn based. What they're looking at out there is what else can we use? They're thinking about using switchgrass. They are looking at using not the product of the corn itself, but the stalks for different types of cellulosic type of material that they can put in there. So by doing that, they're looking at different ways that they can produce ethanol. And they're looking at, well, how can we get these across the country? Maybe if we can have 20 to 30 million gallons of these types of facilities around, and you have to have about 400 to help fuel a lot of the cars out there that are E-85. So things are happening out there that I think are very, very exciting. But we have to make sure that we're doing everything at the same time to make sure we have the power to get to the next level.

The interesting part of this trip was going up into ANWR in Alaska. And a lot of people say, "well, what is ANWR?" It's the Arctic Refuge up there in the northeast part of the country in the far part of the State. It is huge. You're talking about an area the size of South Carolina, 19 million acres. Of that, 17.5 acres are always going to be permanently set aside.

□ 2115

So you are only talking about 1.5 million acres that Congress 28 years ago said that is the area that you will only be able to explore and drill for oil in. But when we are talking about that 1.5 million acres, that acreage, they are

only talking about looking at 2,000 acres. What is 2,000 acres? It is a little over 3 square miles. Of an area the size of South Carolina, 3 square miles. They believe there is 10.3 billion barrels of oil there that is capable of being taken out.

At this stage I would like to ask my colleague, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) to make some comments about ANWR and probably about Colorado.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Thank you, Congressman LATTI. I appreciate your yielding to me for some comments.

We had a thrill to go on this trip this past weekend. It was the American energy tour. Leader JOHN BOEHNER led that tour. We were so grateful that we were extended an invitation to join him. Representative LATTI was there, and I was there representing the people from the Sixth District. So here we are, knowing we have very little time left before Congress takes a break in August when we are back in our districts, and we will be there for 5 weeks through Labor Day, we are here right now with a chance to talk to the American people. But more importantly, we have a chance to be here on the floor tonight and solve this energy issue.

One thing that we learned on this energy tour is that the problem is not a lack of natural resources that are available here in the United States, it isn't a lack of energy in the United States. The lack of energy is the inertia in the United States Congress, the Democrat-controlled United States Congress. That's where we lack energy.

The one thing that we found on this tour is that the problem is Congress. The problem isn't lack of resources. The problem isn't degradation to our environment. The problem is the fact that Congress has literally locked up and made illegal access to American energy.

Congressman LATTI referenced the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge area up in Alaska. I would like to speak about that, but before that, I would like to talk about the areas that are off-limits. I mentioned that Congress is the problem, and Congress can be the answer. Congress has made it virtually illegal to access American energy. Where? Well, the first place is up in Alaska where Congressman LATTI and I were, with fellow freshmen, and that is where there are over 10 billion barrels of oil.

I spoke with somebody who just read the recently released geological study which stated that there are over 90 billion barrels of oil in the Arctic region, and over 10 billion of which are in ANWR. This is a big story.

Let me go back now to the ANWR map. As Congressman LATTI said, ANWR is all of 19 million acres and is the size of South Carolina. The size of the area that would be drilled upon is 2,000 acres of that 19 million acres. In other words, if you think of a football field, think of putting a little postage stamp on a football field. That is the

size of the area that would be drilled upon.

Here is the Brooks Range up in northern Alaska. Here is the Arctic Ocean. You can't get any farther north than this. The area that we were in, the 1002 area where we are looking at drilling, and also President Carter set aside this area specifically for the purpose of drilling, this area is in direct proximity to the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline System. This is one of the modern marvels of human engineering. It really should be one of the seven wonders of the world. It is over 800 miles of pipeline. This is America's energy lifeline.

Do you know that the largest energy field in the United States is the Prudhoe Bay oil field that was discovered? We have had a living laboratory over the last 31 years. We have had a demonstration project for 31 years in Prudhoe Bay showing you in an environmentally safe and clean way, you can not only drill for oil but also transport oil and get it down to the lower 48.

One thing that Congressman LATTI and I learned when we were there is that 31 years ago when drilling began, the flow was 2.1 million barrels a day that traveled through this pipeline. Today that oil flow is down to 700,000 barrels a day. And the reason for that is because no more oil fields have been opened for exploration.

Well, what happens when we get down to 300,000 barrels a day flowing through this pipeline? The pipeline stops. It doesn't work any more, and we are not able to get it back up online. It hurts that pipeline and we can't use it.

This wonderful gift of a pipeline will be actually gone. You want to talk about use it or lose it, that's the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. We have to use it.

Here is the great story, and here is the great answer, Mr. Speaker. The fact is in the 1002 area, the 2,000 acres in ANWR where we believe there is over 10 billion barrels of oil, this is just 74 miles away from the pipeline. It's the exact same terrain, completely frozen ground. Nine months of the year it is under snow and ice, 3 months of the year complete darkness. All we do is we build 74 miles of pipeline, and we have access to over 10 billion barrels of oil. Overnight we increase American reserves by over 50 percent. That's an answer, Congressman LATTI.

