

this Democratic Congress, is going to do what the Republicans failed to do for more than a decade of their leadership, and that is to present and vote on a comprehensive energy package that will expand renewable sources of energy for the future and create good-paying jobs here in America.

This plan for the 21st century extends tax incentives for renewable energy, hybrid cars, energy-efficient buildings and homes. It requires utility companies to generate 15 percent of their electricity from renewable sources such as wind, geothermal and solar power.

This is our new energy future. And the legislation forces oil companies to pay their fair share for drilling on the American people's land. Big Oil should pay taxpayers to use their land. We will use that money, \$15 billion, to develop clean energy sources and alternative fuels, to develop greater efficiency and improve conservation.

Investments in renewable energy will create hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs here in America, at a time when the Bush economy is shedding tens of thousands of jobs every month.

Mr. Speaker, this is a comprehensive energy plan. It is a Democratic plan that the American people have been waiting for for the future. Republicans just don't get it. This plan is about the future and not about the past.

□ 1030

ENERGY BILL FAILS AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat hoax energy bill appears to be another disappointing response to families hurt by high gasoline prices. Never mind the fact that this bill was written by the House Democrat leadership, never considered in committee and devoid of any input from the minority.

Among the numerous troubling parts of their proposal is the refusal to allow States such as South Carolina to share in revenues from offshore drilling. What a slap to those coastal communities to say that we will drill off your coast, but yet withhold revenues.

This is the money that could help pay for new roads and beach renourishment. Meanwhile, they insist on a renewable energy mandate that will increase America's electric bills and harm our rural electric co-ops. They raise taxes and fail to address refineries, ANWR or expanding clean nuclear power.

This bill is a hoax on the American people. It won't become law, and the Democrat leadership knows it. This is not leadership and not what the American people deserve.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

REPUBLICANS CLAIM THEY WANT ALL OF THE ABOVE—BUT HAVE DONE NOTHING TO LOWER GAS PRICES

(Mr. CLAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, for 8 years, Washington Republicans have favored record profits for Big Oil while Americans are paying record prices at the pump. Congressional Republicans say they want an all-of-the-above plan, but their actions speak differently. Republicans have voted against every piece of legislation that would responsibly invest in renewable energy and would bring down gas prices for consumers.

We proposed legislation to crack down on price gouging and curb excess speculation, but House Republicans said no. We proposed lowering gas prices immediately by tapping the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which lowered prices by 33 percent when the President's father took similar action in 1991, but Republicans said no. We proposed legislation that would force Big Oil to drill on 68 million acres of land to increase oil production here at home. Again, House Republicans said no.

This week, the Republicans will have the opportunity to support real reform and say yes.

NO DRILL, NO ENERGY BILL

(Mr. GOODLATTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, when Speaker PELOSI said that an energy bill that included drilling would be a hoax, she knew what she was talking about.

Last night, in the dead of night, the Democratic leadership brought forward a no drill, no energy bill. That bill is a hoax on the American people, just as she said it would be. You can put lipstick on a no-drill, no-energy bill, but it's still a no-drill, no-energy bill.

I have introduced legislation, many others have, to allow the States to participate in drilling off their coasts. Their bill prohibits that.

We will see no drilling, we will see no oil production, no access to oil production in more than 90 percent of the areas where oil exists, and we should go after it. Nothing in this bill for nuclear power, nothing in this bill for coal-to-liquid technology, nothing in this bill for the American people, nothing in this bill for my constituents, nothing but a hoax on the American people.

MCCAIN'S ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMY SHOWS THAT HE REALLY IS NOT AN EXPERT ON THE ECONOMY

(Mr. WELCH of Vermont asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, it's becoming quite apparent that our economy is in peril. The biggest casualty in this economy are middle-class families trying to hang on by their fingernails.

We have got a different point of view by our leadership. President Bush says that the 500-point collapse is just, quote, a correction. Mr. MCCAIN, Senator MCCAIN says the economy is fundamentally sound.

The reality is that the economy has become weak, with policies that have deregulated financial institutions leading to the collapse of some of our longest-standing, historically most solid institutions like Lehman Brothers. For 8 years, the Bush-McCain economic policy has had a radical proposition that we can deregulate everything and leave everything to Wall Street, and it will all take care of itself.

Now American families, businesses on Main Street, are beginning to pay the price for this economic failure under the Bush administration.

The only way we can change our economy is by returning to the basic principle that our economic policies should all be about building the middle class.

EIGHTY DOLLARS TO FILL UP A MINIVAN IS A CRISIS

(Mr. KELLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when a single mom in Orlando, Florida, is paying \$80 to fill up her minivan, that's a crisis. It's a crisis that this Democratic energy bill does not address.

Now, why doesn't it address it? Democratic colleagues at the Sierra Club, the head of the Sierra Club said, "We're better off without cheap gas." Well, let's look at the specifics. There is no ANWR in this bill whatsoever, even though it's the single largest untapped source of oil in the United States of America.

With 10.4 billion barrels of oil available, that's enough to provide all of Florida's energy needs for 29 years. It's enough to give us 1 million barrels of oil a day every single day for the next 30 years, but it's nowhere in the bill.

Why? Because we're better off without cheap gas, according to the Democrats and their colleagues. Well, we are not better off without cheap gas, we are better off without cheap political stunts, and that's what this Democratic energy bill is.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on it and give us an up-or-down vote on the American Energy Act.

