

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

the gavel to the words that she said that we're going to define this Congress, define this Nation. And the words that she spoke that rang to me that I applauded, I stood up and said "yes," was this was going to be a Congress of partnership, not partisanship.

It's sad to say that today this is not a Congress of partnership. We may be from different sides of the aisle, we may be Republican, we may be Democrat; but first and foremost, we are American. We are Americans with a desire to have an American energy independent policy, and it's sad to say that this bill does not. This bill, created in the middle of the night.

And when you think about where you sit and what part you're a part of, that the Chamber, that this dome that we're under today was built during the Civil War confronting the challenges that face America. We can meet that challenge, but we can only meet it with partnership, and we need to come together and vote against this bill today.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE EXPECT BIPARTISANSHIP

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, the American people believe that Washington, DC, is broken. And this process and this legislation that we are considering today is proof positive of why Washington and this Congress is broken.

The American people expect some bipartisanship on this energy issue. My colleague, JOHN PETERSON of Pennsylvania, just discussed a bipartisan proposal. NEIL ABERCROMBIE of Hawaii, a Democrat, and JOHN PETERSON of Pennsylvania have put together a good bipartisan compromise that we should be considering as part of this discussion today. It will advance American energy and American energy jobs.

The bill we're dealing with today says no nuclear, no clean coal—and I'm from Pennsylvania; we care about that. And there's really no oil and gas. That really limits our options as a nation. We want to create American energy jobs, and we want to use the revenues to transition to alternative and renewable energy as well as conserve and realize efficiencies.

The American people expect better. They expect bipartisanship. And what we are considering here today, unfortunately, does not meet that test.

THIS BILL WILL NOT SOLVE THE ENERGY PROBLEM

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

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today we have before us an energy bill, an energy bill that was presented to us at 9:45 last night, 260 pages long, and very little time to digest

what is probably one of the more important pieces of legislation that we will address in this century. I will tell you this is extraordinarily important.

People in my district ask me all the time, "Rob, we see this issue, it's an important issue for our Nation, why can't we come together and use some commonsense to solve it? Why can't Congress work together?"

Well, folks, this is not the way to work together. This is not an inclusive process. When we are given the opportunity to make sure that the best and brightest ideas come forward for a policy that's so important to the future of this country, we need to make sure the opportunity is there to bring forth the best solutions to this.

We will not solve this energy problem with this bill. This will not happen. It doesn't provide for nuclear energy, it doesn't unlock the resources that we have here. We're the only nation in the world that refuses to use its own resources to solve its own problems.

Folks, we have got to make sure that everybody's ideas make it into this bill. This bill does not provide for that. It's not acceptable to the American people. We should not have this going forward.

NO-ENERGY SOLUTION

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, Democrats are wasting more time on a no-energy solution for our energy crisis. This bill says "no" to actually increasing American-made energy and relieving energy costs for the American people. No new refineries, no provisions to cut redtape and increase American refining capacity of American-made energy. No lawsuit reform to prevent frivolous lawsuits from radical environmental groups intent on playing political games.

The only thing they're saying "yes" to is an \$85 billion tax increase. It would include unfair penalties for States that simply can't adjust to federally mandated one-size-fits-all renewable electricity standards.

America deserves an all-of-the-above energy solution. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote down this bill.

REPUBLICANS GOT AMERICA INTO THIS MESS

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

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side have finally found the forum perfectly equipped for their ideas: one 60-second burst at a time filled with rhetoric and no new ideas. This is the perfect forum for the Republicans in Congress now.

We know that because when they controlled Congress, they passed their own energy bill, signed into law by the

President, we got into this mess. This is the President whose idea of an energy policy is holding hands with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, embracing him with a big smooch.

If my colleagues want to do something interesting, go to opensecrets.org. Look at the donations of ExxonMobil, look at Texaco, look at all of those, and look at the "Rs" next to all of the people who got it.

I gotta tell you something. The status quo is perfect. We govern over here, and on that side, 60 seconds of bluster at a time, 60 seconds of rhetoric at a time, 60 seconds of "drill, baby, drill" at a time.

If you want to govern the country, you had your chance and you blew it. Look at the energy bill you passed.

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WE DON'T NEED A SHAM POLITICAL BILL

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, since the Democrats took control of the House, prices at the pump have increased 75 percent. I would say to my friend from New York. Their response, take a 6-week vacation while the American people suffer.

Then they come back and, in the dead of night, present us with a 240-page nonenergy bill, no amendments, no substitutes, no committee hearings. Is this democracy? No. Is there any difference in NANCY PELOSI's America and Hugo Chavez's Venezuela? I think not.

This is a sham. This is a fraud. This is a bill designed to ensure Democrats' reelection, not designed to ensure affordable energy in America.

No new refineries in their bill, no clean coal, no ANWR, no nuclear and, if you read it, no Outer Continental Shelf; 85 percent still off limits.

Democrats look at our oil and gas reserves and say these are toxic waste reserves. Republicans look at our oil and gas reserves and say valuable natural resources to ease the pain at the pump.

Mr. Speaker, we need American energy made in America for Americans. We don't need a sham political bill.

WE NEED ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, America is threatened by four securities: Family security which finds itself hurting to pay for gasoline, food and heating costs; job security which sees our jobs going overseas, not only for manufacturing, but where other countries are drilling for oil, we can only sit back and watch; economic security, when we see our trade deficit improving in every area except for energy, when we see OPEC spending so