Mr. LATTI. I think it is important to point out what has happened with wildlife in that area over the time that that pipeline was constructed and the drilling began.

One of the caribou herds that we were told about actually has gone up six to sevenfold in numbers. It was also interesting the day when we got there, at Mile Marker Zero of the pipeline, that was the first place we saw wildlife on the whole trip. We had three caribou about 45 yards away walking toward us toward the pipeline.

I think when we were up in the air surveying the area, not only of

Prudhoe Bay but going over to the NPR-A area and then over to ANWR, the most wildlife we saw were in the area where the pipeline was, and the one large caribou herd.

I think all of us want to make sure that we have environmentally sound drilling and exploration. People have to know when we are up there and those companies are out there looking for oil and getting ready, they are only out there on that tundra during the time it is frozen. There are no roads. There are no roads. There is one solitary road heading north, but nothing else. Once you are up there and out there exploring, they have to do it quickly. They have to find it, and then come back the next year because they have to wait year after year to get in and out.

But the oil is right there. The pipeline is less than 75 miles away from that 10.3 billion barrels of oil. They have also been able, the way they drill, as you mentioned being environmentally friendly, the whole idea of having the smallest footprint that you would have to have to drill, when you are looking at that footprint, we are talking about how large of an area is it that you used to have until today, and having to have your drill set up.

I happen to have some of the statistics here. In 1970, the drill site had to be 20 acres to be able to cover 502 acres. From 1999 to the present, they only need 6 acres to cover an area of 32,000 acres. That is pretty exciting. One site that they are looking at, it is going to cost \$1.5 billion to get that going. And what that \$1.5 billion is going to be able to do is they are going to be able to laterally drill down and go out 8 miles without having to set foot anywhere to get to that oil.

Mrs. BACHMANN. That is what is absolutely amazing that we saw, is that no roads are built to get into ANWR to do the drilling. The roads that do go to put in the oil rig are ice roads. Those roads go in the dark of winter when it is freezing. Bulldozers build ice roads out to where the rig is going to be set. The oil rig is set, and as Congressman LATTI said, what formerly used to take 20 acres of a pad site to put a drill down, now because of technological advances has been reduced down to 6 acres of land. But if you look at underneath the earth with the directional drilling that is able to be accomplished now, literally we can go out 8 miles.

It is absolutely phenomenal what we are able to accomplish now, what the oil industry is able to accomplish now, to be able to give us American energy independence. Let's not forget what we are talking about, American energy independence.

We are looking at \$4 a gallon gasoline right now.

This is incredible. This Chamber should be filled with Members of Congress. Unfortunately, and I don't know what the camera shows, but the Chamber is completely empty. Except for you and I, Congressman LATTI, we are

the only Members of Congress, as well as the Speaker. No offense extended to the Speaker. There is no more important issue right now for the American people.

When we are at \$4 a gallon gas, and when we have the capability of being at \$2 a gallon gas, it is criminal to not allow the American people to be there.

How do I know it is possible? We know from the seismic studies that have been done that there are over 10.5 billion barrels in the ANWR region in very close proximity to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

Also, I sit on the Committee on Financial Services. Last week Ben Bernanke, the Federal Reserve chairman said to us regarding gas prices, he said that a 1 percent increase in supply could lower prices by as much as 10 percent.

Now what was the figure that we were told when drilling first started out in Prudhoe Bay, it was 2.1 million barrels per day. We are down to 700,000 barrels a day. We are able to increase another 1.4 million barrels a day. That's the capacity that we could increase, well over a 1 percent increase.

So instead of seeing prices fall by as much as 10 percent, we could be looking at a price fall by as much as 20 percent. Perhaps, Congressman LATTA, what we should do is talk about the timeline. There have been a lot of fallacies stated, false information stating that there are 68 million acres of land that is being leased that is idle that the oil companies are currently not using under use-it-or-lose-it policies. That is a fact that we found out on this fact-finding mission, the fact that that is a completely false statement. It is an urban legend.

There is not one acre of land, Mr. Speaker, that has been leased that is currently not in the production or exploration stage because Congress again is at fault here. It is not companies, it is not consumers that are consuming too much oil, it is Congress. Congress created 10 years of an artificial delay period in the permitting, and they created in that 10-year period 11 different points of entries when nuisance lawsuits can be filed to stop the production of oil.

Do you remember the length of time that one lawsuit languished in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals?

Mr. LATTA. I believe the pipeline they said was stopped for at least 2 years during the construction of the pipeline. So all of these things take time. That is one of the big things, and there are some urban legends out there about how long some of these things can take.

Some people say it takes 10 years. Well, if we all remember, it was in 1995 that President Clinton vetoed the legislation on this drilling. If we hadn't had that happen, we would have oil coming down that pipeline from ANWR today. And then we would be able to say to the rest of the world, look what is happening. And one of the things

when we talk about oil and prices around the world, President Bush just this past week, I believe it was, said you know what, I am going to lift the ban on the executive side, but Congress also has to act.

