

exhilarating. Their expressions and comments said it all. Kiara Cherry remarked, "Oh my God! The First Lady is at the McAlpine—I am so excited!" She added that meeting the First Lady was on her list of things to do before she turned 15 and now she could check it off her list. Devonte Harris, 12, of Forestdale, agreed, saying, "I'm just really happy right now." Lastly, Rakya Holmes, 8, whose godmother's home was destroyed in the storms, noted "She smelled good, and I love her." These reactions by the children at Camp Noah expressed our sheer excitement and gratitude to the First Lady. The faces of the children were priceless. The First Lady's visit was a life-changing event for the kids and a morale boost for our community.

It takes tremendous coordination, hard work and organization to make a visit by the First Lady of the United States a reality. The fact that our First Lady Michelle Obama would take the time to visit with us in a tornado affected community in Birmingham is a real testament to her dedication and commitment to helping us overcome this disaster.

I want to commend the City of Birmingham, the extraordinary staff of McAlpine Recreation Center and Camp Noah, as well as UAB's MHRC Healthy Happy Kids program for making the First Lady's visit a huge success. As the Representative of the 7th Congressional District of Alabama, I was extremely proud of all of the efforts made by our community working together to leave a lasting impression on the First Lady. The excitement and joy on the children's faces at Camp Noah made it all worthwhile. Thank you First Lady Michelle Obama!

CONGRESSIONAL REPLACEMENT OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ENERGY-RESTRICTING AND JOB- LIMITING OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6082) to officially replace, within the 60-day Congressional review period under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, President Obama's Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program (2012-2017) with a congressional plan that will conduct additional oil and natural gas lease sales to promote offshore energy development, job creation, and increased domestic energy production to ensure a more secure energy future in the United States, and for other purposes:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I oppose H.R. 6082, the Congressional Replacement of President Obama's Energy-Restricting and Job-Limiting Offshore Drilling Plan.

This is the current Majority's 12th giveaway for Big Oil in the last 18 months. I've consistently opposed these prior 11 measures on the House floor. The Senate has failed to pass any of the prior bills, and President Obama has consistently stated his intention to veto those measures.

The majority claims that this bill is about lowering energy prices and creating jobs.

Let's be clear—this is a bill against President Obama's offshore drilling plan.

Today, more than 75 percent of the offshore oil and gas resources are available for drilling under that plan. We have 50 percent more floating drilling rigs operating in the Gulf of Mexico than we did prior to the BP spill and have more total rigs operating in the United States than does the rest of the world combined. Domestic oil production is at an 18 year high and oil and gas companies continue to enjoy substantial profits—all on top of tax breaks totaling over \$4 billion per year. In addition, this year the U.S. became a net exporter of oil for the first time since 1949.

My home state of Hawaii relies on imported oil from both foreign and U.S. sources for 90 percent of our primary energy. We use oil to generate our electricity and to fuel our vehicles. We also pay three times the average price that the mainland pays for that electricity and our gas prices are constantly the highest in the nation—despite all of the drilling that is currently happening.

That's why this attack on President Obama's comprehensive approach to energy—producing more oil and boosting clean energy—is especially troubling.

It's also troubling that the majority seem to be consciously ignoring key safety recommendations and preventing proper environmental reviews.

We all remember April 20, 2010. That is the date that the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded. This accident killed 11 crew members and injured numerous others. Over 4 million barrels of oil gushed into the Gulf of Mexico, and the spill could not be contained for almost 3 months.

In response President Obama created the bipartisan National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling. The commission concluded that if more effective oversight of safety and environmental protection had been conducted—by both the government and the industry itself—the disaster could have been avoided. The commission then made a series of recommendations to prevent another spill from occurring.

Representative MARKEY introduced these recommendations as legislation in January of 2011. I'm proud to be a cosponsor of this bill, H.R. 501. However, I'm disappointed that there has not even been a committee hearing on this important legislation.

That's not all. On July 24, 2012, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board released a report which found that at the time of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon blowout, BP and other companies involved in that accident had failed to implement safety recommendations made by the Board in 2007.

The 2007 recommendations stemmed from the investigation of a March 2005 explosion at BP's Texas City Refinery.

These are real disasters with real consequences for workers and communities.

At the same time, the facts and record are clear: These disasters are preventable and Congress can and should do something to address them.

The bill also undermines a series of laws intended to ensure that we are good stewards of our natural resources—including the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and Clean Water Act. Ensuring compliance with these laws protects public health,

communities, and the environment. These environmental reviews are also necessary to avoid costly and time-consuming litigation for all parties.

