

a valuable, usable commodity. With the research and development set forth in the Produced Water Utilization Act, we can make it happen. I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Mr. GINGREY, Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2339—the Produced Water Utilization Act of 2008—introduced by the Ranking Member of the Science Committee, Mr. HALL of Texas. I want to thank Mr. HALL for constructing this important legislation and for the leadership he has provided to the Committee throughout the 110th Congress.

Produced water is comprised of mainly salty water that is trapped in reservoir rock below ground. It comes to the surface when drilling for oil or natural gas and usually contains oil and metals from production. Approximately 10 barrels of produced water are captured for every barrel of oil derived, and that results in a total of 15–20 billion barrels of produced water generated here in the United States on an annual basis.

H.R. 2339 directs the Secretary of Energy to establish a program for research and development to harvest produced water in an environmentally safe way for irrigation, municipal, and industrial purposes. Once this program is established, we can help address the droughts that are occurring across the country—including in my Northwest Georgia district—simply by providing the public with additional water resources.

Madam Speaker, the United States could be generating even more produced water if the Democratic Majority would allow for the environmentally safe drilling of oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Polls show that a majority of Americans would support energy exploration in a small portion of ANWR, which could yield an additional 1.5 million barrels of oil a day. These efforts have unfortunately been foiled by radical environmentalists, content with skyrocketing gas prices.

So, Madam Speaker, to be clear: if we open up ANWR for drilling and enact this legislation, not only will we help reduce the price that the American people are paying at the pump, but we will also be better prepared to stave off anticipated drought conditions across the country.

H.R. 2339 only reinforces the need for us to drill here and drill now: to save money at the pump and increase the amount of water we have available in the United States. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MATHESON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2339, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO LEBANON—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110-140)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication stating that the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of persons undermining the sovereignty of Lebanon or its democratic processes and institutions and certain other persons are to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2008.

The actions of certain persons to undermine Lebanon's legitimate and democratically elected government or democratic institutions, to contribute to the deliberate breakdown in the rule of law in Lebanon, including through politically motivated violence and intimidation, to reassert Syrian control or contribute to Syrian interference in Lebanon, or to infringe upon or undermine Lebanese sovereignty contribute to political and economic instability in that country and the region and constitute a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of persons undermining the sovereignty of Lebanon or its democratic processes and institutions and certain other persons.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 30, 2008.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SKELTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DISASTER RELIEF FOR IOWA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to speak about the natural disaster that has hit Iowa, first tornados and then floods, in the most recent weeks. This is a natural disaster obviously that also hit other parts of the Midwest. Some 10 States in the Midwest have been struck by massive flooding since June.

First of all, I want to commend my colleagues from Iowa in the House and in the Senate. We have worked together, I think, in stellar bipartisan fashion since the floods struck Iowa, and I commend my colleagues. I am very proud of the fact that we have come together to do what we can for our great State. I have every confidence that we are going to continue to work together in the coming months and indeed in the years ahead.

The people of Iowa are self-sufficient and self-reliant. We are strong. We are the salt of the earth. We do not believe in asking for much. We would rather earn things on our own. When faced with a disaster, Iowans stand together to move forward and rebuild.

Our commitment to community and resilience may lead some to believe that the tornadoes, severe storms, and flooding which hit the State of Iowa was only a minor event. However, having spent the majority of my time back home, I can assure you that this is anything but a minor event.

Indeed, in my district alone, the Second District of Iowa, we have several rivers, and in virtually every case they flowed out of their banks in early to mid June. Whether it's Cedar Rapids that saw the Cedar River rise 50 percent above its previous record and overflow its banks and displace 20,000 to 25,000 individuals; or the Iowa River in Iowa City, where it again spilled over the Coralville Reservoir and exceeded its previous record level by 3 feet and caused some \$232 million damage to the University of Iowa; or whether it was the Iowa River coming together with the Cedar River in Columbus Junction and engulfing much of that city, and particularly its commercial areas; or whether it was the Iowa River that split off just before it hit Oakville, the tiny town of Oakville, and formed two channels but included the town of Oakville really in one large channel, a town of just over 400 people; or the Mississippi from Muscatine on down to Keokuk; or the Des Moines River from Ottumwa on to Keokuk. All of these rivers flowed out of their

banks and caused massive damage in Iowa during this period.

I have gone to every one of the counties. I have seen the damage, from urban areas to rural areas. We have probably close to \$10 billion worth of damage, if not more, in the State of Iowa.

We did get an initial \$2.65 billion package that included Iowa and other States affected by the flooding. But, Madam Speaker, it's time to do more.

It has been 2 months and 5 days since this disaster struck our State. Next month, I have flood assistance meetings set up in all of my flood-related counties, and I am going to do everything I can obviously to help my constituents. I am committed to working every hour of every day to get the necessary assistance to my constituents.