□ 2130

Because the world says hey, wait, is the United States getting serious about this, are they getting serious about really wanting to produce their own oil, getting away from that 65, 70 percent that they are importing right now and say, you know what, maybe the United States is going to get serious, maybe they are going to start looking at that Outer Continental Shelf. Maybe they are going to start looking at more with drilling in Alaska. It's important to note that we met with the Governor of Alaska.

Mrs. BACHMANN. That's right.

Mr. LATTA. It's important to know that she wants to keep her State pristine and beautiful for the future generations of Alaskans. My wife's one sister does live in Alaska, and you want to make sure you keep that State gorgeous. But the Governor of Alaska said we have got to drill, we must drill. Not only does she believe it, but 80 percent of the Alaskans believe it.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Also the native Alaskans as well, the native Alaskans that live up in the little villages. There is one little village up in ANWR that has less than 300 people. The native Alaskans that live in that village that are subsistence people. They live off of whale, they eat the caribou that they hunt, they want the drilling to start as well.

Why? Because they want to become greedy and wealthy? No, because they have seen, to their neighbors just to the immediate west of them in the Prudhoe Bay region, that this drilling that has occurred has been done in an environmentally safe and sensitive way. In fact, so much so, remember when we were going along up in Prudhoe Bay, we saw trucks, and we asked, what is that little plastic, it looks like a little plastic Barbie doll swimming pool that's underneath the trucks.

And we were told so strict are the environmental regulations in Alaska, the strictest environmental regulations in the entire country, they are so strict, that if a truck travels from point A to point B, as soon as the truck stops, the driver has to get out and take what's called a duck pond or a diaper. He slips this underneath the truck so in case even 1 drop of oil comes out of a crank case, they are so careful, that they don't want even one drop of oil to touch the tundra. That's how careful they are.

You don't see industrial waste. You don't see pools of oil. You don't see refuse lying about. You don't see excessive humans walking around with the pipelines. You see a very tiny footprint, and that's in the old area of oil drilling. With a new area of oil drilling,

it is very difficult to even spot from the air a new pipeline, because a rig comes up out of the ground and a green house is literally, a little tiny casing, is put over that pipeline. There is very, very little impact on that region.

As Congressman LATTA stated accurately, we did not see wildlife. We were 2 hours in the air flying over the National Petroleum Reserve, flying over Prudhoe Bay and then flying over the ANWR region. In that 2-hour time span, we did not see wildlife over in the ANWR area. We were straining to find Dall sheep, straining to see musk ox, straining to see caribou, looking for wildlife. Where did we see the wildlife? Just as Congressman LATTA said, we saw it at mile marker zero, where the most activity was.

You know, it's interesting, caribou must be a lot like people. They like to be where the action is. We like to be where the action is. The caribou wanted to be where the action was. It was a great story.

Mr. LATTA. Remember we got off at Endicott at the drilling station there. Do you remember what we were told immediately, what was the warning?

Mrs. BACHMANN. The polar bear. We were told polar bears like to be around the buildings. For one thing they like to eat people. They are very aggressive creatures. We were told they had spotted a polar bear that had gone underneath the buildings, because the buildings don't have a regular foundation the way that houses do in the lower 48, because, again, it's all permafrost. It is consistently frozen land up there.

As a matter of fact, I am a hardy Minnesotan girl. Even as a hardy Minnesotan, this is the warmest time of the year. I took my down parka with me with Gore-Tex, and I was grateful that I had forgotten my mittens that I stuffed in my parka last winter.

I put my mittens on, I had my woolly parka on. I had my socks on, and I was happy to have it. This was the warmest time of the year.

You couldn't find a more perfect piece of territory to drill upon. To think that we have this gift in a very compact area next to the pipeline that's already built, and we can so quickly, if we would fast track all the permitting process, we could literally, within 3 years, have the oil pumping and in the pipeline down here in the lower 48, and we would increase American energy reserves by 50 percent. That's a deal that I don't know why we would turn it down.

Mr. LATTA. You are absolutely correct. We have got to act now. On the environmental side, I have hunted my entire life. I have been outdoors my entire life. One of the things, when I was in the Ohio legislature, I carried a lot of the bills from the Division of Wildlife. I helped create the bald eagle license plate. I believe in making sure that we preserve our natural heritage. We want to make sure in Ohio that the eagle is on a comeback, from only having four nests in 1979 to having about 185 nests this year.

I am a firm believer of making sure. Not only did we hear about the polar bear when we got there, but when we were leaving, they said oh, we have got another report, we have got a brown bear out in the compound.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I didn't hear about that. Somebody should have told me about that.

Mr. LATTA. Yes, the bears were out. I think it's also important that people keep remembering there is a lot of misinformation, there is a lot of misinformation that comes with photographs.

You know, because just if you look at this, you talk about 1002 here on the far end of the chart here of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. That's that 1.5 million acres. We are only talking about 3 square miles way to the west, and that's all it is.

The other thing is, you know, I see photographs sometimes showing the refuge with trees, and the mountains having different types of trees on it.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Thank you for clarifying that, Congressman.

