

complex legislation and, in fact, the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary Vilsack, has been answering questions from Members on both sides of the aisle for the past 3½ hours, as Members are almost uniformly opposed to the legislation, regardless of their party status, and have expressed grave concerns about the impact that this will have on America's farmers and ranchers, that it will have on rural America and, indeed, the devastating impact that it will have on our economy and jobs and our standard of living as a whole. And I want to bring to the attention of the Members of the House some of the concerns that we have raised.

The impact that this legislation will have on our economy and our very lives is extensive, and we should make sure that not just the Energy and Commerce Committee, but every committee in the House fully vets this bill.

The cap-and-trade proposal is really an \$846 billion national energy tax that will hit nearly every American. Moving into a cap-and-trade system will place the United States economy at a distinct competitive disadvantage because it would place significant additional costs on every American business, farmer, manufacturer, and American family.

This bill will raise electric bills across the country by hindering the development of traditional energy sources while also, ironically, limiting the development of renewable energy.

Coal provides the majority of electricity generation in our country, and this bill will effectively stop coal-fired power plants from being built in the United States at a time when one new coal-fired electric generating power plant a week is being built in India and China. They will use those coal-fired power plants to power the growth in their economy, taking jobs away from the United States and putting the same CO₂ gas into the atmosphere that we are passing this legislation to try to stop in this country. It makes no sense.

Nuclear power is the second largest source of electricity generation and the largest source of CO₂-free energy, and it is effectively ignored by this bill, notwithstanding the fact that it will reduce CO₂ gas emissions by a far greater measure than any of the other alternatives that are being discussed.

Also concerning to me is the one-size-fits-all renewable electric standard. This legislation assumes that all States have the exact same amount of renewable resources and can develop them and penalizes States when they cannot.

Furthermore, the legislation excludes far too many people who should be able to participate in the renewable energy market. I know I speak for members on both sides of our committee when I say that the biomass definition in this bill is inadequate. Woody biomass is a clean, sustainable form of energy that deserves encouragement from the Federal Government,

not unneeded restrictions. Given the restrictions already placed on woody biomass by the Renewable Fuels Standard, we should not be repeating the same mistake in this legislation.

We must keep in mind that agriculture is an extensive energy-intensive industry, and this legislation will make the cost of energy even higher. It's estimated that the Waxman legislation will raise electricity rates 90 percent after adjusting for inflation, gas prices 74 percent, and natural gas prices 55 percent.

There is no doubt that this legislation will also raise the cost of fertilizer, chemical, and equipment which farmers use daily. This will cause serious economic harm for the American farmer. According to the Heritage Foundation, farm income is expected to drop because of this legislation by \$8 billion in 2012, \$25 billion in 2024, and over \$50 billion in 2035. These are decreases of 28 percent, 60 percent and 94 percent, respectively. I do not know how we can expect American farmers to survive when we cut their farm income by 94 percent.

What I find even more frustrating is that the impetus for this legislation is to reduce carbon emissions, yet it does not recognize the role that agriculture and forestry can play in sequestering carbon.

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The legislation does not specifically provide for agricultural or forestry offsets but rather leaves eligible offsets to the discretion of the Environmental Protection Agency. To add insult to injury, over 30 pages of this bill are devoted to developing international forestry offsets, including provisions to send American taxpayer money overseas to forest owners in developing countries while disregarding our own forest owners.

I urge my colleagues to look at this legislation closely and to soundly reject it.

Quite frankly, leaving these offsets at the discretion of the EPA makes me nervous. The EPA is not known to have the best working relationship with farmers and ranchers. USDA has a long record of working with farmers and ranchers, and they have the extensive expertise in agriculture and forestry that will make an agricultural offset program successful. This legislation needs to be amended to allow the USDA, not the EPA, to be in charge of administering agricultural offsets.

