

to unilaterally stop climate change. That's right, he's going to part the oceans and change the temperature to his liking. How's he going to do this? Well, he's declaring war on fossil fuels—again.

This week it's coal. Mr. Speaker, coal counts for 37 percent of our Nation's electricity. How does the President plan to make up for that 37 percent? Well, the ruler doesn't really say. I guess that 37 percent will just have to do without heat come winter. In his radical climate change manifesto, to a room packed full of his environmental lobby, the President issued an edict to the EPA to regulate coal out of existence.

Both Congress and the American people have overwhelmingly rejected this policy in the past. Never mind the will of the people, never mind Congress has said "no" to these ideas. The President is pandering to the environmental groups, and he wants it his way. So he's just going to issue another one of those—what I believe is unconstitutional—executive orders.

Mr. Speaker, there are consequences for such rash actions by the President. The White House war on coal will raise the cost of energy for American families, cripple the economy, and destroy hundreds of thousands of jobs of people who work in the energy industry. The war on coal is really a war on the American people.

Mr. Speaker, maybe the President is not aware that the coal plant over here on South Capitol Street heats part of the Capitol. Is this his way to silence Congress? Who knows. But this is just another day from the administration whose energy policy is "nothing from below." Nothing from below the ground, nothing from below the sea. No oil, no coal, no gas, and no jobs. That's the result of this policy. That's why I've introduced the Ensuring Affordable Energy Act. My bill will put an end to this back-door attempt by this administration to go around Congress and circumvent the will of the people. This bill would prohibit any EPA funds from being used to implement the regulation of greenhouse gases. This has passed in the House, but it has yet to become law.

Now let's talk about natural gas. Down the street from the White House is another marble bureaucratic palace they call the Department of Energy. Sitting on their oak desks are dusty folders holding applications to export liquefied natural gas. In 2010, the oil and gas industry contributed almost \$500 billion to our economy. And over the last 7 years, the amount of recoverable natural gas in our country has skyrocketed. For the first time in our Nation's history, we have more natural gas than we can use here in the United States, even if we tried. America can sell that gas on the global market for billions of dollars, creating thousands of jobs in the process; but we're not doing it, for one simple bureaucratic red-tape reason—the Department of Energy.

In typical Washington-style fashion, we've seen delay, delay, delay by the Department of Energy to approve these permits. Over the last 70 years, this bureaucratic hurdle was hardly noticed as the U.S. was an importer of natural gas, but not so anymore. Technology has changed all of this. There are some 18 export applications sitting over there on those desks in those dusty folders for the DOE to approve. The Department's response: no response. In the last 3 years, the DOE has granted only two applications. Meanwhile, countries that want to buy American natural gas are going to our worldwide competitors, like China and Russia. Isn't that lovely.

Understand this, Mr. Speaker, there is already an agency, FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, that is in the pipeline to approve applications such as this. So we have duplication with the DOE and FERC. So what we have to do is remove the DOE from the process, remove this duplication.

Mr. Speaker, we have enough oil, natural gas, and coal in America to make the Middle East turmoil, Middle East politics, and Middle East energy irrelevant if we would just use our own God-given natural resources. Washington bureaucrats sit at their large oak desks sipping on those lattes every day, and they are regulating American energy out of business. It's time to take the padlock off the marble palaces of the EPA and the DOE and remove the bureaucrats from the energy business. Let's use the resources the good Lord has given us to take care of America.

And that's just the way it is.

STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the struggle for equality, for justice, for freedom, for democracy is an awesome force. No force, no historical circumstance has done more to shape our Nation, but that struggle has always been confronted by an endless series of attempts to block, minimize, sidetrack, undo, and weaken our democracy. Through all these struggles, those most oppressed have repeatedly taken the lead to reinforce our democracy and solidify our Nation.

We fought a bloody, wrenching Civil War to end a Nation that was suffocating "half slave and half free." Three million men fought in that war, and 620,000 died. Although African Americans made up 1 percent of the population of the North, they made up 10 percent of the Union Army.