I am, of course, disappointed that this Congress has yet to move forward on a second disaster package, and indeed it looks as though we are not going to move forward before this weekend. That has caused me great disappointment and displeasure. But I am also committed to working with the leadership on both sides of the aisle, and the President, to provide them with any information they need for us to move forward.

As I said before, I am committed to working with my colleagues in the House and in the Senate from Iowa, and others in the Disaster Working Group, which my office helped to create, a bipartisan working group that includes 19 Members of the House of Representatives. I know that, working together, we can provide the relief that Iowa and these other States deserve.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LOWER THE PRICE OF GASOLINE AND OIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Well, it's 9 o'clock, it's a Wednesday night, and 2 days from now we will all be home for 5 weeks and Congress will not have acted on many pieces of legislation that deal with the energy crisis. While we are home talking to our constituents and doing things that we have to do back in our districts, the people of the United States of America will continue to pay \$4, \$5 a gallon for gasoline. They will have to take money away from other important areas of their homes; food, clothing, whatever it might be, so they can put enough gasoline in the car to get to and from work or to take the kids to school. I think that is tragic, Madam Speaker.

This Congress should be doing something immediately to lower the price of gasoline and oil. A few days ago, I think last week, the President of the United States removed the executive moratorium on drilling offshore. As soon as he did that, the price of oil per barrel dropped. Likewise, just in the last couple of days, the price of gasoline dropped. If the Congress of the United States were to act likewise to remove the moratorium on drilling offshore on the Continental Shelf, the price of gasoline would drop I believe dramatically in a very short period of time.

But we are not going to do that. We are going to leave here in the next 2 days without doing a darn thing. The American people sit at home, 70, 75 percent of them saying, Why in the world don't you drill? Why don't you drill here in America. Why are you sending all that money overseas, \$700 billion a year to the Saudis and to others who aren't really our best friends? Why not keep that money at home; why not drill here; why not become energy independent so we don't have to worry about the rest of the world and what they are doing. But we are not going to do that.

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We are going to leave here without doing a darn thing. Now, there are a number of bills pending before the Congress that have been introduced that would solve the problem, but none of them have seen the light of day and none are going to see the light of day between now and when we leave.

Today, a bipartisan group headed by NEIL ABERCROMBIE of Hawaii and JOHN PETERSON of Pennsylvania, about 15 or 20 Members, bipartisan, introduced a bill that had a lot of compromises in it that would have dealt with this problem of energy independence and would have helped lower the price of energy and gasoline.

It was a multifaceted bill. It dealt with solar energy. It dealt with wind energy. It dealt with cars that use all kinds of fuel, the hybrid cars, the hydrogen powered cars. It gave tax credits to encourage the people around this country and the industries around this country to move on wind-driven energy and solar energy and other forms of energy that we are not dealing with right now.

In particular, it dealt with the drilling off the continental shelf. It did not talk about ANWR, because that was one of the areas where there was some disagreement. So in order to go ahead and move forward with an energy bill, this bipartisan group decided they wouldn't put the ANWR issue in there, but they would go ahead with the continental shelf exploration. They said that 25 miles off the continental shelf from the shore would not be explored, and 25 to 50 miles offshore the States would have the right to decline to drill should they want to do that.

But it was a giant step forward, and they moved this bill today to the com-

mittees of jurisdiction and we should be acting on that. If we don't act on it between now and when we leave on Friday, we should certainly be acting on it in September.

Now, today we had a vote up or down on whether or not we should adjourn for 5 weeks starting this Friday until September. The vote passed by one vote. Democrats, many Democrats, and almost all the Republicans voted not to leave this body until we dealt with the energy crisis, and it failed by one vote. So the people of this country saw today that a large number of the people in this body that represent them in the Congress want to deal with the energy crisis, but the majority, the Speaker of the House, once again blocked this effort, and I think that is very unfortunate.

It is extremely important that we move on this before we leave in September. The people in this country are going to suffer for another 2 months, and we really need to do something about that before we adjourn for the rest of the year at the end of September, as has been told to us is going to be the case.

We have enough energy in this country to be energy independent. We have enough oil to be energy independent. We have enough gas to be energy independent. We have enough coal shale to be energy independent. We are not doing anything to deal with the problem, and the American people know it.

So I would just like to say tonight, Madam Speaker, before we leave, that this is intolerable, what we are doing. The American people want action. They want the gas prices down, they want the energy prices down, and it is within our power to get the job done, but we are not doing it.

So I would like to urge the leadership in this House, the majority in this House, as well as the minority in this House, to move rapidly; to move rapidly on an energy bill between now and when we leave on September 30th. This is one of the most important issues, it is the most important issue that we are dealing with this session. Madam Speaker, I think it is unconscionable that we have not yet dealt with it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IMMEDIATE RELIEF FROM RISING FUEL PRICES NEEDED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, my constituents in Maine and millions of Americans nationwide face an unprecedented crisis as they agonize over how