Mr. LATTA. That might be on the south slope of the Brooks Range. But I tell you when we flew along that Brooks Range, and I took photographs, all I saw were granite mountains.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Oh, there were no trees up there. I worked for my uncle up in Alaska when I was in college. I was in the Aleutian chain, which is in the southern part of Alaska. There were no trees there.

We were here north of the Arctic circle. We touched other little toes up here actually in the Arctic Ocean. There are no trees up there, the mountain ranges that you see, as Congressman LATTA said, the Brooks Range, it is, it was all granite. There were no trees.

But the area we were in was the coastal plain, the perfect area for drilling. So we have the National Petroleum Reserve, Prudhoe Bay, the Arctic refuge, this has been a gift for our country.

Remember, we cannot forget that this is a key to making America energy independent, not dependent upon OPEC for oil, not dependent on Hugo Chavez for oil. We don't want to continue to send all of our American dollars and wealth overseas to make dictators happy and rich.

What do we need? What could we do? We could keep that money here.

Do you remember when we talked about jobs? I know your area in Ohio has suffered terribly from job loss. There is job loss in the State of Michigan. Many areas of the country right now are suffering with job loss.

Do you know what we heard up here in Prudhoe Bay where the oil drilling is occurring, that workers make over six figures, over \$100,000 a year. No one actually lives in Prudhoe Bay, they come in for 2 weeks at a time, and then they leave and they go home for 2 weeks at a time. They have health care benefits. They make over \$100,000 a year. They work 2 weeks on, 2 weeks off.

We were told that if we would open up this ANWR region for drilling, and if we would also be looking at Colorado to open that area up, we would be looking at over 750,000 jobs, American jobs, where the American economy would be stimulated, Americans could be making over \$100,000 a year.

Why in the world, why in the world would anyone possibly not want to open up for the American people, not only energy reserves that could bring the price of energy down to less than \$2 of a gallon of gas, but also to provide jobs. Wouldn't people in Ohio, in the great State of Ohio, want jobs at over \$100,000?

Mr. LATTA. You are absolutely correct. You know, it's mind boggling.

As the gentlelady from Minnesota said, you know, there is so much that can occur up there. But you know the one thing that's being left out of the debate sometimes is well we are hearing you have got the National Petroleum Reserve over here, use it. Well, there is one thing about it, you have to have larger footprints over there. You have to have more exploring, because what we have gotten in ANWR, we know there is that.

We know there is that 10.3 billion, probably more. Because as you know when they first started in the Prudhoe Bay area they thought it would be 9 billion. It could actually, by the time it is all over, be 13 to 15 barrels.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Be 15, they have now taken out 12 billion.

Mr. LATTA. So it could hit that. We can get that out.

Mrs. BACHMANN. That doesn't include the natural gas. Remember that was the other part of the equation.

Mr. LATTA. What's the Governor of Alaska saying about that natural gas?

Mrs. BACHMANN. Well the Governor of Alaska says let's tap into that natural gas. We have the oil pipeline that's currently under way. But you can't put natural gas into a crude oil pipeline. They need to build a natural-gas pipeline that would run fairly parallel.

Every day, I believe it's well over 1 billion cubic feet of natural gas is extracted from the earth when the oil comes up. The great thing that the companies have been able to do is to take that natural gas and pump it back into the earth. The compression, I believe, from the natural gas, has forced more oil up. That's part of the reason why we have seen so much more yield from the Prudhoe Bay.

Without that advance in technology, we wouldn't have the tremendous abundance that we have had. This is really sobering news. Again, remember, when Prudhoe Bay was first opened up 31 years ago, it was the largest oil field in the United States. Oil fields don't get larger, they only deplete. After 31 years, it is still the largest oil field in the United States.

Knowing that, we have adjacent to this field the Arctic refuge, or the ANWR region 1002 which, again, presi-

dent Jimmy Carter set aside specifically for the purpose of drilling for this oil and getting it back down for the American people, the American economy, and America's national security. Because whoever controls fuel controls your freedom.

If Hugo Chavez and Middle East dictators and OPEC control America's fuel, then Hugo Chavez and OPEC dictators control America's freedom. I know that you don't want to have dictators controlling America's freedom. I don't. I don't want that for the people of Minnesota.

Mr. LATTA. I also know in this country we are using over 20 million barrels of oil a day. What would that do to have another million plus be put in that pipeline per day to help the economy down in the lower 40? Look what it would do for the economy in Alaska. They get that check up in Alaska, I know my sister-in-law's family gets that check for every person living in Alaska, what they get for that royalty up there.

But when you look at the map again, as the gentlelady from Minnesota said, we are talking about an area, only about 75 miles, to be able to tap in from area 1002 to that pipeline and get it in, you are going to have to go much farther into that area of the NPRA to get over there and find it. Again, they don't know if that's going to be in smaller pockets, that means they will have to do exploration.

Mrs. BACHMANN. A much larger footprint over here, a much larger environmental impact. The one thing we do know, the southern part of the petroleum reserve, there is about 2 percent of oil down there. About 2 percent of the area in the Southern part of the National Petroleum Reserve holds oil.

