

Fracking has been used for 100 years, hydro-fracking for 60 years. The safety is documented with zero confirmed cases of groundwater contamination in 1 million applications over that 60 years. The director of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Oil and Gas Management said that he has never seen an impact to fresh groundwater directly from fracking.

Another piece of incorrect information is that no one knows what goes into fracking fluid. Well, first of all, more than 99.5 percent of the fluid is sand and water. For the remainder, Pennsylvania law requires companies to disclose all chemicals used in the fracking process, just not the specific formula. A complete list of those chemicals is available on the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Web site. They include materials that help deliver the water down the well bore and position the sand in the tiny fractures created in the formation.

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One of the more prominent substances is guar gum, most commonly used as an emulsifier in ice cream.

You know, there are contentions that fracking is not well regulated. To the contrary, eight Federal and 11 Pennsylvania acts or laws regulate the impacts of drilling. The film "Gasland" goes so far as to assert that "the 2005 energy bill pushed through Congress by Dick Cheney exempts the oil and natural gas industries from the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Super Fund law, and about a dozen other environmental and Democratic regulations."

Well, that is patently false. It must comply with all of these laws with the caveat that the hydraulic fracturing process was never regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act in its 60-year history, and that particular energy bill was supported by 74 "yes" votes in the Senate, including those at the time of Senators Obama and Salazar.

Most alarmingly, "Gasland" has a stunning scene of a man who is turning on a tap, sticking a lighter under it and watching it ignite. "Gasland" blames natural gas development for the flaming faucet, but the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission wrote: "Dissolved methane in well water appears to be biogenic." Madam Speaker, that means naturally occurring in origin. "There are no indications of oil- and gas-related impacts to well water."

Though perhaps the most telling repudiation of this film comes from John Hanger, Secretary John Hanger of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, who for 10 years was president and CEO of the environmental organization called Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future. He appears briefly in the film. John Hanger said the film was "fundamentally dishonest" and "a deliberately false pres-

entation for dramatic effect." He called the producer a "propagandist."

Now, I am 100 percent behind producing natural gas in a safe and environmentally sound way. If there are violations of the rules or laws, either State or Federal, we rely on the good offices of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to do whatever is necessary to bring enforcement to the situation. They have proven to be capable and aggressive.

Gas drilling creates jobs and economic growth and contributes to our energy security in this country. It needs to be done right with environmental protection. It doesn't deserve a propaganda film which doesn't educate but which serves to simply demonize an industry for personal gain and political reasons.

KARZAI'S LIP SERVICE ON CORRUPTION

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I think we have seen this movie before.

Last week, President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan, before an audience of international leaders on whose support he depends, pledged to root out corruption, implement reforms and run a better government, but we heard the same promises at an earlier conference this January and we heard them again when President Karzai came to Washington for a state visit in May. There seems to be little accountability when he fails to keep his word, as he never comes away from any of these gatherings with more than a slap on the wrist, if that.

If Mr. Karzai is serious about cracking down, why doesn't he start by reining in his own brother, a strongman who rules Kandahar with iron-fisted intimidation? What does President Karzai have to say about the fact that billions of dollars in cash have been flown out of Kabul Airport in the last few years?

Lip service and vague promises are really not enough, Madam Speaker. What is sustaining the Taliban more than anything else is the Afghanistan Government's failure to have any competency or legitimacy. No one is more frustrated than the Afghan people, who voiced their displeasure with government corruption in a recent survey conducted by an Afghan watchdog group.

Bribery shakedowns are increasingly seen as a way of life. The cost of securing basic services from the government depends on paying somebody off. Even when the government isn't dishonest, it is slow and ineffective. Embarrassingly, in the provinces where they have established a foothold, the Taliban runs a tighter ship than does the Afghan Government, doing a competent job of making the trains run on time.

This cannot go on, Madam Speaker. Our continued support for a feckless re-

gime is eroding our national credibility. The American people, who are fighting off a recession and who are badly in need of the money right here at home, resent sending that money to Afghanistan. They can't be expected to keep on doing this. They can't be expected to keep giving their bravest young people and their hard-earned tax dollars to prop up leaders who have no ability to govern responsibly.

Yet, even as skepticism about the war in Afghanistan grows here in our country, our leaders could be going in the opposite direction. There is legitimate concern that they might be going wobbly on the commitment to start the military redeployment out of Afghanistan 1 year from now.

At the conference in Kabul, Secretary of State Clinton said that the July 2011 date represented the start of a new phase, not the end of our involvement. She added that the United States has "no intention of abandoning our long-term mission of achieving a stable, secure, peaceful Afghanistan."

Well, Madam Speaker, if the Secretary means that we would achieve that mission with civilian resources—a Smart Security strategy which is focused on development projects, on humanitarian aid and on more support for anti-corruption efforts—then count me in, but if she means that our military commitment and occupation to Afghanistan will extend well beyond next summer, I think the American people will have something to say about that. In fact, they are saying it now. They are saying it loud and clear.

We have sacrificed enough for a failed war. It is time to bring our troops home.

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

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. FLAKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 days to revise and extend their remarks in the RECORD on this topic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus, the CBC, is proud to anchor this hour on jobs and the economy.

Currently, the CBC is chaired by the Honorable BARBARA LEE from the Ninth Congressional District of California. My name is Congresswoman MARCIA L. FUDGE, and I represent the 11th Congressional District of Ohio.

