

of the highest tax rates, 35 percent, simply because they are American businesses.

We are putting our entire business community at a competitive disadvantage in the worldwide market while rewarding corporations that build factories in China and Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, the bill that I have introduced this week will eliminate the irresponsible tax loopholes that move our jobs overseas and use the money saved from that to lower the corporate tax rate by a third. That would help create millions of manufacturing jobs and other jobs here in America.

SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has decided some people are more special than others. The administration thinks the Wall Street elites are special. The big banks and the big auto industries, well, they are really special and too big to fail, but the administration has decided the blue-collar workers who do the rough work on the oil rigs and provide American energy—just aren't special.

The blue-collar guys don't want handouts like the special interest big shots got. They just want their jobs back.

But the administration not only won't treat these workers special, the administration just took their jobs away because of the offshore drilling moratorium. Now these American jobs are headed to Brazil, Libya and to Egypt.

The drilling moratorium is not based on science, it's arbitrary. Two courts have so ruled. Five Americans are killed on highways every hour. I don't see anyone wanting to close all the roads down.

The deep-water moratorium should end. The offshore workers should get their jobs back, but that's not going to happen any time soon because it's only special treatment for special folks, and they are just not that special.

And that's just the way it is.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join all of America in celebrating 75 years of a bedrock promise to our seniors, to our retirees, of Social Security. That's right, 75 years of Social Security, a promise from one generation to the next generation.

In this country, 6 in 10 seniors rely on Social Security for more than half of their income. Over 6 million children, nearly 1 in 10, receive part of their income from Social Security.

I was one of those young people when my father was disabled. I and my siblings received Social Security to help us continue to support our family in a real time of need. It really is one promise from one generation to the next.

Now, there are some on the other side of the aisle who want to privatize Social Security. They would put Social Security into the stock market, and maybe we would face a year like we have faced in the last couple of years, and retirees would lose a third or more of their income.

But that's not the promise that we make from one generation to another. So this summer I and my colleagues are going to be talking about Social Security. I will be doing it this weekend at a senior forum out in Prince George's County, Maryland. A promise from one generation to the next generation, it's a promise that Democrats plan to honor. It's a promise that we make to the American people, and we will keep that promise no matter what our Republican colleagues try to do.

□ 0910

DEMOCRATIC AGENDA IS TO SCARE SENIORS

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, once again this morning my Democratic colleagues are trying to scare this country. The facts of the case are that, as a result of the economic downturn of this country because of high taxes and more rules and regulations, more people are unemployed in America today than since the Great Depression. That is what will kill Social Security.

Republicans are not interested in killing Social Security. They are interested in America having a vibrant economic output. They are interested in people being employed and being able to take care of their families. And so perhaps the Democratic message will be to scare seniors and scare people about what Republicans would do to Social Security. Let's get it right: Republicans want to make sure that we have a vibrant economy. We are for Social Security. We support Social Security. I am disappointed that the Democratic agenda is going to be—that we heard about today—to scare seniors about their future.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, some of my friends on the other side of the aisle are always warning the young people of this country that Social Security won't be there for them, so we should just scrap it now, raise the retirement age, and privatize Social Security. They are wrong.

Social Security is critical for those who depend on it. It is essential for the

family who has a loved one who needs disability insurance. It's essential for our senior citizens who paid their whole lives into a system so they would have a safety net when they need it most. However, Social Security is not just a retirement benefit; it's also an insurance program. If a spouse or parent of a child dies, Social Security is there for his or her widow, widower or child. This is not just a retirement program for seniors. It's a social safety net for all of us.

The young people of this country need to know Social Security is there for them and that it can be there in the future, just as it was for generations and for our seniors today. However, we must fiercely defend Social Security from some Republican efforts to privatize funds and gamble it on Wall Street. We must protect and strengthen Social Security, not dismantle it.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3534, CONSOLIDATED LAND, ENERGY, AND AQUATIC RESOURCES ACT OF 2010; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5851, OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS WORKER WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT OF 2010

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1574 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1574

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3534) to provide greater efficiencies, transparency, returns, and accountability in the administration of Federal mineral and energy resources by consolidating administration of various Federal energy minerals management and leasing programs into one entity to be known as the Office of Federal Energy and Minerals Leasing of the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed one hour, with 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources and 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that

amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. The Chair may entertain a motion that the Committee rise only if offered by the chair of the Committee on Natural Resources or his designee. The Chair may not entertain a motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill (as described in clause 9 of rule XVIII).

SEC. 3. Upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5851) to provide whistleblower protections to certain workers in the offshore oil and gas industry. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The amendment printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions of the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 4. (a) In the engrossment of H.R. 3534, the Clerk shall—

(1) add the text of H.R. 5851, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 3534;

(2) assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment; and

(3) conform provisions for short titles within the engrossment.

(b) Upon the addition of the text of H.R. 5851 to the engrossment of H.R. 3534, H.R. 5851 shall be laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 1574 provides for consideration of H.R. 3534, the Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act of 2010, under a structured rule; and H.R. 5851, the Offshore Oil and Gas Worker Whistleblower Protection Act of 2010, under a closed rule.

