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WoodallYoder
YohoYoung (AK)
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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 355 on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 641, I am not recorded due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 356 on adoption of H. Res. 641, I am not recorded due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 357 on the DeFazio Amendment No. 3 to H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, I am not recorded due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 358 on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, offered by Mr. GARAMENDI of California, I am not recorded due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 359 on final passage of H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, I am not recorded due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

 HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

 LOWERING GASOLINE PRICES TO FUEL AN AMERICA THAT WORKS ACT OF 2014

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 4899.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 641 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4899.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1649

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes, with Mr. COLLINS of Georgia in the chair.

NAYS—150

 Barrow (GA)
 Bass
 Beatty
 Becerra
 Bishop (NY)
 Blumenauer
 Bonamici
 Brady (PA)
 Braley (IA)
 Brown (FL)
 Brownley (CA)
 Bustos
 Butterfield
 Capps
 Capuano
 Carney
 Carson (IN)
 Cartwright
 Castor (FL)
 Chu
 Cicilline
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Conyers
 Courtney
 Crowley
 Cummings
 Davis (CA)
 Davis, Danny
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 DeLauro
 Deutch
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Duckworth
 Edwards
 Ellison
 Eshoo
 Esty
 Farr
 Fattah
 Foster
 Frankel (FL)
 Fudge
 Gabbard
 Garamendi

 Gibson
 Grayson
 Grijalva
 Gutiérrez
 Hahn
 Hanabusa
 Hastings (FL)
 Higgins
 Holt
 Honda
 Horsford
 Huffman
 Jackson Lee
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Jones
 Kaptur
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 Kind
 Kuster
 Langevin
 Larson (CT)
 Lee (CA)
 Levin
 Lewis
 Loeb sack
 Lofgren
 Lowenthal
 Lowey
 Lynch
 Maffei
 Matsui
 McCarthy (NY)
 McCollum
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McNeerney
 Meeks
 Meng
 Michaud
 Miller, George
 Moore
 Nadler
 Neal
 Negrete McLeod
 Nolan
 O'Rourke

 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pastor (AZ)
 Payne
 Pelosi
 Peters (MI)
 Pingree (ME)
 Pocan
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Rush
 Sánchez, Linda T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schwartz
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, David
 Serrano
 Sewell (AL)
 Shea-Porter
 Sherman
 Sires
 Slaughter
 Smith (WA)
 Speier
 Swalwell (CA)
 Takano
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Tierney
 Titus
 Tonko
 Tsongas
 Van Hollen
 Vargas
 Velázquez
 Walz
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Waxman
 Welch
 Wilson (FL)
 Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—18

 Bentivolio
 Brooks (AL)
 Gingrey (GA)
 Hanna
 Hartzler
 Kilmer

 Kirkpatrick
 Lankford
 Napolitano
 Noem
 Nunnelee
 Polis
 Rangel
 Reed
 Schock
 Thompson (PA)

□ 1647

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall 359 on final passage of H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, my vote was incorrectly recorded as "no." I intended to vote "yes."

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 359, I was unavoidably detained during passage of H.R. 6. An important discussion on matters pertaining to U.S. Marine held prisoner in Mexico. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Stated against:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 25th, 2014, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 359 due to a medical emergency in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on final passage of H.R. 6—Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Americans are all too familiar with the economic hardships caused by \$4 a gallon gasoline prices. I routinely hear from families in my central Washington district whose budgets are already being stretched thin and who can't afford the rising prices at the pump. Commuting to work, running the kids to after-school activities, and putting food on the table are all becoming increasingly difficult to afford. Yet the pain is not only being felt during trips to the gas station—high gasoline prices are a drain on our entire economy. That means that school districts juggle to operate bus routes, that cities grapple with the cost of sending police cars on patrol, and that businesses adjust budgets that can affect the hiring of new employees.

The good news is that \$4 gasoline does not have to be our reality. The U.S. is blessed with an abundance of oil and natural gas resources that can lower energy prices and grow our economy. H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act, is commonsense legislation to responsibly harness the American energy resources that we have right here at home.