So, again, the lie that we hear from other quarters state that, well, we just have land that's idle, that the oil companies aren't exploring on. Well, would you explore somewhere where there is no oil? I mean, just think of that.

Where do young boys go to look for chicks? They go where the chicks are. You know, you go where you can have your best yield. Oil companies go where they can find their best yield.

Mr. LATTA. Again, we know where the 10.3 billion barrels are right now. Again, we don't want to disturb that area any more than you have to. They would have to be driving all over that area to do the exploration.

Why do it right now? Why? Because we have got the ANWR area. As you just said, back 28 years ago, Congress set that land aside, that top part of that 1.5 million acres. You know it boggles my mind. We are fighting over 3 square miles of land.

Mrs. BACHMANN. A postage stamp on a football field. That's what we are talking about.

Mr. LATTA. Three square miles in the State of South Carolina, you couldn't even find it if you had to, if you are looking at the size difference. It's incredible that we have that problem going on there.

Mrs. BACHMANN. The other key point that we don't want to fail to remember is that when we went on our American energy tour, the purpose was to talk to the American people about our all-of-the-above strategy, the fact that we believe in conservation. We need more conservation of energy in this country, and Congressman LATTA had talked about the wonderful new designs at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory where buildings can be designed to literally use zero energy.

I know it's hard to believe, but if you reorient the building, and if you use solar panels, there are amazing things that can be done now where buildings can actually get to the point of using zero energy. These are all techniques and great new breakthrough technologies that America can use to become energy independent.

Conservation is real. We can embrace conservation. We can also embrace renewable energy. The breakthroughs right now that are happening with wind energy are overwhelming.

We also saw all of testing that is being done with solar energy. I was particularly intrigued by shingles that are on houses now, shingles that are actually solar collectors.

□ 2145

All of this work is being done at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. So renewables is one of the legs of our three-legged stool. Conservation is one of the legs on our three-legged stool. But we do not, a stool won't stand up without that third leg. Right now the third leg that is the most key that we need to focus on, we have to focus on all three at the same time, an abundance of increase in American energy supply. And we have got it. We have oil in the Outer Continental Shelf, over 88 billion barrels. We have over 10 billion barrels in the ANWR region. We have about 2 trillion barrels worth of oil in the oil shale region, and we have nuclear.

Mr. LATTA. And across the country where we can't get to right now we have over 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Mrs. BACHMANN. And that really is liquid gold.

Mr. LATTA. And when you look at what we need and when people this winter are going to say, look at my energy bills. I have people telling me in my district right now that they are already, that people are not buying and filling up their tank this year already. They are ordering only half a tank because the cost is going to be the same as have gotten it at the full tank price last year. So people are going, how are we going to pay for this?

Mrs. BACHMANN. And, Congressman LATTA, we all know that school is going on come up. Kids don't like to talk about the fact that school is going to come because it is still July. But there was an article last week in Minnesota, I believe it was in the St. Paul

Pioneer Press newspaper, and it said this. It said that parents are looking at ratcheting back, not buying backpacks, not buying back to school clothes, not buying new protractors, pencils, because they just feel that they can't afford it, and, in fact, can't afford it.

Now there is something wrong, Mr. Speaker, when the American people feel so squeezed that they don't feel they can buy their child a new backpack. This isn't funny anymore. This is a very serious issue.

And I will tell you what, in the State of Minnesota, you don't have an option not to turn your furnace on come October. You just don't have that option.

Mr. LATTA. Well, I guarantee you in northwest Ohio Congresswoman that you have got to turn that furnace on because there are some winters it gets down real cold. It might not be quite as cold as in Minnesota, but I will guarantee we have had some 10 to 20 below days, and it is cold.

Mrs. BACHMANN. When people open up their Excel energy bill—Excel serves both Minnesota and Colorado—when people open up their Excel bill and they see that the price of their electricity or natural gas has doubled or maybe tripled, I cannot imagine the ramifications to the economy.

Mr. LATTA. What happens for all those companies that have converted their coal over to natural gas?

Mrs. BACHMANN. And that is the new wave. Company after company has been forced to do that.

Mr. LATTA. And think about California. What are those people going to be facing? Every time they are going to be turning on a switch at their house they are going to be finding out they are going to be paying more and more and more because that natural gas is going up and up and up. But when you have, as you said, 420 trillion cubic feet in those areas that we are not allowed to go into now, or as you mention, that 86 billion barrels of oil in areas we can't go in, or as you mention, that oil shale, you know, all these things are out there, and as I mentioned a little bit earlier, we have the world's largest coal supply that we could gasify. You could use it into a liquid. You could run automobiles off of it. But what are we doing? Absolutely nothing. And so I think that you are absolutely right.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Why is it, Congressman LATTA, we are the only country in the world that has made it illegal to access the answer to our problem, our own U.S. American energy supplies? Every day of the week we hear buy American, buy American. We are here saying buy American, buy American energy reserves. We have got them everywhere. Why aren't we buying American energy reserves?