More than that, this is a matter of ensuring that the resources we have can be utilized responsibly to support jobs and economic growth in industries other than drilling, like tourism for example.

The bill also opens huge areas on the East Coast, stretching from Maine to South Carolina, off of Southern California, in the Alaska Arctic and in the area around the important fishery of Bristol Bay off Alaska. Opening these areas ignores concerns raised by nearly every stakeholder other than oil and gas companies.

These include significant issues raised by states and local communities, concerns about important fishing areas, and even concerns raised by our military will go unheeded if this bill were to become law.

Finally, H.R. 6082 would require that the Department of Interior conduct a single multi-sale Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Atlantic, Pacific and Bristol Bay. Combined EIS documents are usually done for lease sales in areas where the conditions are well known and similar. However, these are three wildly different environments that merit their own considerations.

Just to be clear, those who stand to lose under this bill include: states, localities, fisherman, the military, average citizens and small businesses that currently rely on these areas for recreation, tourism, and other purposes.

The winners under this bill: the oil and gas drilling industry.

Hawaii is a case study for why we must end our reliance on fossil fuels and work harder to support the development of a broad range of clean, renewable, locally-produced fuels. Drilling more won't decrease the global competition for oil, and it won't do anything to reduce energy prices in the long-term. High energy prices act as a tax on all of us and an anchor on our economy, so if we are truly going to have the most competitive economy in the 21st century we need to develop affordable alternatives. Developing these alternatives will give the U.S. the upper hand both in terms of costs to our economy, and in developing new industries that can create jobs for the next century.

Instead, the bill before us keeps us on the same path of dependence we've been on. This bill is a failure for our economy in the long term, fails to address the safety reforms for offshore drilling that numerous experts have advocated for, and seeks to give oil companies another windfall without ensuring that they are paying their fair share to drill on public lands.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this terribly shortsighted and ill-advised legislation.

SUPPORTING A MOMENT OF SILENCE DURING THE 2012 OLYMPIC OPENING DAY TO COMMEMORATE THOSE KILLED IN THE MURKIN MASSACRE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Amb. Ido Aharoni, Consul General of Israel

in New York, who will meet with New York City's Jewish and other community leaders and elected officials on Friday morning to honor the 11 Israeli Olympians who were killed by a terrorist group during the 1972 Munich games.

As the new Olympians march in the opening ceremonies of the 2012 games, these community groups and elected leaders will gather together for their own minute of silence, hearing the firsthand account of 1972 Israeli Olympian Avi Melamed. The Munich Massacre, as it has come to be known, occurred during the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, Bavaria in southern West Germany, when members of the Israeli Olympic team were taken hostage and eventually killed by the Palestinian terrorist group Black September. Eleven Israeli athletes and coaches and a West German police officer were killed.

On this 40th anniversary of the horrendous act of terror, we are not only reminded of the importance of our special relationship with Israel but also of the existence of evil in this world.

Recently, we witnessed another terrorist attack on an Israeli tour bus in Bulgaria that left at least 7 dead and more than 20 wounded. These kinds of attacks against innocent people are horrifying and reprehensible. Such violence targeting people for their ethnicity, nationality or religion has absolutely no place in our world.

Whenever and wherever we witness the taking of innocent lives for whatever reason, the voices of the concerned people must be heard. While terrorist attacks on the people of Israel were once viewed as a regional problem, today we know that the entire world is no longer safe from the warped minds of those who have no regard for the lives of children and people who do no harm. We must fight against those who choose to recklessly use the fear of terrorism against innocent victims to achieve their own evil political objectives. We must remain vigilant and outspoken.

So I join the New York community this Friday as we come together to condemn such acts of terrorism and to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the massacre in Munich. Whether or not the International Olympic Committee agrees to pay tribute to the fallen, we will observe a moment of silence to pray for the victims and their loved ones.

38TH YEAR COMMEMORATION OF INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 38th year of Turkey's invasion, occupation and colonization of the Republic of Cyprus.

On July 1, Cyprus assumed the six-month presidency of the European Union. Turkey, an EU candidate country, refuses to recognize the Cypriot presidency and has acted to "freeze" its communications with the EU. While Turkey refuses to recognize Cyprus, the international community has repeatedly called upon Turkey to withdraw from its occupation of the island republic.

