

own destiny when it comes to energy, and that's why we need the all-of-the-above strategy. That's nuclear, that's clean coal technology, that's making sure that we use hydroelectric, that we are producing, that we are making sure that we have oil and natural gas because we are going to need that oil, we're going to need that natural gas for the next 20 to 25 years.

We also have to look at the alternatives because when we went to ANWR, we stopped in Colorado and saw what they were doing out there in the National Renewable Laboratory dealing with solar, wind, hydrogen, ethanol, and biodiesel, and that's interesting to me because it's all happening in my district, the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for us to act.

SKYROCKETING GAS PRICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the problem of skyrocketing gas prices. When a single mom in Orlando, Florida, is paying \$80 to fill up her minivan, that's a crisis. The American people deserve some straight talk, and here it is: The main component of a price of gasoline at the pump is crude oil. Crude oil is a commodity governed by the law of supply and demand. Therefore, we must increase our supply and reduce our demand. To increase our supply, where is the single largest source of untapped crude oil in the United States? It's in Alaska in an area called ANWR, specifically in a section called 1002.

I recently went to Alaska and toured the entire northern slope, including the 1002 section of ANWR. I will tell you why I did. The critics of Alaska oil drilling say three things about ANWR:

They say, first, don't drill there because there's only a trivial amount of oil. Then they tell us that it would ruin the pristine wilderness. And, finally, they say don't do it because it will hurt the wildlife there, particularly the caribou and the polar bear. Let me address all three issues head-on as someone who has personally been there.

First, is there a trivial amount of oil there? There's 10.4 billion barrels of oil there, according to the United States Department of Interior. And 10.4 billion barrels of oil is enough to provide all of my home State of Florida's energy needs for 29 years; 10.4 billion barrels of oil is enough to pump 1 million barrels of oil a day every single day for the next 30 years. Does that sound like a trivial amount of oil to you?

The next thing we heard is that it's a pristine wilderness. You can't possibly drill there. Well, I went there. I went to the town of Kaktovik, the only village of ANWR, and I looked out and was a little surprised by what I saw,

and I'll tell you what I saw. It was a flat, barren tundra. It looked like the surface of the moon, not some rain forest-style wilderness. There was not a tree within 100 miles. And as I stood there with the leader of Kaktovik, Mr. Felton Rexford, the leader of the local Eskimo tribe, I said, "Where are all the trees? Where's the wilderness?"

He said, "Congressman, there is no wilderness here. There are no trees. The closest tree is over 100 miles away."

When you look at the size of ANWR, 19 million acres, the size of South Carolina, you have to realize that the drilling that we're proposing is in a limited 2,000-acre section of 1002. That means literally 99.99 percent of ANWR is off-limits and the tiny area that we would drill is a flat, frozen, barren tundra. To put that in perspective, it would be the size of a stamp on a football field.

The next issue: This would hurt the wildlife, particularly caribou and polar bear. Well, there are 800,000 caribou in Alaska, 5,000 polar bear. I saw them both on my trip. I can tell you the numbers for both are up over the last 30 years, each and every year, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In fact, next door to ANWR is Prudhoe Bay, which is an existing oil field that's owned by the State, and we had caribou there in the mid 1970s to the tune of 3,000. They have increased since then tenfold up to 30,000.

So if those reasons aren't valid, what are the real reasons we are not drilling in ANWR? Well, here is a quote from the head of the Sierra Club, Mr. Carl Pope, and he says, "We are better off without cheap gas." Better off without cheap gas. Tell the single mom paying \$80 to fill up her minivan that she's better off without cheap gas. Tell the airline employees who all just lost their jobs that they're better off without cheap gas. Tell the small business employees who were just laid off that their families are better off without cheap gas. Tell the public school superintendent that had to switch to a 4-day week because he can't afford the money for the buses that our children are better off without cheap gas.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are hurting. We want you to put the ordinary Americans above the radical fringe environmental groups. We want you to give us an up-or-down vote on the American Energy Act. We want you to do it this September before taking another vacation and take care of business.