Mr. Speaker, April 20, 2010, became a day that will live in history as one of the worst environmental disasters in decades. When explosion and fire ripped through the Deepwater Horizon, the first priority was saving the lives of the crew. Sadly, for 11 men it was too late.

□ 0920

As the oil flowed out of the well and as BP unsuccessfully tried to stop it, the Nation watched, captivated by the story and by the untold damage to gulf coast communities. We learned a new language, the language of the offshore oil and gas industry. Terms like “blow-out preventer” and “top kill” became common words to the American people, to news shows and on the House floor. The evening news was soon filled with pictures of oil-coated beaches, dead pelicans, and fishermen who were afraid that their way of life was slipping away.

Today, as we debate these two very important bills, I wonder why it has taken us, Congress, so many years to act on the issues we are taking up today. The problems and challenges facing the management of our resources, like offshore oil and gas, are not new. In 2007, before I was elected to this body, Chairman RAHALL recognized that we needed to reform the dysfunctional system that allowed BP to run the Deepwater Horizon rig without regard to the safety of their workers or to the health of the environment. Additionally, the ideas behind the CLEAR Act are not new. They are common-sense reforms that should have happened years ago. Maybe, if they had happened, the workers on the Deepwater Horizon would still be alive and the gulf would not be soaked in oil.

Mr. Speaker, we need to continue responding to the disaster in the gulf and not forget that catastrophic environmental damage has been done. We need to clean up and repair the gulf, to hold BP accountable for its oil spill, to enact stronger environmental, technological, and spill response standards, to conserve our natural resources, and to invest in an American clean energy future.

We must also remember that, in addition to cleaning up the mess, repairing the damage, and cracking down on big oil companies, we also have to get serious about ending our dependence on oil and creating new sources of clean energy. If we had a clean energy economy, powered by wind and solar and tidal power, we probably wouldn't be here having this discussion today.

Frankly, it is almost impossible for me to imagine what would have happened if my State, the State of Maine, had experienced a massive oil spill that had polluted the Gulf of Maine. It is almost impossible for me to imagine the devastation to our fishing families, to our tourism, and to our beautiful coastline if millions of gallons of crude oil were to begin washing offshore, but it is possible for me to imagine the same Gulf of Maine dotted with floating offshore wind turbines, wind turbines which would create good-paying jobs and provide an endless source of clean energy without the risk of environmental disaster.

Today, we are considering two bills that will help address some of our most egregious problems. This bill will provide protection for whistleblowers who alert the government to dangerous violations of Federal law. Nobody should be forced to choose between his or her job and reporting unsafe conditions. It will also improve the leasing process, making sure all companies follow the environmental and safety rules, and it will ensure royalties are paid on all oil drilled or spilled.

The CLEAR Act reorganizes the Department of the Interior to provide better management of the Nation's energy resources located on Federal lands and water. The act eliminates conflicts that arise when the same agency which is in charge of the environmental reviews of leases, of issuing leases, and of making sure the leaseholders and rig operators are in compliance with safety and environmental laws, then turns around and collects royalties from these same companies.

The disaster in the gulf makes it clear that we should be working to transition our economy to a clean energy future. Investments in clean energy will help in the recovery of our economy, and supporting renewable energy projects, like offshore wind, will strengthen the economy and help create good jobs that can't be shipped overseas.

I am glad that language is included in the bill that will reform royalty collection. I am proud of the work that we have done on this issue, and I thank Chairman RAHALL for working with me on language included in this manager's amendment that will guarantee that BP pays royalties on every drop of oil spilled in the gulf.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for yielding time to me, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Here we are, Mr. Speaker, today, a brand new day. It is the 35th time this Congress that I have handled a rule. Once again, it is another closed rule. In fact, as we aim for our 6-week recess, we recognize how important it is for Members of this body to go back home and to receive feedback about what a great job we are doing here in Congress, to have the American people be very supportive of increasing taxes and

of more rules and regulations. Today, we are sticking it to the consumer again at the gas pump because we are going to take it out on energy companies. It is going to be a very interesting recess.

Mr. Speaker, as I talk about this being my 35th time during this session to handle a closed rule, in fact, the Democratic majority has not allowed one open rule, not for me and not for my colleagues. There has not been one open rule this entire Congress. Yet, this week, we are passing two appropriations bills, which, under normal rules and regulations, at least before the Democrats took over, would have been open to all Members to have come in and to have not only openly debated but to have shown up on the floor and to have offered their ideas about appropriations bills.

I just don't believe that closing down debate, limiting Members' abilities to come talk, having limited amendments, and really shutting out Republicans and Democrats—that is, unless you are in the leadership of the Democratic Party—is really the way that we should run this ship. Once again, during the break, I think the American people are going to have a chance to provide some feedback to Members. It is my hope that we will listen.

