

They killed the timber industry throughout this great country. 20,000 jobs were lost in New Mexico alone. Today we have fewer than 100 of those jobs left, and they're in the process of dying probably this year. That whole response to our timber industry was a hoax.

Today we're involved in another hoax, the hoax that is sending \$700 billion a year to enemies across the seas; \$700 billion a year would be a 6 percent increase in our economy. That means more jobs. And yet instead of solving the problem, we're extending the problem through a hoax.

If we want to stop the outflow of American jobs, we need to stop the lawsuits that are killing every single new lease. They're killing mining, they have already killed the timber industry. The extremists, with litigation, are killing American jobs, and this hoax that is on the floor today called an energy bill is doing nothing about the litigation that is killing American jobs. We must stop it, and we must stop the litigation.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE BETTER

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this sham, no-energy energy bill, and want to express my deep disappointment that once again, this House is missing an important opportunity to lower gas prices, and make our Nation more energy independent.

After reviewing this bill, it's clear that the majority never really intended to open the Outer Continental Shelf to energy exploration. Instead, this bill would permanently keep off-limits 88 percent of our offshore oil and natural gas reserves.

Let me tell you some of the other failings of this bill. It fails to open up more of the energy rich Gulf of Mexico. It fails to make building refineries any easier. It fails to promote nuclear energy. It fails to boost oil shale development, and it fails to open the billions of barrels of oil now off limits in ANWR.

What this bill will do is raise taxes that will surely be passed along to consumers in even higher prices at the pump.

Louisiana Senator Mary Landrieu, a Democrat, recently said it best. This bill is "dead on arrival in the Senate."

The bottom line is, this bill is a publicity stunt, and the American people deserve better.

THE DEFINITION OF BIPARTISAN HAS CHANGED

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, we've been hearing a lot about

change these days; certain parties claiming more change than others perhaps.

I would suggest that what has changed the most is the definition of the term "bipartisan." To say that this effort is bipartisan is not being honest. To say that the process that we're supposed to engage in 2 years ago of being the most open process in the history of Congress, not so. To criticize the executive branch for energy policies 7 years ago being drafted behind closed doors, and then to participate or not allow participation in this issue, I think, is unconscionable for the American people.

We're talking about way offshore drilling, if at all. We need broad-based energy supply.

If we think that a 9 percent approval rating of Congress is bad, let's pass a bill that won't do anything saying that it will. That is bad policy. If we expect our economy to grow, we need to afford the resources of energy to the growing economy.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to an additional 20 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side.

DEMOCRAT ENERGY BILL

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

Mr. BLUNT. We're here today to talk about a bill that nobody had seen, or at least no Republican had seen as late as 9:45 last night.

No committee has seen the bill. In fact, I asked has this been to the Energy and Commerce Committee? I thought, as a member of that committee I must have missed the hearing. But, no, it hasn't been to the Energy and Commerce Committee.

And so I asked has it been to the Resources Committee because it deals with our natural resources. No, it hasn't been to the Resources Committee.

I asked has it been to the Ways and Means Committee. There's a \$1.2 billion project in this bill that the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee has wanted forever to extend subways in New York, so I thought surely it had been to the Ways and Means Committee. But it hadn't been to the Ways and Means Committee. In fact, it's been to no committee anywhere, and it does nothing.

Republicans have worked for years in this House to send good legislation to the Senate, joined by Democrats who agree with us on this issue. We worked all of August to call attention to the fact that we weren't dealing with the number one problem facing the American people, and now we have a bill that we find will not produce any more energy and we know will increase energy prices.

The renewable portfolio standards that raise everybody's electricity bill are unreasonable. But that really doesn't matter because nobody expects this bill to become law. The drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf can't really occur. But maybe that doesn't matter either because this bill's not about something that would become law.

I'm offended, Members of the House are offended, and we should be by this process. And the American people should be offended that we're not doing the job for them that really matters.

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DEMOCRAT ENERGY BILL IS RIGGED

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the announcement from the Chair that additional Members will be allowed to give 1-minutes. In fact, it was announced earlier that there would be unlimited 1-minutes, then it was announced that we would only have 30 1-minutes on each side. And I appreciate the announcement that we will have at least 20 more because our Members want to speak, and I will tell you why.

When a bill gets filed at 9:45 the night before and then it's announced it's going to come to the floor the next morning as the first bill up, a bill that no one has read, written in the dark of night, that won't do a damn thing about American energy. Enough is enough.

The Speaker of the House said this will be the most open and ethical Congress in history, that we would consider things in a fair and open way. And this is not going to be considered in a fair and open way. It shows up in the middle of the night, nobody's read the bill, and guess what? The Republican Members, who represent about 48 percent of the American people, we're not allowed to offer a substitute. We have no opportunity to offer our American Energy Plan that we've been on this floor talking about for 3 months nonstop. We don't even get a chance to offer the bill.

It's rigged, and the bill that's coming to the floor is nothing more than a hoax on the American people, and they will not buy it.

ENERGY BILL NOTHING BUT POLITICAL COVER

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

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, in words that the American people can understand, you can put lipstick on a bad bill but it is still a bad bill. And sadly, that is what your leadership's so-called energy bill is. It has been called a sham, which it is; it's been called a hoax, which it is. But the truth is, it is nothing but political cover to allow

Members on your side of the aisle an opportunity to say they are for something which we all know the majority of your Members are adamantly opposed to.