But you know what really makes me mad? Congressman LATTA, when I hear people say that Democrats don't have an energy plan. That makes me mad, because they have an energy plan and it is loud and clear and they stated it

themselves just a week ago. Do you remember what it was?

Mr. LATTA. You are going show that out that direction because I can remember it quite well.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Can you see it, Congressman LATTA?

Mr. LATTA. I certainly can.

Mrs. BACHMANN. What does it say?

Mr. LATTA. It says Democrat energy plan, drive small cars and wait for the wind.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Now, is that going to work in northwestern Ohio?

Mr. LATTA. Well, I will tell you what. When I have got people driving 50 miles one way to work. We don't have Metros. We don't have trains. We don't have taxis. They can chauffeur you around most of my district and we have got to have an automobile. So a person in my district now is saying, you know what? If I have got to drive 500 miles back and forth all week long, can I afford to go to work? And then the companies then say, what happens if these people are going to say, well I can't show up to work anymore, and then they don't have that good qualified worker anymore. Then the company says we have got to go someplace else.

Mrs. BACHMANN. We have colleges in my State now that are revamping their schedules to cut off one more day of class time for kids. And we have local public schools, K through 12, that have decided they are going to cut off a school day because they need to reduce the energy consumption for school districts. Can you imagine that? The parents that have enough of a burden with their own energy prices that are going up, now they may have little children that will be sitting at home all day. Mom has to go to work, Dad has to go to work.

These kids are going to be sitting home all day. Think of that. Think of the implication when this is a problem that has been created by Congress. And it is all inertia here. Again, lack of energy in the United States Congress because unfortunately, the Democratic-controlled Congress has decided we are all supposed to put wind sails on top of our small cars and somehow that is going to get us to where we need to go for American energy independence.

Not the people of the Sixth District of Minnesota, no way, no how. Because they are smarter than that there. The people in the Sixth District of Minnesota are pretty bright people, and they realize that we are a "can do" country, and it is time we do some "can doing" around in place and increase American energy reserves.

Mr. LATTA. And I think it is absolutely correct, Congresswoman, that we have got to remember that we have to have that balanced energy plan. We have to have that base load. We have got to make sure that we have that base load, that we have nuclear, that we have that clean coal that we can run our factories. Because the big problem that people forget sometimes is

the wind is not always blowing all the time. And when the wind is not always blowing all the time, those turbines aren't going to be turning all the time.

In my hometown where we have the only four wind turbines in the State of Ohio, the big problem could be, you know, when the wind stops, there is no power being generated. But you know when people think they drive about and I say, just out of curiosity, they will say oh, it is great that you have the wind turbines. And I think it is great that we have those wind turbines. But the thing that I ask them is how much power do you think that supplies to the City of Bowling Green if that power is going into the city's grid and not into just the general grid? And they say, oh they come up with these really high numbers. I say no; only 3 percent from those four wind turbines. And they are big.

So you have to have a lot. You know, the estimates are out there that you need 600 to 800 for a smaller coal generated plant. You need 1,250 to 1,700 turbines, and that means people are going to have to say, if we are not going to go with the one direction and go with the turbines, we are going to have to be able to site these.

Mrs. BACHMANN. And what are we supposed to do with the airline industry? Put solar panels on the outside of airplanes and hope for the best, hope that a cloud doesn't come, hope that the sun doesn't go down? We have got to figure out some way to fly airplanes.

I had employees from Northwest Airlines in my office because Northwest has to layoff—it is a great airline in Minnesota. And, Mr. Speaker, these Northwest employees told me 2,500 employees will be laid off, 2,500 employees. Think of what that is going to mean for the economy in the State of Minnesota.

And then look at the airline announcement with United Airlines, with American Airlines, with Delta Airlines. We are, the United States Congress is personally responsible, I believe. Because of the negligent policies that this Congress has made to make it illegal to access American energy, they are responsible for spiking up the cost of energy so much that Congress, the Democrat-controlled Congress is responsible for seeing these airline companies go belly up.

2,500 employees losing their jobs in the State of Minnesota. Where is this going to end?

If we don't increase American energy supply, if we won't build new refineries, if we won't find new natural gas to liquid, where are we going to go to fly our airplanes to keep our economy going?

Mr. LATTA. Well, and the other question is, it is just not tourists that are on those airplanes. You have got a lot of people in business travel. And so that is going to hurt the American business community because people have got to get from Point A to Point B for business reasons, and if they can't do it, then what happens?

Mrs. BACHMANN. Pretty soon, Mr. LATTA, Members of Congress won't be able to come to Washington, D.C. Maybe that is the only relief the American people are going to get.

Mr. LATTA. Well, that might be true. They might be much happier to keep us at home than send us down here.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Perhaps that has something to do with Congress' 9 percent approval rating.