Today, we are discussing two bills that are reactions to the gulf oil spill crisis. While reforms are clearly needed to make the American offshore drilling safer and cleaner, today's legislation requires new blanket regulations without a good sense of, I think, what the problem was and what the facts say. The investigation of events should be completed so that Congress can act intelligently and correctly. The focus should be on permanently stopping the leak, on cleaning up the oil, on assisting gulf coast communities, on holding BP accountable, and on finding the cause of the disaster. We ought to wait until we get that.

What we are doing is trying to put through a bill here where we already assume that we understand what the problem is, and, of course, if you are in Washington, you understand these energy companies just need to be taxed more. We need to raise taxes on them to discourage the drilling in the gulf.

There was a comment made a few minutes ago that the Democrat majority wants to save jobs from going overseas. In fact, that is exactly what this will do. It will keep America continually reliant on energy from other nations around the globe, nations that not only do not like America but, perhaps, even worse than that, will use those resources that we give them against America. It is a bad deal. Anybody who listens to this debate can figure out in half a heartbeat that using American resources, keeping American jobs and more fully working with the industry instead of trying to punish the industry would be what any rational American would do.

Once again, we are not rational in this town. It is about punishing people.

It's just like President Obama, who wants to pick a fight with everybody in town in order to go and ruin the free enterprise system. Well, that is what we are doing again today. We are on record. We are going to have the vote today. We are going to lose thousands of jobs.

Yesterday, the gentleman Mr. SCALISE from Louisiana and the gentleman Mr. CASSIDY from Louisiana came forward to the Rules Committee. They talked about this moratorium in the gulf and that, if it continues, thousands of jobs will be lost in their home State. Thousands of middle class Americans who need to have work, once again, will be in trouble.

The Obama moratorium on deep-water drilling has already cost tens of thousands of jobs. This bill will eliminate even more American energy jobs, making it harder and more expensive to produce both energy on- and offshore. Additionally, this legislation will only further enhance our economic troubles in the gulf region and throughout the Nation because it will create a diminished supply of energy which will be available at a higher cost, and the American consumers will be the people who will be paying for this—I'm sorry—the taxpayers, also, because they will be the people who will be unemployed.

□ 0930

Mr. Speaker, my good friends on that side of the aisle are using H.R. 3534 to exploit this oil spill tragedy as a political opportunity to rush to Washington and put energy items on their agenda.

The underlying bill imposes job-killing changes and higher taxes. This underlying bill imposes job-killing charges and higher taxes for both onshore natural gas and oil production and offshore. The bill creates over \$30 billion in new mandatory spending, \$30 billion in new mandatory spending for two new government bureaucracies that have absolutely nothing to do with the oil spill. It raises taxes over \$22 billion in 10 years. This is a direct tax on natural gas and oil that will raise energy prices for American families, businesses, hurt domestic job creation, and increase our dependence on foreign oil. But don't worry, I'm sure we can blame George Bush for the passage of this bill and the outcome that will come from that.

Additionally, H.R. 3534 requires a Federal takeover of State authority to permit in State waters which reverses 60 years of precedence of law in this country. Why are we rewarding the mismanagement, corruption and oversight failures of the Federal Government and giving them expanded authority now? They were a joint partner down in the gulf, and they failed too. We should not empower them even more.

The bill includes unlimited spill liability for offshore operators, which could effectively eliminate all independent producers from offshore drill-

ing if they cannot obtain insurance policies to cover their operations. However, this does not mean that drilling up and down our coasts will stop. Nope. Countries like China and Russia are in the process of negotiating with Cuba for access to these same oil fields right now, which means that others will come and reap the benefits, sell it to us at an exorbitant price, and we will be shipping American jobs overseas.

According to an independent study from IHS Global Insight: "By 2020, an exclusion of the independents from the Gulf of Mexico would eliminate 300,000 jobs and result in a loss of \$147 billion in Federal, State and local taxes from the gulf region over 10 years."

The gulf region has suffered enough, Mr. Speaker. Our consumers and businesses need an adequate supply of natural gas and energy. What this Congress does is only going to diminish jobs, lower local revenue in areas, and cause our businesses to be noncompetitive because we will pay more for the energy to supply the needs to business.

Week after week, Mr. Speaker, I come down to this floor to debate the importance of economic growth and job opportunities, and my friends on the other side of the aisle continue this same agenda, the same agenda that does not work. And then they question, Why don't you Republicans—at least one of you—come vote for this? Well, the answer is, We're not going to vote for what's not going to work. And what does not work, Mr. Speaker, is the taxing, the borrowing, the spending policies that week after week after week diminish jobs and push our economy into further debt.

Unemployment is the highest it's been. More people are unemployed in this country than since the time of the Great Depression and for a longer period of time. That is not a record of success, Mr. Speaker. It's one that I would be embarrassed about. Americans want solutions. They want Congress to produce results, and this bill does not do that. It's my hope that when we go home for the August break once again that the American people say what's on their mind, and I think it's up to us, as Members of Congress, to listen.

Additionally, in the Natural Resources Committee, Congressman CASSIDY from Louisiana offered an amendment that passed the committee without any objections for Congress to establish a bipartisan independent commission to investigate the oil spill, yet it has been stripped from the bill, and that amendment was not made in order last night in the Rules Committee. This Democrat majority continues to use their power to shut out bipartisan solutions to everyday issues that are here on the floor.