Mr. Chairman, the Obama administration has spent the last 5½ years placing our energy resources on Federal lands and waters under tight lock and key. Offshore areas have been placed off limits. Scheduled exploration off Virginia was canceled, and over half of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, or NPR-A, has been closed to energy production. That is why it is no surprise that, since President Obama took office, total Federal oil production has dropped 6 percent and total natural gas production has dropped 28 percent. That is on Federal lands, Mr. Chairman. Meanwhile, gasoline prices have doubled during this Presidency. H.R. 4899 would reverse this trend and unlock our American energy.

The bill would implement a drill smart plan that would expand offshore energy production and safely open new areas that contain the most oil and natural gas resources, such as the mid-Atlantic, the southern Pacific, and the Arctic. It would require the Secretary to conduct specific oil and natural gas lease sales, including offshore Virginia, which was delayed and then canceled by the Obama administration. The bill would also establish fair and equitable revenue sharing for all coastal States and improve safety by reorganizing the Interior Department's offshore energy agencies.

In addition to increased offshore energy production, the bill would help expand onshore oil and natural gas production on Federal lands. It would reform the leasing and streamline the permitting process, encourage the development of U.S. oil shale resources, expand the production of the NPR-A, and much more.

While these policies will help lower gasoline prices, they will also create over 1.2 million new American jobs and generate over \$1.7 billion in new revenue. In other words, Mr. Chairman, this bill is a win for our economy and a win for jobs.

It is also important for our national security. The current turmoil in Iraq has already caused the price of gasoline to increase, and it serves as an important reminder of why we need to increase production here at home. The best way to protect ourselves from price spikes caused by international conflicts is to increase the production of American energy resources.

As *The Wall Street Journal* reported last week, the recent energy boom here in the U.S. is "putting slack in the global oil market." A senior petroleum analyst noted in regard to the recent conflict in Iraq: "If this were 2005, we would have seen a 20-30 cent jump in gas prices, but it's lower today because domestic energy production is much higher."

However, all of the increase in U.S. energy production is happening on State and private lands. Mr. Chairman, let me repeat that. All of the increase in U.S. energy production is happening on State and private lands. As I previously noted, oil and natural gas production on Federal lands has declined under President Obama. We can and we should be doing so much more when it comes to American-produced energy, and doing so will further strengthen our energy security and reduce our reliance on foreign imports and on OPEC.

Finally, we need to take action now because the Obama administration just announced the start of work on the next 5-year offshore drilling plan. With this bill that we are considering today, Congress can advance a responsible plan for developing America's resources. The President's plan, on the other hand, closes over 85 percent of offshore areas to energy production and includes the lowest number of lease sales ever offered in a 5-year plan. The administration's restrictive policies should not continue for another 5 years. That is why there needs to be a new plan, as outlined in this bill on the floor, that opens new areas and helps to put more than a million Americans back to work.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 4899 will ease the pain at the pump for American families and small businesses and eliminate Federal Government hurdles that keep American energy locked up. It is good for our economy; it is good for jobs; and it strengthens our national security. I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We have before us two bills which have previously passed the House but that have been merged into one bill and that will again pass with a Republican majority.

It mandates offshore oil drilling from Maine to the southeast coast. It mandates offshore oil drilling off of South Carolina. This would all be done under expedited or potentially nonexistent environmental reviews if they didn't meet extraordinarily brief timelines, and they would not be allowed to evaluate any options that did not include drilling. As the Republicans are extremely fiscally conservative, this would double the revenue sharing for offshore oil drilling, creating a \$30 billion loss for the Federal Government and benefiting a few southeast States.

As for the onshore portion of the bill, every permit for drilling on Federal lands in the United States would have to be issued within 60 days, and the concept of multiple use, which is hunting, fishing, recreating, mountain biking, horseback riding—go on down the list—and other activities, are all subsumed to energy development, which becomes the big—oh, wait. What? I mean, really. This is my June 2013 speech. I mean, this is last year's speech. Who gave me last year's speech? Really. Oh, guess what? It really doesn't matter, because this is the same bill from last year—two bills into one. Exactly the same bills passed the House last year and the year before that and the year before that. Every year since the Republicans have taken over, when gas prices spike up, they pass imaginary legislation and pretend they are doing something about high gas prices instead of tackling the real causes, which I will get to in a moment.

□ 1700

So many people have heard about Christmas in July. We now have a new tradition here, which is Groundhog Day in June for energy bills, in a faux sort of attempt to pretend we really care about the extortionate prices that people are paying because of Big Oil in the United States and speculation on Wall Street.