CBC members are advocates for the human family, nationally and internationally, and have played a significant role as local and regional activists. We continue to work diligently to be the conscience of the Congress, but we understand that all politics are local. Therefore, we provide dedicated and focused service to the citizens and to the congressional districts we serve. The vision of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus to promote the public welfare through legislation, designed to meet the needs of millions of neglected citizens, continues to be a focal point for the legislative work and political activities of the Congressional Black Caucus today.

I would now yield to our leader, our chairwoman, the Honorable BARBARA LEE from California.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Let me thank the gentlelady, Congresswoman FUDGE of Ohio, for yielding and also for, once again, anchoring the Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order tonight. We are talking about job creation and how to turn this economy around, and I want to thank her for her consistent leadership and for her really taking so many issues she knows so well and for bringing them to the forefront so that the country can recognize and realize the work that the Congressional Black Caucus continues to do. I thank her for the way she represents her district, which has been hard hit by the economy, by the foreclosure crisis and by all of the issues that we all know so well. So thank you very much, Congresswoman FUDGE, for once again, on Monday night, anchoring this Special Order.

We are trying to again bring some attention to some of the most pressing issues confronting our country that often don't make headlines. As the chair of the 42-Member-strong Congress-

sional Black Caucus, I rise this evening to continue sounding the alarm about the urgent and vital need to create jobs in America, especially in those communities that have been disproportionately hit, which are suffering the brunt of this economic crisis and which, as a result, are in desperate need of targeted, concrete and meaningful opportunities.

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The statistics are staggering. While the national unemployment rate is about 9.5 percent, way too high, it is close to 16, 17 percent in the black and Latino communities. For young people, the national average is about 25 percent. Yet for black and Latino youth, it is nearly 40 percent; unacceptable for anyone.

For many months now, the Congressional Black Caucus has been and continues to be laser focused on stimulating the economy and creating jobs, especially for the chronically unemployed. We have sought to engage the Obama administration, House and Senate leaderships, committee chairs and our coalition partners to develop a legislative strategy to address the needs of millions of Americans who are struggling in this tough economic environment.

During this period, the House of Representatives has passed a series of bills that would move our economy from recession to recovery. However, Senate Republicans have consistently and flagrantly stymied passing similar measures. Just last week, 40 out of 41 Republican Senators voted to block extending unemployment benefits for 1.2 million Americans. Fortunately, there were enough votes in the United States Senate to pass this measure, which was followed the next day by the House of Representatives approving a similar measure once again.

But for several weeks, Republican Senators prevented Congress from providing necessary relief for the unemployed. The nonpartisan Economic Policy Institute recently released a report on the economic benefits of unemployment insurance. The report concluded that expanded unemployment benefits have added 1.15 million American jobs since 2007, promoted spending resulting in longer work hours for the employed, and resulted in a 1.7 percent boost in GDP. Economists have pointed to the economic value of unemployment insurance benefits. For every dollar we invest in unemployment insurance, there is a \$1.60 return in economic output.

But people can't survive forever on unemployment. That is why the goal, of course, is to create jobs, workforce training programs, so that people who don't have the skills for the jobs of the new industries that we are creating these jobs for have the requisite skills and experience to get these jobs.

Fortunately, though, during the unemployment debate, we were really able to break the impasse and develop

a proposal and extend unemployment so that many Americans now are receiving some relief. But let me just say, Republican Senators continue to block the \$1 billion summer jobs program. Now, of course, it's the youth employment program because summer is almost over. These kids need to work for the rest of the year. We have \$2.5 billion in emergency assistance for needy families working in the public and private sectors. Also, we want the Senate Republicans to really look at how to fund—and we found the pay-fors for \$1 billion—for the National Housing Trust Fund, which will provide communities with funds to build, preserve and rehab rental homes that are affordable for low-income families.

I can't tell you how shocked and disappointed I am that so many Republican Senators with high rates of unemployment in their States are blocking legislation that will create jobs. The members of the Congressional Black Caucus went to the Senate several weeks ago to deliver letters laying it out. We wondered if they knew how many people in their States were unemployed, so we broke it down by unemployment rates. We told them where the unemployment rates were in their States, and we tried to convince them that these bills that are in the Senate now, which are languishing, will put their constituents back to work. We weren't sure if they really got that and so we wanted to make sure it was documented. We took it over to them. We don't know if they read the letters or not. We don't know if they really believe it or not, but it's really crucial that the United States Senate act swiftly and pass this legislation. It's appalling that they are opposed to providing jobs for their constituents, for millions of Americans, in these tough economic times.

The Congressional Black Caucus continues to fight for summer jobs and employment programs for young people. We want to keep teachers in classrooms. Of course the House passed in the emergency supplemental bill to keep 140,000 teachers in classrooms throughout the country. That still hasn't been voted on in the Senate. We want to increase lending to small businesses. We passed a bill that would make \$30 billion, mind you, available to loans for community banks at a 5 percent rate which allows community banks to lend to small minority-owned, women-owned businesses that create jobs. We still can't get any movement in the Senate on that.

There are many pieces of good legislation that are really just sitting there. Madam Speaker, it's really shameful. It's really a shame and disgrace. It's hard to even explain why the Senate won't move when there are so many Americans who are hurting and need our help and we can do something and we can do it now.

I am urging everyone to call their Senators and to tell them to pass these bills so that we can get America back