Under this rule, we're also providing consideration for H.R. 5749, the Offshore Whistleblower Protection Act. While providing whistleblower protections for offshore workers is essential to the safety of those workers and others, I remain concerned that H.R. 5749,

which was just introduced on Monday evening of this week, should have gone through regular order review, allowing Members the appropriate time not only to read the bill—I'm sorry, did I say read the bill? Yes, Members need to be able to read the bill, understand the content, have some dialogue, and then it would allow them an opportunity to provide feedback. Of course, I know and you know, Mr. Speaker, that in the Rules Committee, anything that deals with common sense, bipartisanship, or that might be a position taken by some part of the free enterprise system is shut out of the Rules Committee week after week, day after day.

So with the current fiscal crisis our government faces and record unemployment, why do we have this bill on the floor today? To make unemployment even worse—in particular, in Louisiana and Mississippi—increase taxes, further implode the debt and the deficit. Mr. Speaker, it makes no sense why week after week this Democrat majority does that. We should be doing job-saving and job-creation bills, not job-killing bills. But once again, this is the agenda of the Democratic Party.

Mr. Speaker, the voices of the American public have been clear. Americans need this Congress to get it. We need pro-growth solutions that will encourage job creation and keep America competitive with the world. This legislation further diminishes private sector jobs while adding billions to our national debt.

So I don't know when my friends on the other side of the aisle are going to catch on; but it is my hope that at the August break, they will have an opportunity to hear from Americans who are unemployed, seeking an opportunity to find a job who look to this Congress to do something about the jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the question once again today, Where are the jobs? Where is the agenda on this floor that will be about saving jobs? And, Mr. Speaker, perhaps more pointedly, when will we quit killing jobs in this country with an agenda by the Democratic Party that the Democratic Members vote for that diminishes America's ability to compete?

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on the rule.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I very happily yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), my colleague on the Rules Committee.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me and for her leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the rule, and I rise in strong support of the underlying bill. And to my friend from Texas who talks about listening to our constituents, let me assure him, I listen to my constituents every week when I go home. And what I hear from them is that they are sick and they are tired of my friends on the other side of the aisle continuing to rise on this floor to be apologists for Big Oil. What

my constituents want and I think what the American people want is smart regulation, better safety standards, whistleblower protection. They want to make sure that a repeat of what we just saw in the gulf never happens again.

My friend talks about jobs. How many jobs have been lost because of this oil spill? How many fishermen are out of business? How many hotels and restaurants have lost business because of this terrible crisis? You know, this crisis has had such a negative impact on jobs that I can't even begin to quantify. So my friend talks about jobs, it is because of the recklessness and the lack of oversight by the Bush administration that got us here, and we don't want to see this repeated again and again and again.

So this is a good bill, and it's a smart bill. If you want to apologize for Big Oil, go right ahead. But the American people are not on your side on this one.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise to express my strong support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund program and particularly for the Stateside program. The Stateside program provides matching Federal grants to States and local communities to develop outdoor recreation facilities and parks and conserves brilliant natural spaces throughout the country. Since the creation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund program in the 1960s, funding levels for the Stateside program have fluctuated widely.

□ 0940

This is especially evident over the past decade. Between fiscal years 2002 and 2005, between \$91 million and \$140 million per year was appropriated for the Stateside program. Unfortunately, in sharp contrast, only \$19 million to \$40 million has been appropriated between fiscal years 2006 and 2007, representing less than 10 percent of the total land and water conservation funding per year. The Stateside program is a good program that benefits communities across the country. It is a good, strong program that deserves adequate funding.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into a colloquy with the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL).

Mr. Chairman, as you know, I have serious concerns about the funding levels for the Stateside LWCF program. I am pleased that that the CLEAR Act provides for permanent funding for the entire LWCF program, but I remain concerned that there is no statutory program supporting equitable funding for the Stateside program.

As you know, unfortunately, the Stateside program has been chronically underfunded. I think we can all agree that these programs positively contribute to the vibrancy of our communities, and actually create jobs. Stateside funding has widespread support, and I seek your assurance that we

can find a way to provide increased funding for the Stateside LWCF program.

I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. RAHALL. I appreciate the gentleman from Massachusetts yielding.

The Stateside LWCF program does provide vital support for States and local communities for access to outdoor recreation. My home State of West Virginia, for example, has benefited greatly from these formula-driven matching grants, and I am pleased that the CLEAR Act will provide stable, permanent funding for the Stateside program.

I agree with the gentleman that the funding levels for Stateside in recent years have been completely inadequate, and I look forward to working with you, our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, the administration, and others who support this critical program to ensure it receives adequate and equitable funding going forward.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I have a letter from Interior Secretary Salazar that acknowledges the Stateside program needs additional funding to carry out its work.

U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR,
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

Washington, DC, July 29, 2010.

