

and we believe that we can do this by building green collar jobs and a whole new clean economy for America.

In the next few days, we will be proposing to the House a comprehensive energy bill that will be focused on building new jobs in America. And we think Americans deserve this. We think Americans are ready for this. And we think it is an American destiny, as we were the arsenal of democracy in World War II, to now become the arsenal of clean energy for the world.

I want to talk about some of the things I've learned just in the last few months about our ability to grow a new clean energy economy in the world.

I'd like to refer to a photograph taken a few weeks ago in Golden, Colorado. This is a photograph taken at the National Renewable Energy Lab. This lab is vested with the charge to help build new technologies to grow new jobs in America. I want to report this picture, I think, encapsulates the potential future for the American transportation system and the American new energy system to drive jobs in that direction.

This is a photograph of a photovoltaic array, this panel here that is mounted on this pedestal. On the other side of this metal is a photovoltaic array that basically captures the sun's energy and transfers it to electric energy. This array itself is attached to these two cars here. These two cars are plug-in electric cars. These are two cars that essentially we will plug in at night, when these cars are on the road. And they are mass produced in America.

These cars plug in at night. We charge them for 8 hours. And then they will run about 40 miles on all electricity. So that these cars will emit no carbon dioxide. They'll run just on energy and electricity for 40 miles. If you want to go more than 40 miles a day, you'll run on gasoline or ethanol for the remaining 200, 250-mile range, plus.

Now the wonderful thing about this, and I've done a lot of research, but something I learned, and I was very impressed with the young man at the National Renewable Lab that told me that this array right here, which isn't a lot larger, you can see, than a rooftop, will charge in 8 hours, fully charge, two of these plug-in electric cars to run a full 40 miles on electricity, and they then can run on gasoline an additional 200, 250 miles.

This was a remarkable statement to me because this picture, I believe, is Exhibit A in our ability to totally revolutionize our transportation system and grow millions of new jobs in America to do that. Let me give you an example of that.

These photovoltaic arrays are now being manufactured in America, not just in the silicone-based systems that we're familiar with, but 2 months ago at the Nano Solar Company in California, Americans produced the first thin-cell photovoltaic to actually have

a revolutionary system that is 30 to 40 percent less expensive for a lot of energy coming from these photovoltaic arrays. Those are manufacturing jobs in America.

General Motors is getting ready in 2010 or 2011 to mass produce the first plug-in electric car in America, where we are going to put Americans to work in this manufacturing process.

This is why I mention this. We will have a bill on the floor in the next few days that will truly advance these manufacturing millions of new green collar jobs in solar, in plug-in electric cars, by doing several things. It will create a tax code that will give benefits to companies to manufacture these products. It will give tax breaks to Americans to buy these products. It will create a 15 percent requirement that our utilities use these new, clean energy sources. It will create a research and development fund to help do the research to bring these to market.

And my Republican colleagues, I will call on them and we will call on them to join us in a comprehensive bill to truly help the development of these new technologies. We hope they will abandon their shortsighted view that these technologies aren't the future. This is the future.

AMERICAN ENERGY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, in the last 4 months, there has been a very intense debate going on here in this Congress, but also across the entire country, and that debate has been about energy; about what can be done to lower the price of gasoline at the pump and reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil. It's a very healthy debate, a debate that we need to have, but a debate that we need to resolve here in this body with an open debate and vote on the options that have been put on the table.

Back 2 months ago, House Republicans put together a bill that actually has garnered bipartisan support, called the American Energy Act, a comprehensive plan to address this national energy crisis our country is facing, both to look at what we can do to increase the supply of American oil, to reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil in the short-term, but also to look at the long-term objectives of how to move off of oil and move more toward alternative sources, like renewable sources of energy, looking at wind, looking at solar, and trying to advance those technologies so that they can become more viable in the marketplace so that somebody can go and buy an electric car and be able to drive back and forth to work without plugging it in for 6 hours.