Why does Congress have the lowest approval rating in the history of the Republic? Because instead of having a real debate on a real energy producing bill, one that will give incentives to the States to actually join in the production of new American energy, this Democratic majority is instead offering up a bill that will not produce a single drop of new oil or a single ounce of new gas.

With so much uncertainty in the hearts of the American people today, today's vote is a kick in the teeth to every hardworking American who's tired of paying more for oil and gas.

Shame on us. Shame on you.

A BIPARTISAN BILL IS NEEDED

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

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise with disappointment today. People in my district and the working people of this country are begging us to resolve this energy issue. They're struggling to drive their cars, and they don't have any idea how they're going to heat their homes and run their businesses with today's energy prices. They expect us to do something.

Speaker PELOSI's been telling the country that drilling's not the answer; it would take 10 years. Well, the Pelosi team drafted a bill. It will take 10 years, maybe 15, maybe 20, folks. This bill will not produce energy. It locks up 97 percent of the west coast forever. It locks up the most productive part of the gulf that we can produce quickly forever.

Folks, we need a bipartisan bill. Twenty-three Republicans and Democrats sat down and drafted a bill, 11 Democrats and 12 Republicans. We drafted the Peterson-Abercrombie bill that opens up all kinds of energy for America, funds all the renewables, and gives hope to the American people.

That's the kind of bill they don't want. They don't want a Republican bill. They don't want a Democrat bill. They want a bill that Members of this Congress sat down with no oil companies, no lobbyists. We sat down and drafted a simple bill—not 290 pages—one we could understand. We need to vote on a bipartisan energy bill that will give hope to the Americans that there is an economic future.

ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the energy crisis that we are facing in America today is affecting

every segment of our society, and my constituents in coastal South Carolina are getting more concerned every day that with what goes on that we do not have a solution to bring a more domestic supply of energy on line.

My constituency sees Russia holding Europe as an "energy hostage," and they do not want to allow foreign and sometimes unfriendly nations to have the ability to hold the United States as an energy hostage in the future.

Right now, Russia supplies 50 percent of Europe's natural gas, and by the year 2020, Russia will supply 75 percent of Europe's natural gas. Right now America is 70 percent dependent on foreign energy. So much of American energy is being produced in prime hurricane zones that are susceptible to natural disasters every year.

Mr. Speaker, we should view our energy resources as a natural asset, not as an environmental liability. The energy crisis that we are currently in cannot be solved by having us being dependent on foreign and sometimes unfriendly nations.

We all must learn a valuable lesson from what's currently going on between Russia and Europe and seize this opportunity to vote on all-of-the-above.

STOP PLAYING GAMES WITH AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION

(Ms. FALLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, my, my, what a difference one night can make. Last night we were in session until about 7:15. There was no energy bill. All of a sudden, we wake up this morning and we have an energy bill, but it's an energy bill that even the majority of, well, I would say even the conservative Blue Dog Democrats have not seen, much less even the Republicans in the House. And so why do we have this today happening?

It's because there are people in this body who do not want to produce energy for America. We're playing games with American energy production. We're hurting the American economy. We're hurting the pocketbooks of our American businesses. We're increasing our dependence on the foreign oil.

All of the Americans right now are very concerned about our economy, they're concerned about our unstable financial institutions, they're concerned about home foreclosures, they're concerned about trade deficits, they're concerned about foreign countries who are coming in and buying American assets. They're concerned about the cost of gasoline, the cost of food, the cost of consumer goods.

You know, families are struggling, businesses are struggling. But yet in this body, we have an energy bill that has been brought forth today that we have not seen, that we have not had time to debate, to look at. It's one of the most important issues facing our Nation.

Producing an American energy bill that produces American energy is the course for the future of this Nation. It's a threat to America's national security, our economic security not to pass the energy bill.

OPEC WOULD SUPPORT DEMOCRATS' ENERGY BILL

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, for months we've been talking about the need to address this national energy crisis that's facing our country that's hurting our economy. We've been talking about getting a bill on the floor like the American Energy Act that approaches this in a comprehensive way and addresses all of the issues.

But yet I rise today in strong opposition to this bill that the Democratic leadership filed in the dark of night with no discussion that they're going to bring up today and allow no amendments on. And let's look at why that bill is so bad.

First of all, it puts a permanent ban on 88 percent of the known Outer Continental Shelf reserves. That's billions of barrels of oil that we know right where they are, and yet there's a permanent ban on these reserves placed in this bill. That's something that OPEC would want because OPEC now would have even more leverage on us because they know that we would be taking off-limits 88 percent of our known reserves offshore.

If you look at the new taxes and the billions of dollars in new spending that they have that has nothing to do with energy, and yet Speaker PELOSI says we don't have money to give States their own fair share of royalty sharing because she knows that's a deal breaker that will lead to absolutely no drilling.

Mr. Speaker, I would attest to you that OPEC could not have drafted a better bill than what the Democrats filed in the dark of night.

We need to vote this down. The American people see through it. Bring up the American Energy bill. We have no time to waste.

WE NEED TO COME TOGETHER ON AN ENERGY BILL

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

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, like most every Member inside this House, the first day that you are sworn in is a highlight, one of the highlights in your life. As I look across this floor, I see Members from both sides of the aisle that experienced that for the very first time with me this January.

I sat on the floor, and I brought my young son and daughter with me. I listened intently as Madam Speaker held