Hon. JAMES P. MCGOVERN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MCGOVERN: Thank you for your interest and support for the Stateside Assistance portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). President Obama has committed to fully fund LWCF by 2014 through the budget process. If Congress decides to include a full funding provision in the CLEAR Act and full funding occurs in 2014 or earlier, there will be excellent opportunities to develop a vibrant Stateside Assistance program that will help us to meet the conservation needs of the 21st century.

As the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and as a U.S. Senator from Colorado, I have demonstrated my commitment to local and state parks and the State-side program. While in the U.S. Senate, I was a principal sponsor of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, which created additional funding for State-side LWCF programs.

The Department of the Interior is committed to finding the best ways to improve and strategically invest LWCF funds. I also understand that States need additional funding in order to expand outdoor recreational opportunities and to conserve important places. If we are to accomplish these goals and achieve the full potential of the Stateside LWCF program in challenging economic times we must work together.

We have an opportunity with the growth of LWCF funds to build a program that will address these needs. Through the President's America's Great Outdoors Initiative, we are hearing from state and local governments, recreation advocates, nonprofit organizations, and other supporters about ways to enhance the State-side Grant program. In addition to the great projects now funded by the State-side program, there is strong support for investments in (1) the creation and expansion of urban parks and river greenways close to where people live, (2) providing rural communities with better recreational opportunities, and (3) connecting our local and

state public recreation lands with Federal lands throughout the Country.

It's important that we chose our projects carefully to ensure that these funds make a big difference in our states and communities. We need to remind the American people of the value that outdoor recreation and land conservation offers everyone and how it makes our society a richer place in which to live and raise our families.

As we do this, I look forward to working with you on the best ways to protect our treasured landscapes.

Sincerely,

KEN SALAZAR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. McGOVERN. I want to thank Chairman RAHALL for allowing me the opportunity to address my concerns, and for working with me toward ensuring the Stateside program receives the funding it deserves.

Again, I want to thank the gentle lady from Maine for the time. I will close by urging my colleagues to support the rule, support the CLEAR Act, and let this Congress go on record as standing with the people of this country and not standing with Big Oil.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to hear back from my colleagues about how this change is doing such a great job for their constituents back home. Robust, I am sure, economic times in Massachusetts to where they don't have to worry about an adequate supply of energy or the costs associated with that.

But, Mr. Speaker, today I received a copy of a Key Vote Alert from the U.S. Chamber. The U.S. Chamber represents employers and employees all across this country. They have some things to say about this bill, too, which every single Member of Congress has a chance to receive. That doesn't mean they agree with it or want to read it.

But it says this: "There's a bright line between increasing safety and creating a regulatory environment so unfit for business that oil and gas companies that operate in the United States will take their business elsewhere. That line is crossed repeatedly throughout H.R. 3534."

I continue from this Key Alert, U.S. Chamber. "At this time, it is premature for Congress to legislate prescriptive solutions when the causes of the well blowout and any associated failures that led to the catastrophe have not yet been conclusively determined."

Mr. Speaker, once again it's a ready, aim, fire by our friends the Democrats, who bring bills to the floor, once again a mundane bill that really nobody knew was going to be here on the floor, and here it is. I continue, "The bill would make it economically nonviable to lease or explore offshore for energy resources, and the offshore energy industry would be driven largely out of U.S. waters. This outcome would increase U.S. dependence on foreign oil at higher costs in the short-and long-

term, and could cripple the gulf coast economy by jeopardizing the 46,000 jobs"—they should say that remain—"the 46,000 jobs that the oil and natural gas industry supports in the gulf coast region."

Mr. Speaker, they've got it right. They've got it exactly right what this bill does. What they fail to talk about is the reason why. The reason why is it's an assault on the free enterprise system. It's a continued assault on people who are workers in this country, a continued assault to raise the price at the pump and to raise the price of heating and fuel that fuel our businesses.

Mr. Speaker, as we already understand, and we know this, the cost of energy now exceeds the cost of employees. And if we keep this dangerous trend up, rather than providing reliable sources of energy at a cost-effective price, it means that America will continue to be noncompetitive. Once again, a direct result of this Congress, a direct result of the votes that take place in this body.

The facts of the case are the Chamber also strongly opposes new energy taxes, which will cost consumers \$25 billion at the pump and in their homes. It's a continued assault on America. And I am disappointed. The Chamber nailed it. They got it right, Mr. Speaker.

CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS,
U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, July 29, 2010.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, strongly opposes H.R. 3534, the "Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act of 2010," in its current form. There is a bright line between increasing safety and creating a regulatory environment so unfit for business that oil and gas companies that operate in the United States will take their business elsewhere. That line is crossed repeatedly throughout H.R. 3534.

As the Chamber has stated in prior communications, Congress should resist the rush to act on legislation in the midst of the ongoing catastrophe in the Gulf; priority number one must remain permanently sealing the well and mitigating the extensive environmental damage. At this time, it is premature for Congress to legislate prescriptive solutions when the causes of the well blowout and any associated failures that led to the catastrophe have not yet been conclusively determined. The Obama Administration's National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling has not yet reported its findings, and the Chamber believes that an independent commission, similar to the one included in bipartisan legislation reported by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, would inform the legislative process by providing important data, technical analysis, and expertise.