This legislation has far reaching consequences for every person, farmer, and business in the country. We cannot ignore that America's economy is intrinsically linked to the availability and affordability of energy. During this economic slow-down we should be adopting policies that seek to rebuild our economy and create more jobs; we need reliable and affordable energy supplies. Unfortunately, cap and trade legislation would only further cripple our economy. Instead of government mandates and bureaucracy we should focus on policies that support technological advances and consumer choices. The bottom line is that we need policies which encourage investment

in environmentally sound, cost-effective practices without stifling innovation and setting our economy further back. The simple truth behind the Waxman energy plan is that it raises taxes, kills jobs and will lead to more government intrusion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 5 minutes. (Mrs. BACHMANN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start first by apologizing to Mr. RYAN, whom I just wandered in here and inadvertently walked in front of while he was speaking. So before I start with my speech, I want to apologize to Mr. RYAN for that inappropriate thing I did.

I agree with President Obama when he said this about spending in May of 2008 while on the campaign trail in North Dakota: President Obama, the candidate at that time, said: "\$9 trillion of debt, that's just bad. That's not fiscally conservative. And so we're going to have to change our policies. The first thing you do when you're in a hole is what?"

And the crowd reacted, "Stop digging."

Unfortunately, what President Obama said is not what he has done. In fact, not only did we not stop digging, we threw away our shovel and got a backhoe and started digging double time because in 2008, the debt was too high; but now President Obama has increased spending so much that we have broken historical records on spending.

We started off with the stimulus bill of \$787 billion to stimulate the economy. It was promised that its big goal was to cap unemployment at 8 percent. We weren't going to go above 8 percent unemployment, and that's why we had to spend all that money. But, unfortunately, we are sitting here today with 9.4 percent unemployment and rising.

The debt that we have accumulated since the President has come into office has been unbelievable. The \$8.5 trillion in 2009 will grow to \$16 trillion in 2019. In only 5 months, President Obama and the Democratic majority have managed to spend and borrow more public debt than in the entire history of the United States. That's the past 233 years. So in less than 150 days, they have obligated this country in debt more than the past 233 years.

A couple of weeks ago, I was on the floor of the House talking about the proposed bailout of the automobile industry, which I still contend is an unconstitutional takeover of private industry, based upon the Youngstown

case. The administration has recklessly used the taxpayers' money to basically put the administration in charge of General Motors, Chrysler, AIG, Citibank, and the list goes on and on and on.

I don't think the change the American people were looking for when we heard that change was coming was the change where the government took over the micro-management of industry. I really don't believe that was the change Americans were looking for, and yet that's the change we got.

Even worse, when these people who see where the government is going, where the Democrats are taking this country, they say, We'll give our money back. We don't need your bailout money. We want to give it back to you. And they are having trouble trying to give it back. The Obama administration won't take it.

So with all this accumulated debt and with all this spending that we have done, between now and probably the end of July, we are going to take up basically a government health care plan which is going to include another \$1 trillion in entitlement health care spending at a time when all experts agree that Medicare, as we have it right now, has real problems and is going to eventually go broke because there are a whole lot more people taking out of the program than are paying into the program and it only gets worse as the baby boomers grow. So we are going to add to that \$1 trillion and, don't worry, we'll figure it out. And, of course, we just heard about the energy tax that's coming our way.

You know the real money that we ought to be worrying about? It's not these folks we are bailing out. Who we ought to be worried about are those guys who have lost their jobs. That's the money we ought to be worried about, and that's what the folks back home are worried about.

THE PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS MESSAGE: ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, this is the Progressive Message. The Progressive Message is the Progressive Caucus' effort to come before the American people at least once a week for 60 minutes or so to talk about a progressive vision for America. Not a vision based on fear, not a vision based on a denial of science, not a vision based on division, not a vision based on scapegoating some minority group. But instead a vision that is inclusive, that says we all matter and we all count. A vision that says science is something we should rely on and have some faith in and some real confidence in because we understand that whether you come from a faith tradition or whether you

don't, we have minds that we should use and it's human nature to discover and inquire and find out the facts.