In the aftermath, Congress sought to enshrine in the Constitution, forever, basic democratic rights: in the 14th Amendment, the power to enforce the Bill of Rights, due process, and equal rights; and in the 15th Amendment,

voting rights regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. But a violent, terrorist backlash led by the Ku Klux Klan prevented the implementation of our Constitution for a hundred years until a new civil rights struggle, based on nonviolence, but no less powerful, forced our Nation, the courts, and this Congress to recognize those promised constitutional rights.

Among the forms of recognition were the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1965. They transformed the political landscape of America.

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But the truth is that, beginning as far back as the Nixon administration, efforts sought to chip away at those rights. Yesterday's Supreme Court decision undermining the enforcement of voting rights is the latest attempt to roll back history.

Shall we go forward or shall we go backwards?

The rapidly changing demographics of our Nation is calling new forces into the struggle for civil and voting rights every day, and our response to yesterday's Supreme Court decision presents a challenge for every Member of this Congress. And we have to ask ourselves: Which side are you on?

For me, the path is clear. We need a Federal right to vote enshrined in our Constitution, one clearly, unambiguously, boldly, proudly asserting that we will not tolerate any infringement on our rights as citizens to express the will of the people.

Those who seek to dilute voting rights, to place barriers on every citizen's right to participate in this government, will find themselves on the wrong side of history and, in the end, will be no more able to stop the movement for equality, for justice, for freedom, for democracy than they're able to stop the sun from rising in the morning or setting in the evening or to stop people who've decided that they love each other from expressing it.

OFFSHORE ENERGY AND JOBS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGELL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, before I begin my remarks, I want to just express my appreciation to our colleague, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and my respect for him and the eloquent tribute that he paid his father. Indeed, his father was a member of the Greatest Generation, and we thank him, his father, for his service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to talk about my number one priority in serving the Second District of Virginia and this incredible country that we have the privilege to live in, and that's jobs. That's the number one focus for our office.

I rise in strong support of House Resolution 2231, Offshore Energy and Jobs Act, that will come before this House either today or tomorrow. That bill includes language that I authored and introduced, and it creates a clear path,

an opportunity that can really change the lives of hardworking Americans.

And I'm awfully proud of what the bill will do—ideally, when it's passed through the Senate and made into law by the President—in job creation.

But before I share with this House what the bill actually does and what the language does, I want to make clear what it's not. It's not a bill that spends more money. In fact, it's just the opposite. It's a bill that actually creates Federal revenue.

Here's how it works:

Right now, there is a moratorium, a full stop, on offshore exploration of energy off the coast of Virginia. And what our bill does and what the language does is it breaks through that, and it opens up that tremendous job-creating potential of Virginia's offshore energy.

The first benefit of this bill, of course, is jobs. Eighteen thousand jobs are estimated to be created by this bill, just in Virginia alone. And, Mr. Speaker, every one of those jobs is a life-changing job.

I'm an entrepreneur in what I refer to as a season of public service, and I've had the privilege, hundreds and hundreds of times—perhaps thousands, I don't know—of being able to look at an applicant and say these incredible words, "You're hired." And I know the person goes home and says, "I got the job." That's what Americans are looking for is opportunity, and that's what this bill advances.

And as we become more energy independent, what happens is we've reduced our need to have our young men and women around the world protecting our sources of energy. It makes America a safer country.

Right now, more money than any one of us would like is going to countries like Venezuela and Saudi Arabia. These countries don't share our values, and we're fueling their economies. We should be fueling our economy.

It creates the revenue, Mr. Speaker, that we need. I'm a Republican who talks about the need for more revenue, but we get that by growing our economy. This is the way we can invest in our schools and have better roads, make the investments that we need to make into our infrastructure.

And look, it fast-tracks a great renewable—wind. It has tremendous opportunity. Frankly, it's too expensive right now. But we're Americans. We're smart. We can innovate. We can think our way through this and find a way to make wind energy more affordable.

In this very body right here, the President came in and he said, I'm all of the above with respect to energy. Mr. Speaker, that's common ground, and I'm delighted to say it's common ground.