H.R. 3534 would have serious and negative impacts on U.S. energy and economic security. The bill would make it economically nonviable to lease or explore offshore for energy resources, and the offshore energy industry would be driven largely out of U.S. waters. This outcome would increase U.S. dependence on foreign oil at higher costs in the

short- and long-term, and could cripple the Gulf Coast economy by jeopardizing the 46,000 jobs that the oil and natural gas industry supports in the Gulf Coast region.

Provisions eliminating the cap on liability provided in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 could discourage major integrated oil companies as well as independent producers from exploring in domestic waters, as they would be unable to afford adequate insurance to cover the potential liability risk, if they could obtain insurance coverage at all. Independent producers, which hold approximately 90 percent of Gulf leases and produce approximately 30 percent of the oil and 60 percent of natural gas in the Gulf, would be particularly hard hit. Moreover, the retroactive application of the liability cap raises serious constitutional issues that may, if stricken down by the courts, force Congress to readdress the issue in the future.

H.R. 3534 would force the CEOs of energy companies to attest personally that their systems will never, ever fail and that their companies are in strict compliance with all environmental and natural resource laws. Violations would subject CEOs to civil penalties, through citizen suits and enforcement actions, and criminal liability, which could include imprisonment. In practice, these provisions in H.R. 3534 are unworkable, and few—if any—companies could meet them. The intent of this provision appears to be political demagoguery of energy company CEOs. However, the real impact of these provisions would be severe; few domestic or foreign energy companies would be willing to explore for energy in U.S. waters.

The Chamber strongly opposes the new energy taxes included in H.R. 3534, which Congressional Budget Office analysis indicates would ultimately cost consumers \$25 billion. Termed a "conservation tax," it would do nothing of the sort; all monies raised by this tax would go directly to the federal treasury for Congress to appropriate. Congress should not exploit the tragedy in the Gulf as a rationale to levy excessive new energy taxes on American consumers and producers. The nascent economic recovery cannot afford additional extreme taxes on domestically produced commodities that the entire United States depends on every day. Ultimately, such new taxes could encourage American operators to move investments elsewhere. Excessive taxes levied exclusively on domestically produced energy would also increase U.S. dependence on imported energy as it did in the 1980s, further increasing the risks to U.S. energy security.

The Environmental Diligence provisions, purportedly intended to ban BP leases, would set conditions so that virtually no firm could develop Gulf energy resources. H.R. 3534 would create a "doomed to fail" policy, making certain isolated violations of safety, health and environmental statutes punishable by a ban on leasing or exploration on federal land. When viewed in conjunction with the CEO liability provisions, the Environmental Diligence provisions would create, in essence, a system whereby making even one mistake could bar future access to leasing. Rather than enduring the hostile and risky relationship with federal regulators that this legislation would force upon both regulators and the regulated community, firms would likely forgo further investments in U.S. waters.

H.R. 3534 would expand dramatically the reach and scope of federal environmental law by imposing unnecessary layers of duplicative environmental reviews, prolonging decisions on permits, and changing the criteria agencies must consider when issuing a lease or permit. Furthermore, the legislation would minimize the ability of federal regulators to consider the economic benefits of

energy exploration projects. As a result, the economic growth of communities along the Gulf Coast and U.S. energy security would become much less relevant to federal regulators under H.R. 3534.

The provisions of H.R. 3534 that would expand the scope of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act and establish a massive new regulatory framework for shallow water energy exploration would essentially eliminate this industry in its current form. Shallow water drilling does not present the same risks as deepwater exploration and has operated with an exceedingly high level of environmental performance for more than 50 years.

Even in the area of renewable energy, H.R. 3534 would pose new challenges to domestic energy security. By expanding the scope of the OCS Lands Act to offshore renewables, H.R. 3534 would subject the deployment of new offshore technologies to the same plethora of unworkable requirements for oil and gas exploration. As a result, not only would oil and gas energy production be forced from American waters, but renewables would not necessarily be erected in their place.

The Chamber opposes the "Build America" provisions in the bill, which would require that offshore facilities be built in the United States with only limited exceptions. Similar Build and Buy American provisions have been proven to be counterproductive. Not only would such provisions harm United States' global standing, it could inhibit the ability of companies to adopt the best technology from around the world. Moreover, the U.S. shipbuilding industry does not have the domestic capacity to build large mobile drilling rigs. Ultimately, this provision would increase costs and be very difficult to implement given the complexity of offshore platform supply chains.

The Chamber strongly opposes H.R. 3534 in its current form because of its negative impact on energy and economic security. The Chamber urges Congress to take the time necessary to understand the causes of the Gulf spill before proceeding with legislation to purportedly "fix" the problem. The Chamber may include votes on, or in relation to, this issue in our annual How They Voted scorecard.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I inquire if my colleague has any remaining speakers. I am the last speaker for my side, and I am going to reserve my time until the gentleman has closed.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentlewoman for letting me know that she is through with her speakers.

Mr. Speaker, here we are on the floor talking about raising energy prices, diminishment of jobs, further debt, a Federal Government that's going to be empowered to do more in the gulf with regulation, and yet we haven't even taken time to find out what really happened, what needs to be corrected, and how that needs to take place.