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

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

ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of points I want to talk about tonight on energy. But first I want to say that sometimes people get the feeling that we Republicans refer to alternative energy as something that's kind of window dressing because all we want to do is drill.

I have been working with alternative energy issues for over a decade here in Congress. In my district we now have the largest integrated soy diesel plant in the world that Dreyfus has put near Claypool just outside of Warsaw, Indiana. I recently gave an award that I have, a Johnny Appleseed award, who's actually a real person buried in Ft. Wayne, to a local company, Sweetwater Music, which is the greatest online music company in the United States and in the world because it looks like they are going to be certified as the first gold business building in the State of Indiana, at full green standards, first gold higher than platinum. And they're doing it and they did it in a way and the reason I wanted to highlight them is they can pay for the cost of their building with what they've saved in energy. I mean it pays for itself. A green building does not have to be a drawback.

At the same time, Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center done by Goshen College also has a platinum standard building. I believe that the wind power is a real alternative. Parker-Hannifin in New Haven, Indiana, I have an earmark set aside to help them with their project. They do coolant systems, and they believe they can get 20 to 40 percent more energy out of each wind turbine by changing the coolant standards. I have worked with solar energy in my district. Water Furnace, a company just highlighted in the New York Times in the last week, by recycling water for heating and cooling, can save an untold number of power plants in the United States if we do that. Nevertheless, representing the number one manufacturing district in the United States.

Let me just say this: We need coal, nuclear, and drilling as well as all these alternative energies. I have the largest pickup plant in the world that does the Silverado and the Sierra. You aren't going to power this if we don't have enough oil and gas. I have two huge SDI steel plants that take more energy to make the steel than cities of probably 75,000 to 100,000, possibly even double that, to 200,000, and everything in those cities to power those steel plants. Five new core facilities. Valbruna Steel. We aren't going to do this with a windmill standing up. Those are supplemental power systems.

But if we're not going to have every company moving to China, we have to have more energy in this country. The motor homes are not going to be powered by a little solar panel. And they're getting hammered right now, and 58 percent are in my district. The international trucks are not going to be

powered by alternative energy. We need basic energy.

And I want to talk specifically tonight about one. We hear about shale oil. This is what it looks like: layers of rock, and then there is a layer that has hydrocarbons that are packed in much like other oil that are in a solid piece like this. This basically is the equivalent of a gold nugget in the gold area because you can see here it is a piece of basically oil that by heating technology, this turns into high grade oil. We have 800 billion barrels of this. We pump right now in the United States 20 million. We have 800 billion in just the west Colorado, southwest Wyoming, and Utah basin. This is not the Rocky Mountains. It's not by the Grand Teton. It's not by the Rocky Mountain National Park. It's in the big basin in between the mountains because that's where you have the foliage and things that are packed together to do this.

Now, you can do it in open-pit mining like tar sands, and that's what you see a lot in the news. But the Mahogany Research Project that Shell Oil has, and you can find it on the Internet because they have now gone public for a reason I will mention in a minute, and Chevron have ways to do this in the ground so you don't have open-pit mining. They've already extracted enough in their pilot projects that we were able to use it in our planes. We don't need oil at \$120. Obviously at \$40 it isn't profitable. But in between there we have a lot of room to work to get this out of the ground.

The reason they have gone public, because they were nearing the point of a larger scale project, the House of Representatives and the Senate banned shale oil drilling. The project has stopped cold. They have laid off the engineers. Chevron and Shell have had to stop. One project has gone ahead on the open-pit mining. But the new stories in Colorado—this is a huge debate right now. Just about a month ago I went out. They have now opened it so Members of Congress can see it because they were trying to keep this technology from each other and the different companies, but basically Shell and Chevron have gone public with this technology because they were about to make it public. But we banned it, 800 billion barrels in the United States that does not have open-pit mining, that in the one experimental that they did already, they have already done the recovery of. It's intense when they do it, but down in the ground, they basically freeze the area around it, as you can see in the Mahogany Project, and get it out.

If we're going to keep industry in America, we have to come up with American energy strategies. Do everything, including shale oil.

