

all-of-the-above approach taken in the American Energy Innovation Act, we can produce clean alternative energy without breaking the bank of American families.

Why do I think that? Because to address our energy demand we need look no further than Kansas.

From the nuclear plant in Burlington, wind farms in Pottawatomie County, biodiesel produced from crops grown in Kansas, we do it all there. All we ask is to be allowed to do it.

POLAND AND THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, Poland has proven to be an indispensable ally in the global campaign against terrorism. Poland demonstrated its commitment to global security by becoming a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and has been a staunch ally to the United States during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Poland has been a valuable member state of the European Union, joining several other member states like France and Germany that take advantage of the visa waiver program. Poland unilaterally repealed a visa requirement for United States citizens traveling to Poland.

I strongly believe that the United States should extend the visa waiver program, with its enhanced program security requirement, and extend visa-free privileges to Poland, a country that has proven its steadfast dedication to the cause of freedom and friendship with the United States.

Poland has done much for the United States. Now it is our time to repay this great country.

HAZY POLITICAL CLIMATE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the State of Texas is caught in the crosshairs of a green movement hostile and detrimental to our energy industries. Texas produces 1 million barrels of oil every day, or 20 percent of the U.S. production. We're also home to refineries that produce one-quarter of the country's gasoline and also produce oil by-products for plastics.

The new cap-and-trade tax will destroy thousands of Texas jobs, and the Congressional Budget Office says that the tax on energy won't even help the climate. No matter, the taxacrats in Washington want to punish red energy State voters by nailing them with the new disastrous tax on energy consumption.

In the name of saving planet Earth, the government barons are trying to push us to so-called "green" energy sources that don't even exist yet. Green energy that will support this

country's needs is at least 10 years away.

The immediate solution right in front of us is expanding our own oil and gas production while we develop these new technologies. That will create jobs, keep money in America, and make us less dependent on foreign oil. But that logic is lost in the hazy political climate of Washington.

And that's just the way it is.

THINK ABOUT THIS

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

Mr. KUCINICH. America's manufacturing base is being decimated, but it's not only happening because of economic trends in our country.

Yes, our gross domestic product has fallen off. Yes, we have a massive trade deficit. But this week when GM filed for bankruptcy—GM was pushed into bankruptcy, and when they were pushed into bankruptcy, we also lost 14 manufacturing plants, 21,000 jobs, and 2,400 dealerships are going to be closed.

Think about this. If we take away this manufacturing infrastructure of manufacturing and dealerships and suppliers, what happens when our economy comes back? We will have permanently altered our ability to produce cars in this country.

I want the Members of Congress to consider this when you think about this administration's auto task force. It hasn't gone the right way for the American worker, it's not going the right way for American manufacturing, and it's not going the right way for the American economy.

ENERGY SHELL GAME

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. The national energy tax has moved its way out of the Energy and Commerce Committee. It's called the cap-and-trade, and what it means is everyone pays more for the use of fossil fuels.

This is what happened in Illinois when we passed the last Clean Air Act amendments; 14,000 miners lost their jobs. In the State of Ohio, 35,000 miners lost their jobs.

What is the solution? An all-of-the-above energy policy that talks about the Outer Continental Shelf, brings on energy from coal, does renewable coal, does renewable wind and solar and renewable fuels like ethanol and biodiesel. We can produce the energy needs for this country right here in this country.

The national energy tax, this cap-and-trade shell game, will not do it. It will only destroy this country.

GUNS IN NATIONAL PARKS

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, just before we went into the last recess, we passed much-needed, overdue legislation relating to credit card abuse. That was a good, responsible thing to do. But in the process of doing that, this Congress did something that was grossly irresponsible. We passed legislation enabling anyone who wants to bring a loaded, concealed firearm onto national parks, so that the hundreds of thousands of American families who would like to enjoy our parks safe in the knowledge that their families are secure from the threat of wanton violence can no longer have that sense of security.

A particularly egregious case in point is the Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, a national treasure. Any number of performing artists are now informing Wolf Trap that they do not want to go to Wolf Trap because their lives are endangered by this legislation.

It's time to fix this legislation, provide for the security of the American people, and not the profit of the National Rifle Association.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN MCHUGH

(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, I rise today to recognize our friend and colleague, JOHN MCHUGH, who was nominated by President Obama to be the next Secretary of the Army.

I have had the pleasure to work with JOHN on a number of different issues pertaining to our military and their families. I have always been grateful for his leadership on the House Armed Services Committee and, in particular, his role as the ranking member on the committee promoting military personnel.

JOHN brings a lifetime of military knowledge and experience which will serve him, our soldiers, and our Nation well. He is committed fully to our servicemembers, and he understands how particularly vital the families of our military are to ensuring a strong national defense.

I know JOHN will be passionate as an advocate for our military families as Secretary of the Army, as he has been in Congress for the last 16 years. I saw firsthand his appreciation of our troops when he toured Fort Jackson, South Carolina, last year.

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

MEDIA IGNORE NEGATIVE STORIES ABOUT SOTOMAYOR

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the national media have conspicuously ignored two recent stories about Judge Sotomayor. The Washington Times reported last week that three out of five majority decisions written by Judge Sotomayor and reviewed by the United States Supreme Court have been overturned. That's a 60 percent overturn rate.