Secondly, we learned very clearly that a bipartisan idea about us making sure that we do look into this, to give the American people the confidence that we can work together in Washington that went through the Natural Resources Committee without objection on a bipartisan basis, goes up to

the Rules Committee, rejected. Rejected straight up.

We learned again today, no open rule in this entire Congress. My 35th time to come to the floor leading the charge for Republicans on a rule, not an open rule. Today we had an opportunity just a minute ago to provide the information from the U.S. Chamber. What's the impact of this bill? Diminishment of American jobs. More taxation on consumers at the pump. And perhaps worst of all, people who will lose their jobs. Tremendous job loss.

And in the long run, we learned that what happens is that it's not an unintended consequence when these jobs move overseas; it is a direct result of the pressure, the taxation, the rules, the regulations, the absolute meaning of the bill to diminish American jobs and to push our reliance on foreign oil and jobs overseas. That is the agenda of the Democratic Party: higher taxes, higher spending, more debt, pushing jobs overseas. We don't need those jobs here. Higher prices for consumers and incredible unemployment and debt.

You would think, Mr. Speaker, that instead of us being on the floor to diminish and kill jobs, which is what this Democratic majority does, we should be enhancing jobs. I am disappointed to know that, as the gentleman from Louisiana came to talk about people who they represent, those ideas were tossed out of hand. It's a real shame.

We do not have a body that's interested in encouraging economic development, investment, or the creation of jobs. In fact, what we are for is a political agenda that we are working through now, about two-tenths through this agenda, that will net lose 10 million American jobs, the continued assault against employers and certainly the workers of this country.

□ 0950

Mr. Speaker, I think it's, once again, another sad day. I know it's another new day in Washington, but a sad way to look at this.

Mr. Speaker, I have a letter from the National Association of Manufacturers, and what they say is, "While we appreciate efforts made earlier this week to improve H.R. 3534," meaning their members lobbied, I assume, Speaker PELOSI, "NAM members continue to oppose this bill, as it would, in its current form," the form that we have here on the floor, "drive up energy costs, create uncertainties in the availability of supply and adversity affect U.S. jobs."

Once again, these are people that are job creators and people that are trying to hang on at a time of continued assault against the American worker by the Democratic Party. I think Mr. Jay Timmons, executive vice president of the National Association of Manufacturers, has it right. They are asking all Members of Congress, regardless of party, please oppose this job-killing, tax-increasing, consumer-higher-payments-at-the-pump bill that will result in more unemployment, higher costs.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
MANUFACTURERS,
Washington, DC, July 29, 2010.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES: The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the nation's largest industrial trade association representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to oppose H.R. 3534, the Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act of 2010.

Our nation continues to face a setback in energy security and independence every day the drilling moratorium remains in place. Thousands of jobs in the oil and gas industry have been lost. Companies that make and supply equipment, services, engines, boats and materials such as steel and concrete will soon feel massive economic consequences from the moratorium.

Manufacturers believe it is critically important to understand the causes of the Gulf of Mexico accident and its long-term environmental impacts before enacting policies that could make a serious problem much worse. While we appreciate efforts made earlier this week to improve H.R. 3534, NAM members continue to oppose the bill, as it would, in its current form, drive up energy costs, create uncertainties in the availability of supply and adversely affect U.S. jobs.

While there appears widespread agreement in the industry and on Capitol Hill that the \$75 million liability cap needs to be updated, requiring an unattainable level of insurance coverage for domestic energy producers on the Outer Continental Shelf is not the solution. By eliminating the cap, H.R. 3534 would effectively retain the moratorium on offshore drilling for all but a handful of the world's largest international companies, forcing the vast majority of American companies out of U.S. waters.

NAM members support energy policies that: (1) expand domestic supplies in an environmentally safe way; and (2) lower costs for U.S. consumers and for manufacturers, which use one-third of our nation's energy. Access to competitively priced energy helps U.S. companies compete in the global economy and preserves high-paying jobs here at home.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes related to H.R. 3534, including votes on procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 111th Congress. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

JAY TIMMONS,
Executive Vice President.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans continue to offer commonsense solutions to rein in the current spending spree, and the best way to do it is not to tax and not to lose jobs. The creation of jobs is how you go about turning this economy around.

There was talk about Social Security earlier. It is the Democratic Party that is losing the jobs in this country, and that is why Social Security is in trouble. I think blaming someone else is a sad way to go through life.

Republicans, like the American people, would like some transparency and accountability. They should expect it. American people should expect it from their leaders, Members of Congress, and I don't think they're getting it. Democrats are using the oil spill as an excuse to raise \$22 billion worth of new

taxes and over \$300 billion in new, unrelated mandatory Federal spending.

I don't see a lot of people down here who are exactly worried about this on the Democratic side. I hear people who are down here talking about that it's the right thing to do, and that is what the Democratic majority will get credit for with this bill: more taxing, more spending, more rules and regulations, more unemployment, more high debt, pushing jobs offshore.