Those technologies will advance, and in the American Energy Act we are encouraging those renewable sources of energy, to advance things like, instead

of using products like corn for ethanol, using the biomass, the waste products of things like corn and sugar cane and other products, to make ethanol, which we can do. The technologies haven't advanced to the point where they are commercially viable. All of that is here in the American Energy Act. To look at doing things like increasing the ability to permit nuclear facilities so we can reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil. All of the things that have been talked about in the last few months have been encompassed in a bill that has bipartisan support.

Unfortunately, the liberal leadership has not allowed a discussion, a debate, or a vote on the American Energy Act. So what we have said is, Bring it up. If you don't like it, let's bring up amendments. Let's have everything put on the table to address this important discussion that is so important to our country, and hurting our economy. Something that we can do to help the economy.

So what happens? What is the approach that is taken by the liberal leadership? By dark of night, last night, we finally saw what their plan was. It was this bill that was put together in a back room somewhere with who knows what groups, because nobody, even people on the other side, Madam Speaker, members of the Democratic Party who support a comprehensive plan, were not even allowed to have input on the bill that was filed late last night, dark of night, with a 10 o'clock filing of the bill. At 10:30, they had a meeting to decide that they weren't even going to allow an amendment to be brought up, and that today it would come up on the House floor for a vote. That is not the way you handle the most important issue in this country that we are facing right now.

When there's been an alternative on the table for a month, with active discussion, you don't by dark of night put something together that nobody's seen, and then say, Okay, tomorrow we're going to bring it up for a vote, and not one amendment can be offered.

Of course, once you start looking through their bill, you can quickly see why they did it by dark of night and why they don't want any amendments offered. Because this bill that they are going to have a vote on today, that nobody has been able to go through in great detail, the more you look at it, you realize this is a do-nothing bill. This bill will actually put our country more at risk to Middle Eastern oil. Why is that?

Well, there are a number of provisions. First, let's talk about revenue sharing. Right now, States have the ability to get revenue sharing for the drilling that they do. In my State, Louisiana, we drill about 30 percent of the country's oil. We have been doing it for a long time. Finally, after years and years of negotiation, we were able to get an agreement that there would be revenue sharing. That we would be able to participate in the revenue that

is generated by the drilling that's done off of our own coast. It doesn't start until 2017. Their bill takes that away.

Why is that significant to States like Louisiana? Number one, it's a huge disincentive for anybody to want to drill. If a State that doesn't drill at all, like Florida, now wants to start looking at drilling, which they do, this takes away their incentive. We use those revenues in Louisiana. It's dedicated in our constitution to rebuilding our vanishing coast. That's our barrier against future hurricanes. Why would the Democratic leadership want to take away our ability to have revenue sharing that we will use to restore our coast and put our hurricane barrier back in place in Louisiana?

They don't do anything on oil shale revenue sharing. They don't do anything on the lawsuit abuses. Right now, lawsuits by radical environmental groups take up about a third of the time it takes to bring oil to market. They don't do anything on nuclear, to encourage more nuclear power, like in France. France uses 80 percent nuclear power for their energy in their homes. There's nothing in this bill to encourage and remove those barriers on nuclear.

So, clearly, OPEC could not have drafted a better bill than the bill that the radical environmentalists/liberals filed today. I would encourage a "no" vote.

A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY WILL LEAD TO A BETTER FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KAGEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KAGEN. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

To solve our crippling crisis of impossible gas prices that are now over \$4 per gallon in Wisconsin, we need a comprehensive national energy policy and strategy. And we need leaders who are on our side—not Big Oil. But where is the administration's plan? You see it at the gas station at the corner every day.

This crisis was totally predictable and, unfortunately, it is forcing every family, every business, and governments at every level to operate in a perpetual state of crisis planning. In fact, today's impossible gas prices are threatening the survival of major manufacturers and small businesses alike, even as ongoing speculation in oil futures remains unrestrained. The truth is there is no shortage of fuel. We just don't have the money in our pockets to pay for the energy we need.