In another story, the Washington Times reported on findings of the Almanac of the Federal Judiciary. It revealed that out of 21 judges reviewed, Judge Sotomayor was the only one who received decidedly negative comments about her demeanor on the bench.

Not surprisingly, there's been no mention of the questions raised about the judge's qualifications in any major newspaper or on any network TV news program.

Supreme Court nominees should face scrutiny from the national media if they're doing their job. Americans need the national media to set aside their bias and report the facts about Judge Sotomayor.

CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT MADE PUBLIC

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it was reported today in the New York Times that the Federal Government mistakenly made public a 266-page report marked "highly confidential," and it gives detailed information about hundreds of the Nation's civilian nuclear sites and programs, including maps that show the precise locations of stockpiles of fuel for nuclear weapons.

Can you believe that? A confidential document that is supposed to be kept secret was publicized, and every terrorist in the world now knows exactly where our nuclear supplies are stored and maps showing where, in detail, these nuclear supplies are stored.

Now, hopefully, they're very secure and there's a lot of guards around there to protect us. But I think it's tragic that top secret information, highly classified information, is being made public at a time when we're fighting a war against terrorism.

It makes absolutely no sense. And those who are responsible for making this public should be held accountable.

□ 1645

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DRIEHAUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

LOSING SIGHT OF OLD GLORY

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

tleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently, in Texas, we actually had a woman ordered to remove her American flag from her work space. Debbie McLucas works at Kindred Hospital in Mansfield, Texas. She comes from a very patriotic family. Her husband and both of her sons served in the United States military. Her daughter is a combat medic and is currently deployed on her second tour of duty in Iraq.

When Debbie arrived at work the Friday before Memorial Day, her American flag was gone from her hospital work space. She had displayed it in honor of Memorial Day and in honor of our troops. Debbie was met by her supervisor and was told that there had been complaints about the American flag. An immigrant coworker had complained that the American flag was offensive, so the flag was taken down by management. Debbie found her flag wrapped around the pole and laying on the floor in the corner of her supervisor's office.

Debbie McLucas said in an interview that one of her colleagues who had migrated to the United States from Africa 14 years ago had complained to the supervisor. Debbie was then told by management that it only took one complaint, and the so-called "offensive" flag had to come down immediately. Debbie told her supervisor that she was offended that somebody removed the flag. She said she could not fathom that anyone in America would find the American flag objectionable.

As soon as this episode hit the news wires, there was outrage from sea to shining sea and rightfully so. After all, Debbie's freedom of speech to display the flag was stolen by the hospital elites because one person whined and griped. Let me tell you about how some Americans appreciate the flag as Debbie McLucas does.

Several years ago during the Vietnam War, a university student in Houston, Texas, had desecrated the American flag. He was charged under Texas law with the felony of flag desecration. That was before the Supreme Court gave peaceniks the right to burn the flag, saying it was free speech. Anyway, two young prosecutors—Vic Pecorino and Andy Horn, a recent returning Vietnam veteran—had to prove to the jury that the flag was, in legal terms, a venerated object, or one that deserves special treatment.

After proving the case, except for this one requirement, the State called Chris Cole, a judge, to prove that the flag had to be treated in a respectful manner. He came in to testify, accompanied by his seeing eye dog. Judge Cole was a marine in World War II. He was involved in the bloody island hopping of the South Pacific. During the flag trial, he was asked by the prosecutors when the last time was he saw the U.S. flag.

He paused, and with a tearful response, he said, The last time I saw the

flag it was raised on Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima Island in 1945. You see, several days later, Judge Chris Cole had a Japanese hand grenade explode near him, and he permanently lost the sight in both eyes. He never saw Old Glory again.

In the flag trial, the defendant was convicted by the jury because they thought, as Judge Cole testified, that the flag holds special significance to Americans; but the law was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

There are a lot of Americans, especially those who serve in the military, who hold the view that the flag represents everything that is good and right about our Nation and that it is their right to display the flag.

Mr. Speaker, the flag is displayed here on the wall behind me. Each morning, Members of Congress pledge allegiance to the flag as do schoolchildren across the vast plains of America. Obviously, Debbie McLucas is another one of those Americans who respects the values that the flag represents, and she wishes to proudly display it. Debbie McLucas should be praised for exercising her constitutional right of freedom of speech by displaying America's flag.

So, in her honor and to honor her military family, I have requested that an American flag be flown over the United States Capitol on Saturday, June 6, on the 65th anniversary of the D-day landing of Normandy during World War II. The flag will be sent to this American lady in appreciation of her patriotic spirit, of her loyalty to American warriors and to the American flag. May she display it proudly.

And that's just the way it is.

IT IS TIME FOR SMART POWER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, everyone here in the House of Representatives knows that I've been a critic of our Nation's long occupation of Iraq. Our strategy there has relied almost exclusively on military power, which is what got us into this quagmire that we still can't escape. Now I fear we're making the very same mistake in Afghanistan and Pakistan because over 90 percent of the supplemental budget for Afghanistan and Pakistan, which the House passed just a few weeks ago and which I opposed, goes strictly toward military purposes, and less than 10 percent goes toward the building of our smart power in that region.

"Smart power" means investing in humanitarian assistance, in economic development, in reconciliation, and in reconstruction. It means helping the Afghan people to improve their transportation, their health care, their education, and their agricultural systems. It means investing in their judiciary and law enforcement systems to expand the rule of law. It means creating