Mr. LATTA. That might be that problem too. But we have got a situation in this country. But my philosophy is this: You know, sometimes you have got to spell out what the problems are before you can solve them. And by saying, you know, these are the problems we have, this is how we can solve them. I think the American people would say let's do it. And when they get to that point, I think what we can begin to say is we have got to start expanding. We have got to make sure that we are doing everything we possibly can, across the board. You know, we are all for conservation. We are all for renewables.

We are all for making sure that we have that base power that companies out there that use a lot of power, and when they turn those machines on in those factories, that they are going to run, that there won't be brownouts and blackouts. They have got to have that capacity to keep those things running. And some machines, they have got to keep running hours a day, all the time.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Can you imagine a hospital, for instance? People that are in hospitals who require that 24-hour round the clock care, hospitals routinely have generators as back ups. But you know, generators have to run on something too. They need usually oil or they need some sort of a product that they run on.

If we can't produce more energy and also, if the electric grid, this is another very serious issue that we have seen brownouts and blackouts that have occurred across the United States.

We are not increasing transmission lines. We have taken—it is almost hard for me to believe how the United States Congress has taken a none of the above strategy. And the one thing that I saw on our American energy tour last weekend, Congressman LATTA, is that the House Republicans had embraced an all of the above. We want all energy from wherever it comes from, we want to site new transmission lines, new pipelines, open up American energy production. We want all of the above. And all we have seen out of Congress is none of the above.

Mr. LATTA. And again, the American people all know it. And when we have our tele-town halls, I think the other night when we did ours, we probably had 95 percent of all the calls dealt with one issue, energy. Energy, energy, because people are scared. They are worried about not only about turning on the switches at home, but they have got to pay for it.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Young people are scared. Old people are scared. Young married people are scared. Everybody knows.

Mr. LATTA. I hate to admit it. I can remember when I started driving, gas was around 32 or 35 cents a gallon.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Congressman LATTA, what was gas when you and I took office? For me it was \$2 and change. What has happened? Seventy-six percent increase just in the last year and a half. What happened?

The signal was sent to the American people that absolutely nothing will be done. In fact, unfortunately, Speaker PELOSI said herself she has no intention to allow a vote to drill, no intention. Their intention is pretty clear. They are not going to drill.

That is not what I heard from the Republican conference. I heard the Republican conference say all of the above. Not only do we want to drill, we want wind, we want solar, we want bio fuels, we want renewables, we want to have a conservation. We want it all because America needs it all.

Mr. LATTA. I think that we have got a lot to do in this country. You know, I was very glad when I was able to be on that mission to Colorado and up to ANWR because I think that it really shows us what we can do. We can go out and talk about it. We can talk about making sure that we are using those renewables, that we can go out there and talk about what would have the smallest footprint out there to preserve that beautiful tundra up there. But again, I think the people, don't be a lot of these photographs sometimes. You have got to see the actual photos of what this area looks like. And not that the tundra isn't attractive, but it is not some of the things that it is portrayed to be.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Well, you can't live on it. That is one thing that was clear to us. You can't have a lot of human habitation.

Mr. LATTA. You can't walk across it without sinking through. So my view is that we want to do, as you said, and I said a little earlier, it is all of the above. We want to make sure that we have got a great energy policy, and energy that will get us past the oil. But it is going to take time. And you probably remember, you were standing right there when those discussions were being had, that we are not that close yet to get to those new renewables that are out there. It is going to take time.

But during that time, when 80 percent of all of the goods that are delivered in the State of Ohio are delivered by truck, when you look at everything that we rely on for oil, we have got to have it. But if we put ourselves out of business before then, what good is it going to do down the road to get us to the renewables because we have already lost.

Mrs. BACHMANN. What good is it going to do, Congressman LATTA, if people don't have jobs? Because company after company, this is no joke.

Companies are facing very severe complications on their bottom line because they can't afford the energy. They can't do it. And buying a carbon credit isn't going to solve this. We have got to have more real energy to power the real needs America needs to have. We never would have had the American prosperity that we enjoy today without affordable, accessible, reliable energy. Energy is a good thing. Oil, gas, coal, these aren't evils. These have been building blocks that have given us this greater country that the world has ever known. To take away these energy building blocks is to take away freedom and to take away prosperity, to take away the greatness of our Nation.

□ 2200

We need this not just for our generation. We need this for the next generation—for my five kids, for your kids. This is very important. What kind of a country are we going to hand off to our kids? Sorry. We're turning the lights off. You're on your own.

Mr. LATTA. Absolutely. That's what we're going to do, and that's why we're going to keep working. We're going to make sure that the American people hear what we believe has to be done. What I'm hearing from my constituents in the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio is why aren't we drilling, and why aren't we exploring. What happened to nuclear? What happened to coal?

So these are the issues out there that folks in my district are concerned about. They've figured it out.

Mrs. BACHMANN. You're right.

Mr. LATTA. They've figured it out.

Mrs. BACHMANN. You're right.

Mr. LATTA. But I just want to thank you very much this evening, the gentlewoman from Minnesota, for being here tonight, because I know of your passion on this whole subject.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Well, Congressman LATTA, thank you for being the leader here. Thank you for your leadership.