There is a better way of doing things in America. Although alternative energies will not be available to meet our needs for a number of years, we cannot just wait any longer to make plans for our energy independence. We need to start producing more of our own energy right here and right now. If we want to keep more of our money here

at home, support the U.S. economy and provide American jobs, then we must produce more of our own oil and natural gas as well.

It's time to say "no" to the campaign cash handed out by big oil corporations to lobbyists and other special interests here in Washington. The first priority is to stop pointing fingers and instead start joining hands across the aisle.

Let's begin to work together and develop a comprehensive energy plan, a plan that is created not behind closed doors, but right here on the House floor, right here in the open.

For months, I have been advocating a three-point policy plan. First, we do have to drill for new oil and natural gas here in America. Our Nation has substantial untapped oil reserves, both under Federal land already leased to oil companies and offshore in U.S. territories. With appropriate safeguards, like giving States the right to decide if they will allow drilling off their shores, these reserves should be drilled and the oil extracted from them, which is our own oil, should be sold to Americans first.

Second, we must invest in every form of renewable energy available, whether it be solar, wind, geothermal, and even the new nuclear technologies. We have to invest our money here at home in renewable energy.

Washington's role should include promoting millions of new jobs with the tax incentives for United States companies to invest in this new technology.

Third, we must prevent price manipulation everywhere in the world. Stopping the unfair speculation in the oil market can immediately lower the price of gas at the pump and provide families and small businesses with immediate relief.

Also, I have called on the President and his allies time and time again to sell a portion of our Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which would immediately drop the price at the pump.

These three steps are fundamental to the success of an independent energy future for America, and they will create millions of new jobs.

In the coming days, Congress will take up a comprehensive package that will provide relief for consumers, will end our dependence on foreign oil, and create millions of new jobs and grow our economy. We must promote energy efficiency and invest in renewable sources of energy. We must responsibly increase domestic supplies, and without taxpayer subsidies to oil companies. It is my hope that this will be a bipartisan energy bill that will address all of these concerns.

I look forward to joining with my Democratic and Republican colleagues right here in Congress to try a different approach, something that will work. Let's try working together for a change, and find a legislative solution. It will require compromise. And in the legislative process, that is how business gets done.

None of this will be easy, and some of it won't be quick. But the time is right to craft a national energy policy that allows working families in Wisconsin to spend less of their money padding the bank accounts of oil executives, and more of their money on their own families.

By working together, we really will build a better future, and an energy independent future for all of us.

ENERGY PRICES RISING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, our Nation is suffering. While many citizens are living paycheck to paycheck, energy prices have been rising, affecting the daily lives of Americans, getting to their jobs, getting children to school, and causing the cost of goods to increase significantly due to rising transportation costs. Rising energy costs affect individuals, families, and businesses, both large and small.

We must gain control of energy prices, and must do so in a reasonable and rational manner, with an eye toward the future and a plan which accomplishes energy independence while respecting our environment and providing real relief to individuals, not promoting yet another program that benefits Big Oil, at the expense of the taxpayer.

There are very real differences between Democrats and Republicans when we talk about energy issues. We are in the mess we are in now because the interests of Big Oil have, for far too long, been given priority over the needs of our citizens. Big Oil has reaped the rewards. Even now, while Americans struggle for ways they can reduce their individual energy consumption, ways they can survive while the price of gasoline, home energy costs, groceries, indeed almost everything has outstripped their income, the Republicans are touting a plan that, according to yesterday's and today's New York Times editorials, would do little to increase the supply or reduce the price of oil.

The New York Times editorial: "It would do little to increase the supply or reduce the price of oil. Oil companies already have access to nearly 80 percent of all American offshore oil that is technically recoverable. This bill would probably open up less than half of the remaining 20 percent, amounting to approximately two-thirds of 1 percent of all globally recoverable sources. The Department of Energy has already stated that the effect on prices would be insignificant."

The very party which has led us down this path of dependence on Big Oil, that has repeatedly squelched innovation and interest in renewable resources and alternative forms of energy, now wishes to save us with the simple mantra: Drill, baby, drill.