Mr. Speaker, reforms are needed to make America more competitive. The reforms should be about making sure that the drilling that takes place in the gulf or anywhere else is done safely and that we do follow best practices and rules and regulations. It should be done to encourage the government to work successfully with business, with industry, with the American worker, but that's not what we have here. What we have is a bill designed to kill the industry, to diminish its effectiveness, to increase costs for consumers, and to make pump costs and costs on natural gas more expensive.

I think that this economic plan by the Democratic majority they should get full credit for: higher taxes, more spending, assault on the free enterprise system, more unemployment, more debt, more things that are not working.

I'm going to give the Democratic majority credit today. Good for you. Now we know what that is. I know you're two-tenths through this agenda of killing 10 million American jobs, but you need to know this. You're going to get credit for this, and I hope the American people, in just a few days, when we go home, talk to their Members of Congress about changing that, because we ought to have a jobs bill on this floor to create jobs, not kill jobs.

The Republican Party is for the creation of jobs. We are for balancing the budget. We are for stopping the assault on employers, and we're for empowering the American people to have a brighter future, not one that simply empowers Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers are stunning. Over the time that President Obama has been in office, we have lost 2.5 million free enterprise system jobs, and yet 500,000 Federal Government jobs have been added in that period of time. The assault on the common man of this country is unrelenting by the Democratic majority.

For that reason, I encourage a "no" vote on the previous question to bring some fiscal sanity and sense and restraint to this body, and I'm going to offer a "no" vote on the rule.

Mr. Speaker, the facts of the case are simple. The American people have got it. It is time for a real change.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, throughout the spring and summer, the public outrage has been palpable—in Washington, among the pundits and talking heads, in my own State of Maine and, truly, everywhere in this country.

In Maine, we have a special understanding about the impact the BP oil spill is having on the people of the gulf coast. Just like them, our lives and livelihoods are closely linked to the ocean. Off the Maine coast, there is an amazing renewable resource—strong winds and tides that can power our economy and create good-paying jobs and reduce greenhouse gas pollution. I think it's time for us to start using it.

As someone from a community who relies on its working waterfront, I am asking that we stand with the hard-working men and women of the gulf coast in their time of need and make sure that those responsible are the ones that pay for the spill and that we strive to ensure that a spill like this never happens again.

I urge my fellow Members to vote for the rule and the underlying bill. I urge a "yes" vote on the previous question and on the rule.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule for the CLEAR Act which would, among other provisions, provide full and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Congress created LWCF in 1965 on the principle that some funds from the sale and extraction of oil and gas from federal lands be used for the protection of important lands and waters; so they remain available for the enjoyment of all Americans. Only once in 45 years has LWCF received its full funding.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle say that the \$2.00 per barrel conservation fee will be an undue burden on consumers. One fourth of a cent per gallon at the pump, 2 cents per tank, is well worth it for preserving Yellowstone, the Everglades, a battlefield, or building a local park in Shrewsbury or a playground in Lawrence Township.

This bill ensures that \$900 million will be provided annually for LWCF without appropriation and achieve a long-awaited, much-needed balance between resource extraction and resource conservation. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the rule allowing for consideration of H.R. 3534, the Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act of 2010.

Congress has a responsibility to take action to respond to the terrible tragedy in the Gulf region and work to ensure that such an event never happens again. However, in doing so, we must also be careful to only advance legislation that is narrowly focused on responding to the root causes of the Gulf Oil Spill. Unfortunately, that is not the case with H.R. 3534, which I believe is overreaching and will have negative effects on domestic onshore production and on independent oil producers' ability to continue operating offshore. Among my concerns is subjecting oil and gas wells to new and unnecessary Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, storm water discharge permitting requirements. A report from the Department of Energy has shown that should the storm water provisions pass, it could result in the loss of up to 10 percent of domestic oil and gas production.

My colleagues, Congressman HARRY TEAGUE and Congressman JASON ALTMIRE, offered amendment to this legislation in the Rules Committee to remove these problematic

provisions. However, it was not made in order. I believe that the inclusion of this amendment would have improved this bill by helping to more limit its scope towards responding to the oil spill and not place new unnecessary burdens on onshore development. Without this amendment, and because of my concerns about the impact these provisions will have on North Dakota's growing energy sector, I am voting against this rule.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

□ 1000

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

INCREASING FLEXIBILITY IN AMOUNT OF PREMIUMS CHARGED FOR FHA SINGLE FAMILY HOUSING MORTGAGE INSURANCE

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5981) to increase the flexibility of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development with respect to the amount of premiums charged for FHA single family housing mortgage insurance, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5981

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MORTGAGE INSURANCE PREMIUMS.

(a) FLEXIBILITY.—Subparagraph (B) of section 203(c)(2) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709(c)(2)(B)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i)—
(A) by striking "shall" and inserting "may"; and

(B) by striking "0.50 percent" and inserting "1.5 percent"; and

(2) in clause (ii), by striking "shall be in an amount not exceeding 0.55 percent" and inserting "may be in an amount not exceeding 1.55 percent".

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary may adjust the amount of any initial or annual