A vision that says that, yes, we are entrusted with this Earth and we, as human beings, are responsible for it and that where we have gone astray, we should try to correct the situation for the sake of our children and all life on the planet.

A progressive vision where we come together every week and talk about things like civil rights, equal opportunity in the economy; where we talk about the struggle to end global warming, or at least try to slow it down; where we come and talk about progressive issues like peace, like demilitarizing our society, like promoting dialogue, diplomacy, and development, by trying to resolve war through dialogue and not through conflict and fighting. These are the themes that we come together with the Progressive Message every week.

This is the Progressive Caucus that brings this message. And we have a Web site, cpc.grijalva.house.gov. It's very important to stay in touch with this critical Web site because it is this Web site that we rely on to communicate with the community around the country.

Tonight with the Progressive Message, we are going to come and talk about our Nation's energy future. America has to embrace this idea that carbon emissions must be cut and must be cut drastically. It won't due just to act like there's no such thing as global warming and deny the science that proves that not only does it exist but it's caused by human behavior. We are here tonight to say it doesn't make sense to say that, look, we can't do anything about global warming because it might in some way hurt our reliance on coal because some people make a lot of money selling coal.

If coal and the use of coal is out of step with the needs of our environment, then we have to find alternative sources of energy in order to make it. If nuclear energy cannot be safely used and there's no way to store it, we should look for other ways and incentivize other ways in order to make energy.

The fact is by whipping out fear, hysteria around cap-and-trade and coming up with clever slogans, which I am not even going to repeat or dignify, the fact is that we are simply delaying the inevitable, which is the gradual acidification of our oceans; the acceleration of melting of our Arctic ice caps; of expansion of desert; of loss of species, of animals, and plants; of intensification of hurricanes and all these very serious problems. The scientists all agree. Only people who don't want to listen to science don't agree, and, yes, we have some of them here.

The fact is addressing carbon emissions, addressing global warming, is not going to hurt our economy. It's going to actually bring jobs. It's not going to hurt our farm economy. And

it's certainly not going to be the devastating thing that some people on the other side of the aisle claim that it is. The fact is tonight I just want to talk to people who know that global warming and the acidification of our oceans is a very dangerous and serious problem for all the world and want to do something about it for a change, want to do something serious about it and are not willing to just let this Earth continue to heat up and the oceans continue to acidify and the species continue to die out and the ice in the northern and southern regions of our world continue to melt.

People who want to do something about it, we have a bill that's been marked up and it has been reported out of the Energy and Commerce Committee. We need to hear from you on this bill.

The fact is that right now we have been in Congress focusing on the health care bill. We have been focusing on marking up other important pieces of legislation. And I personally am not confident that we are focused enough on this energy bill. We're not focused enough on the cap-and-trade bill that's coming out. So we want to encourage people to respond and offer their views.

And I want to say this: those of you who yearn for change, who know that carbon emissions are killing our planet, I hope that you understand that your engagement in this process is very important. We need people to give us the feedback we need because there has been a bill reported out. It's not the law yet. It hasn't even been brought to the floor yet. But it is being shaped and crafted every day. And without the active engagement of good ideas coming forth, we will not get the bill that we need.

I want to give a lot of credit to the Members of Congress who have worked hard on the bill. Congressman WAXMAN and Congressman MARKEY have been doing a good job. But I dare say that the legislative process is engaged, involved, and that everybody has to have a say-so in this thing. And those two leaders in the area of carbon emissions have not denied that. In fact, they have welcomed it.

I just want to give a background on the bill that exists so far. It's called the American Clean Energy and Security Act, and it's referred to ACES. And this bill was reported out of the Energy and Commerce Committee on May 21, 2009, and it passed by a vote of 33 to 25. That's not a big margin. The legislation will create millions of new clean energy jobs, in my opinion and based on the facts, and it will enhance America's energy independence and protect the environment.

Another thing that the bill will do is it will signal to the world community that America is serious about cutting carbon emissions. America is leading the way in the world to cut carbon emissions. And, therefore, countries like India and China and other nations of the world that are big emitters, and