In 1974, Turkey invaded the island citing its purported authority to intervene under the Treaty of Guarantee, a treaty meant to guarantee the independence, sovereignty, constitution and territorial integrity of Cyprus. Turkey asserts that the Constitution of Cyprus is "null and void," yet it justifies its invasion and decades' long occupation of Cyprus upon the Treaty of Guarantee, a treaty which obligates Turkey as a guarantor power to uphold the Cypriot Constitution and preserve the country's independence and territorial integrity.

During Turkey's 38 year occupation of the northern third of Cyprus, it has engaged in the systematic destruction of the island's Hellenic, Christian and Turkish Cypriot heritage. Turkey is extinguishing the voice of the Turkish Cypriots, the community that co-existed with Greek-Cypriots for nearly 500 years until Turkey invaded and forcibly divided the two communities. Turkey's treatment of the indigenous peoples of Cyprus betrays a broader impulse which is manifest in discrimination against Christian and other minorities in territories under its control. Turkey's conduct is so egregious that this year the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom designated it as "a country of particular concern."

Turkey, a nation of nearly 80 million people, has with each passing day altered the cultural heritage and demographics of Cyprus, a country of 1 million people. In 1974, Greek Cypriots numbered 506,000 and Turkish Cypriots numbered 118,000. Since then, Turkey has engaged in a radical alteration of the island's demographics. Turkey has resettled nearly 200,000 mainland Turks and garrisoned 45,000 Turkish soldiers in the occupied areas. Turkey's forced colonization of the occupied areas is eradicating the native Turkish Cypriot community and supplanting it with a Turkish community whose culture and national consciousness is foreign to the indigenous and unique Greco-Turkish culture of Cyprus.

The presence of Turkish troops is justified by the pretext that Turkey is protecting Turkish Cypriots. Yet 58,000 Turkish Cypriots voluntarily carry Republic of Cyprus passports, Turkish Cypriots utilize health care facilities and other services in the Republic of Cyprus, and more than 18 million crossings over the green line have occurred without incident. The reality is that each day Turkish Cypriots are forced by the presence of 45,000 Turkish troops to idly watch as their culture and identity is overtaken by mainland Turkish colonialists.

Recent discoveries of natural gas off the coasts of Cyprus and Israel have seen these two democracies engage in a cooperative and productive manner for the development of the only Western, democratically controlled energy source in the region. Where Israel and Cyprus have conducted themselves as peaceful democracies, Turkey is using its presence in occupied Cyprus to challenge Israeli interests in the region. It was not so long ago that Turkey held itself out as an ally of Israel.

Cyprus is the canvas that reveals the true face of Turkey—occupier, colonizer and foe of Western democratic values. It is time for this Chamber and the United States to stand with the people of Cyprus and demand that Turkey withdraw its troops and "cease and desist" from its unlawful colonization of this small and peaceful country.

CONGRESSIONAL REPLACEMENT OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ENERGY-RESTRICTING AND JOB- LIMITING OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6082) to officially replace, within the 60-day Congressional review period under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, President Obama's Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program (2012-2017) with a congressional plan that will conduct additional oil and natural gas lease sales to promote offshore energy development, job creation, and increased domestic energy production to ensure a more secure energy future in the United States, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chair, while the American people are asking Congress to help create jobs and stabilize the economy, the House Majority would rather spend valuable time on handouts to big oil and gas. For the 11th time this Congress, Members are being asked to support giveaways to big producers and polluters. It is ironic that this bill is being debated at the same time the U.S. Chemical Safety Board released its report that the Deepwater Horizon disaster was caused by a lack of adherence to safety guidelines. Instead of thoughtful efforts to ensure health and safety of workers and the public, as well as the protection of the environment, H.R. 6082 ignores any lessons from that tragedy while opening huge portions of our coasts to drilling. In addition, as someone who has fought to make sure the American taxpayer is properly compensated for energy resources extracted from federally leased lands, I am disturbed that this bill would not ensure oil companies pay their fair share for drilling on public lands. This bill does nothing to help our country build a strong energy future or get Americans back to work. I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

HONORING THE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, today I commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Leadership Alliance. The Leadership Alliance, established in 1992, is a national academic consortium of leading research universities and minority serving institutions with the mission to develop underrepresented students into outstanding leaders and role models in academia, business, and the public sector.

Through an organized program of research, networking and mentorship at various critical transitions along the entire academic training pathway, the Leadership Alliance prepares young scientists and scholars from underrepresented and underserved populations for