□ 2030

THE DEFICIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. SUTTON. I am happy to be here today. We are here with some of the other Members of the freshman class, the class of 2006, and I have heard some folks on the other side of the aisle in recent moments talk about the fact that the American people deserve some straight talk. We could not agree more. And that is why we are here today, to talk about some of the things that aren't being talked about quite as loudly on the other side of the aisle.

Recently, earlier this week, the administration released its final mid-session review of the budget. The new budget document showed a record deficit for 2009, confirming that in 8 years this administration will have turned the largest surpluses in history into the largest deficits in history.

The dismal fiscal record is, unfortunately, just one aspect of this administration's failed economic record. But is that what the administration says to the American people?

Now I just want us to take a moment and look at some of the comments that have been coming out, not only from the administration, but from the other side of the aisle in this body.

In November of 2007, President George W. Bush, the administration, said, "Sure, there's some challenges facing us, but the underpinnings of our economy are strong, and we are a resilient economy." And then, in December of 2007, he said, "This economy is pretty good. There's definitely some storm clouds and concerns, but the underpinning is good." And that was complemented by the leader of the Republicans here in the House, who said in July of this year, July 21 of 2008, "While the economy is slow, we are still seeing growth, and frankly, I have got to tell you, I am shocked." And then he said way back in October of 2006, Minority Leader BOEHNER, said as follows, "Today's announcement by President Bush confirms that the pro-growth economic policies put in place by Republicans are working as planned to spur economic growth and reduce the deficit." That was JOHN BOEHNER, October 11, 2006, Looking forward, trying to suggest that the policies that have been pursued by this administration have benefited the American people.

Well, I am really glad that we have this opportunity to have the American people join us this evening to talk about the real facts. And they are not pleasant because it's a sad fact about some of the things that are happening out there.

You know, these two, the administration, the President, and Minority Leader BOEHNER, they are not the only people out there telling the American people that the economy is good. Not so long ago, in the not the distant past, we heard a top economic advisor to Senator McCain tell us that our prob-

lems, our economic problems, they are all in our head. In essence, he said that we are suffering from a mental recession.

You know, he called our country a Nation of whiners. Well, I have to tell you guys that as a Congresswoman from Ohio in the 13th District, that the people I represent, they are not whiners. They have, unfortunately, too many of them, felt the painful consequences of the failures of the last 8 years of this administration.

So I am grateful that you're here tonight to help us describe, and frankly, the important thing is hold accountable this administration for the failures that it is trying to disown.

The current administration, you all will know, is going to leave this Nation with the largest deficit in history. I'm sure my colleagues here with me tonight are going to talk about that. And the debt has ballooned as well. The economic growth has been, to give a complimentary spin, has been anemic, and thousands, thousands of jobs have been lost, household incomes have fallen, and the President's fiscal policies have imposed an amazingly heavy debt burden on America's families.

You know, I'd like to yield at this time to the distinguished gentleman here tonight, Representative PETER WELCH from Vermont, who has been a tremendous agent of change in this body, and I look forward to seeing what this gentleman is going to be able to do, because it's going to be a lot when we have more to work with in the next administration.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. I thank my friend, Representative SUTTON. This evening gives us an opportunity to take account, to look at the record, and reveal it to the American people. We are in a season close to an election, where the American people are going to have to make a decision, and it's going to be an extraordinarily consequential decision. In the fog of a campaign, there's an awful lot of rhetoric back and forth, where those who have not done much try to conceal it with claims that they did, and try to shoot down the progress that has been made.

Now we all know that when we get going, and we are going to solve our problems, it's going to have to be working together. We have been doing our best to do that. But what we have to do tonight is lay out what the record has been.

What I want to talk about briefly are two areas; one is deficit, to continue what my friend, Representative SUTTON was talking about, and the other is on Iraq. The reason I want to talk about them specifically is because it is important for the American people to know what they can expect from our friends on the other side who have a clear record, and it is one that they are accountable for, but it has to be one that Americans are aware of.

On deficits, taking up on what you said, let me just read some quotes from