Right now, I'm having difficulty reconciling what he said with this full moratorium off the coast of Virginia, and this bill represents common ground. We've got the Governor of Virginia. We have our two U.S. Senators,

interestingly, both Democrats, Senator Kaine and Senator Warner, both support, in principle, this same objective. In fact, they're introducing similar legislation in the Senate. The General Assembly of Virginia wants to move forward. There is a clear consensus in Virginia that this legislation ought to go forward.

Right now, the only thing holding up these jobs, every one of these life-changing jobs, is the administration. We're not asking for a tremendous amount of money. As I mentioned, in fact, we're just asking for the administration to get out of the way.

Mr. Speaker, I didn't mention what tremendous local support this bill has: We have the local NAACP behind the bill. The mayor of Virginia Beach, the largest city in our district, is behind the bill; Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, Hampton Roads Global Commerce Council, the Virginia Port Authority.

And we can do this, Mr. Speaker, while meeting the deep obligation that we have, the moral obligation to leave our children with clean air and clean water and clean soil.

To those who put one against the other, that it's either jobs or a good environment, I reject that outright. Why? Because we're Americans. It's in our DNA to innovate and to think through these things. We can have a reliable source of energy. We can help right off the coast of Virginia. We can create the local jobs that we need to give our young people opportunity and our veterans that are exiting the military, so many of whom exit the military right there in Hampton Roads.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill.

THE DEFEAT OF THE FARM BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, last week the 1,200 page farm bill was defeated. I'm told that the Senate's immigration bill is now 1,922 pages.

The previous Speaker of this body, the gentlelady from California (Ms. PELOSI), famously said that we would have to pass the very misnamed Affordable Care Act, we would have to pass it before we could figure out or find out what was in it.

The last issue of the Weekly Standard magazine includes an article entitled, "Our Masters, the Bureaucrats." The article says that today there's only one Member of Congress for each 5,150 Federal bureaucrats and says that this bureaucracy is "too insulated from the people."

This gigantic bureaucracy has produced so many laws, rules, and regulations that they have not even designed a computer that could keep up with all of them, much less a human being.

Almost everyone has violated a Federal law at some point, especially a tax

law. An innocent mistake is not supposed to be criminal, but a zealous prosecutor can make almost anything criminal.

A few days ago, a woman who described herself as a progressive or liberal Democrat and, thus, would favor all these regulations testified in one of my committees and said, "at the time each rule was created, it made sense; but over time, the accretion, or accumulation, of rules and regulations ends up costing us money and frustrating the public."

Our Federal Government has grown so big that it is now almost completely out of control, and the people are suffering because of it. Jobs are killed, small businesses go under, and on and on and on.

I started this morning by mentioning the farm bill, so complicated that cost estimates ranged all the way from \$500 billion to \$1 trillion. We didn't even know how much it was going to cost.

Everyone respects and appreciates farmers. We must help small farmers as much as we can. Small farmers are important for our quality of life and our economy.

However, one part of the bill that I want to discuss here briefly this morning is the subsidy for crop insurance.

Every other business in this country, small or large, pays 100 percent of their insurance on their own.

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These businesses do not expect or request subsidized Federal insurance. Right now, Federal taxpayers are paying for two-thirds of farmers' subsidies in Federal crop insurance. Most of these subsidies go to the biggest giants in agriculture. These subsidies also primarily benefit a very few multinational insurance companies. The biggest crop insurer is Wells Fargo. And several of these crop insurance giants are operated by foreign companies based in places like the Bahamas, Japan, and Switzerland. That's who the U.S. taxpayers are subsidizing.

I'm not advocating doing away with the entire crop insurance program. However, the excessive amount of this subsidy just last year cost taxpayers \$6 billion and was one of several reasons the farm bill went down to defeat. Actually, the farm bill should more accurately be called the food stamp bill. I think 20 percent of it dealt with farmers and 80 percent for food.

But I did offer an amendment to the farm bill to eliminate premium subsidies from being paid on any Federal crop insurance policy with what is known as the harvest price option. Under the harvest price option, if the price of the covered crop increases between planting and harvest, the farmer's revenue guarantee is recalculated, using the higher harvest price. In other words, giving the farmer more money—sometimes, significantly more money—than he expected when he first planted the crop. As a result, harvest price options can cause a farmer to receive