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS NEEDED TO RECOVER FROM HURRICANE IKE

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Ike came through Texas, landed near Houston. Much of the area in my State, especially in the Houston-Galveston area along the gulf coast, has been decimated. It will take billions of dollars for us to recover.

We are asking that this House understands the needs of the people of Texas and the areas that have been devastated. We will have to lend some assistance to the areas that need our help at a most important time.

For fear that someone may not understand, we are truly all in this together. Dr. King reminded us that life is an inescapable network of mutuality tied to a single garment of destiny. Whatever impacts one directly, impacts all indirectly.

Though you may live in some far corner of the United States of America, there are earthquakes, there are fires, there are storms that will come into your life. We are all going to need some help at some point.

So I am begging those of you who can, please understand that we have got to help Texans and Americans through this.

ALLOW OPEN, FULL AND FAIR DEBATE

(Mr. WESTMORELAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, this bill that was introduced last night at 9:45 has the same MO as the other lies that the Democratic Party have told the American people.

I quote here from A Congress Working for all Americans, something put out by the then-Democratic minority trying to become the majority. "Bills should generally come to the floor under a procedure that allows open, full and fair debate consisting of a full amendment process." More smoke and mirrors to get elected.

In fact, Mr. PAUL KANJORSKI stated it best when he was talking to a reporter about the promises the Democrats made on the campaign trail, "We sort of stretched the truth, and people ate it up." They have stretched the truth.

Speaker PELOSI in April 2006, said, we have a plan to lower the skyrocketing price gas prices. It was \$2.06 at the time. Now, as you know, it's over \$4.

But Mr. DEFAZIO from Oregon told the truth. He said, "It is sad to see the Republicans come to this." Now they laughingly say this will lead to higher prices.

The energy bill they passed in January of 2007 has caused gas prices to double. This is a sham.

DRILLING ALONE IS NOT THE ANSWER

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Bush-Cheney energy plan, supported by the Republican majority here in Congress, is 95 percent implemented. Yet the prices have increased by 150 percent. For the last 12 years, up until this term, the Republicans have been in the majority, along with the President.

Democrats have been the majority less than 2 years, and we are trying to put together a piece of legislation that brings in every aspect of some type of resolution for the energy shortage. All of us know that drilling alone is not the answer.

We can drill all we want to. The population of the world has gotten so large that there is no way it's going to be enough to do what we need to do. We have got to do alternative fuels that's in this bill, even including the possibility of nuclear energy.

I will support this bill strongly because it has a multiple number of ways to address this problem.

DEMOCRAT INACTION ON FAILING TO ADOPT A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY POLICY

(Mr. LATTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat inaction on failing to adopt a comprehensive energy policy has come home to roost. We see this happened in the last hurricane. We have over 20 percent of our oil being produced in the gulf, and these oil rigs being shut down, and the refineries being shut down.

Americans are suffering. We have to diversify. Once again, when you look at the energy proposals here, we have to be up in ANWR. There's 10.3 billion barrels of oil up there that we need to be drilling. We have got to get that oil down here.

We have to make sure that there is natural gas, make sure that people can heat their homes this winter. We have to make sure that the folks that are out there driving trucks or tractors have diesel. We have to have that to make sure we keep our energy prices down and our food prices down.

But the time to act is now. We have to have a comprehensive energy plan. The Republicans have put forward all of the above. All of the above is to make sure that we have nuclear, clean coal technology, hydro. We have to make sure that we drill, that we make sure that we have all of the alternatives out there, but we have to do it now. If we don't get it done now, the rest the world will pass us by. Next year China is becoming the number one manufacturing country in the world.

It's time to act right now.

SEEING THE EFFECT OF REPUBLICAN POLICIES

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the truth is that from 2001 to 2007, Republicans controlled all levels of power here in Washington. It was their opportunity to put the conservative economic ideas that they have been talking about for decades into law, and they did it.

Today we see the effect of these policies. Middle-class families are being squeezed by wages that have actually fallen by \$300 since President Bush took office, 3.4 million more Americans are unemployed, 5.7 million more Americans are living in poverty.

Foreclosure rates have hit a record high with 2.5 million families expected to lose their homes this year. The dollar remains weak because President Bush continues to borrow record amounts of money from other countries.

This is the economy Washington Republicans created with policies towards the needs of the wealthiest few over those of hard-working, middle-class Americans. Now Senator McCAIN vows to continue those same economic policies if he wins the Presidency.

That does not sound like change to me.

NO ENERGY BILL

(Mrs. MUSGRAVE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat no-energy bill before us today is an absolute travesty. The bill will permanently lock up the first 50 miles of coastline and keep the next 50 miles under lock and key until coastal States pass a law permitting production.

They don't have any incentive to do so, so it essentially locks up the first 100 miles of coastline where most of our resources are located. This bill does not share any royalty revenues with coastal States, giving them absolutely no incentive to approve production off their coast.

Under current policy, producing States receive royalties from offshore production. This bill does not provide funding for environmental restoration or a sustainable funding mechanism to develop alternative and renewable energy sources, which would decrease our dependence on foreign oil.

This bill includes an unworkable, renewable energy standard.

In States like mine, Colorado, we are well positioned to utilize renewables. Other States will be unable to meet this unrealistic hurdle, costing consumers untold increases.

Speaker PELOSI, you can fool all of the people some of the time, some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time. This is a travesty.