Mr. LATTA. I think it's important that the American people know that we're out there, that there is a solution to this problem. So I just want to thank you very much for all of your help.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Thank you for standing up for the little guy, Congressman LATTA. That is what your voice has been tonight, that of the little guy who wonders: Does anybody hear me? Does anyone see I'm suffering? Congressman LATTA, you've done that tonight. Thank you for your leadership.

Mr. LATTA. Well, thank you very much.

AMERICAN ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the honor to be recognized on

the floor of the United States Congress. I also appreciate the presentation that has been delivered by the gentleman from Ohio and from the gentlelady of Minnesota, and I appreciate being able to listen to the presentation, knowing that they have been to ANWR just recently, within the past week or so, and have seen some of the things that I had seen there several years ago. What they see today is much of what I saw then.

It's interesting that they flew across that coastal plain for 2 hours with everybody on the plane looking and looking for wildlife, and they didn't see any. I remember I did see some. I saw four musk oxen. I remember the pilots actually spotted them, and they announced back to the plane that they had seen four musk oxen, and they were quite excited that they had seen wildlife in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This was the airplane crew who had flown that coastal plain over and over again. I was surprised at that excitement.

I wouldn't have gotten that excited if I'd have looked down and had seen a deer. I might have if I'd seen a buffalo but not a deer.

In any case, it's quite a thing to see that the people who had made the trip to ANWR saw the things that I saw, confirmed the things that I confirmed, gave speeches here on the floor of Congress tonight, and then let the rest of the world know that the things that I've been saying have been true all along, right down to "there are no trees up there, Mr. Speaker, not a single tree."

I recall giving a speech at the Iowa State Fair where I made that statement. The allegation was made in a very impolite way that that wasn't true. So the newspaper that Iowa depends upon decided they would go find a contrary view from mine when I said there were no trees in ANWR. They found a botanist—I believe he was at Iowa State University—who must have gone through and searched the Internet and found out that there is, at least allegedly, a tiny, little weed up there that grows about 10- to 12-feet high at the most, and it's technically a tree. There's not enough wood in that to make a toothpick, but it's technically a tree.

So, if they found a botanist who said there was a tree in ANWR—and supposedly that's a rebuttal—I'd just say: Who has seen one? I don't think anybody has seen one up there. We know that the Arctic Circle is the line north of which trees cannot grow. This is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a frozen tundra coastal plain. When it has had any disturbance on the tundra, it has not been from the oil pipeline, and it has not been from the drillers in a significant way, but it happens sometimes when Native Americans get to moving around up there. They tell me they just drag it smooth, and in 5 to 6 years, the tundra has all grown back where it was. I've seen it. I know what

it looks like. What my eyes see confirms for my head and for my heart.

So I think this point has been made very clear. I don't know how a thinking, living, breathing American could listen to the dialogue that took place here in the last hour and conclude that we shouldn't drill in ANWR. It is an ideal place for there to be oil. It's an ideal place for us to extract oil, and we have the transmission system up there. I think we'd have to add another 74-mile pipeline.

There is something on which I might have a little bit of a marginal—not disagreement, but I'd just say here is the little way I see it differently from Mrs. BACHMANN's statement, which is that, in 3 years, we'd have oil coming out of ANWR and coming down the pipeline. We did the entire North Slope and the entire Alaska pipeline and 600 miles of right-of-way. We drilled the wells, put it all together, built the industry up there, and had oil coming out of the pipeline in 3 years, from '72 till '75, marginally a little bit more than 36 months, but still, within 3 calendar years, there was oil coming out of that pipeline. There was an 800-mile pipeline. There were 600 miles of right-of-way. Drill the wells. Pick up the collection. Get it to the terminal at Mile Post Zero where the caribou congregate. That was in 3 years.

So I believe this, that if America makes up its mind, we can do it, if we did a Manhattan Project and started to build an atom bomb after the beginning of World War II and, to end the war, we'd had two ready and two dropped. We did that. President Kennedy said—and I think the year was 1963—we're going to go to the Moon. In 1969, we were on the Moon.

How can a nation that has that technical ability, a nation of smart, industrious people who have tamed everything we've decided to tame and that we've always done in record time—has something happened to our soul? Has something happened to our spirit that we would capitulate to the Lilliputian ropes that tie down America's greatness—the ropes of regulation? the ropes of environmental extremism? What's wrong with our spirit that we would let people like this hold America back? They would shut our economy down.

If somebody shuts down the valve at the Strait of Hormuz, that shuts off 42.6 percent of the world's export oil supply. Ahmadinejad has threatened to do just that, and he has also threatened to annihilate Israel, and he is determined to move forward in building nuclear weapons. He has said so even if the CIA in the NIE report some months ago said, no, we concluded back in 2003 that they quit trying. Not true. They're continually trying to enrich uranium. They are enriching uranium. They showed it to us on our own television sets. They're developing missiles to deliver a weapon. They showed us that on our television sets.

Why would we argue with the Iranians? Do we think they're perpetrating some kind of hoax?