God forbid we should take on either of those very powerful and generous forces, generous to some, not to others. Does anybody believe this?

I guess there are a few people who believe anything, but since they first brought this bill to the floor in 2011, U.S. oil production has gone from 5.6 million barrels a day to 8.4 million barrels a day—not shabby, basically a 50 percent increase.

Let's look at another chart. Exports—we are talking about—now, we have a new theory. This isn't about lowering prices in America; it is about avoiding even higher prices in America because we are stabilizing the world markets.

Well, I have had a lot of complaints from truckers. Look at how much diesel we are exporting. Since the Republicans started this campaign, the combined exports of refined gasoline—remember the shortages, that is why we are paying higher prices, supply and demand—have gone from 700 million barrels a day to 1.5 billion. We have doubled our export of refined product, and the truckers are really getting stuck here.

Look at this line. You want to know why diesel prices are up? Because diesel exports are up phenomenally—phenomenally. So we can blather on about: Gee, all we need is more production, more production—so we can export more?

In fact, now, the oil industry is pushing to end our ban on the export of crude oil. Now—right now, at least—we get some value added, and we get a few more jobs by exporting refined products.

Now, the industry wants us to lift the ban and say that we will export crude oil from the United States of America, I guess, so that we can prevent bigger price spikes if there are future crises because this is the new theory promulgated by *The Wall Street Journal*.

We hear a lot about the President. Here is a reality check on that issue: Federal onshore production is up 30 percent under President Obama. In fact, President Obama is providing over record production levels and plummeting imports, while the exact opposite happened under the Bush-Cheney energy policy, which actually was designed to make us more dependent upon foreign oil, and that did happen in spades during the Bush-Cheney administration.

The Energy Information Administration, they are right, there was a blip in our production offshore. It had to do with a little oil spill called Deepwater Horizon, and there was a temporary suspension of drilling and new permits. That is history now, but that does make your average look lower over time.

The Energy Information Administration says that offshore production will reach record levels—that is, all Federal offshore oil production will reach record levels by 2016; but that is reality that doesn't matter.

Now, we have a really nifty title, and that is something that they spend lots of money on consultants around here—both parties do—to come up with nifty little sayings. The nifty title is Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014.

Well, since we started this argument with the Republicans on this issue about increased oil production leading to lower gas prices—well, 2008, when we had drill, baby, drill, in order to lower gas prices that were \$3.50 to \$4 a gallon—and guess what?

They haven't gone down, so that argument kind of doesn't work anymore, but now, they are saying: well, they would have been higher if we weren't producing more oil.

If we produce just more, they might not have been even more higher, or maybe they would be lower because that is what we said for the last 4 years, that they would be lower.

Since we are exporting a whole heck of a lot of it, they are not because we are paying a world price for oil, and now, they want us to pay a world price for natural gas, one place where we do have an advantage, so the prices don't go down.

There is such an abundance of oil, as I mentioned earlier, the American Petroleum Institute wants to lift the ban on the export of crude oil from the United States. Wouldn't that be great?

The U.S. can export crude oil to China. China can use it to run their electrical generating facilities, which supply their manufacturing facilities, which will produce value-added products, things that we formerly used to make here in the United States, and they will sell them back to us.

We get to sell them a raw material, kind of like a colony, and they sell us back sophisticated materials. That is kind of like something we fought a revolution over a couple of hundred years ago, but now, that is okay with some on the other side.

This is both coasts and Alaska and tremendous degradation of environmental protections on the inland areas, as I mentioned earlier. This will really do away with multiple use.

Now, we heard from the chairman, who is an esteemed colleague, that the spike in Iraq would have been worse if we weren't producing so much and exporting so much.

Actually, I just saw the statistics yesterday. Oil production hasn't dropped at all. The other OPEC companies are putting more oil out, and Iraq is at 95 percent of where they were before this, so actually, there has been no reduction anywhere, but somehow, prices are up about 20 cents a gallon at the pump.

Now, if we just produced more oil, that wouldn't happen. No, that is not true. We are producing more oil.

If we just exported more refined oil and diesel and gasoline, that wouldn't happen. Well, no, because we are. What happened?

Wall Street is speculating on the price of oil. We had sworn testimony from the CEO of ExxonMobil 2½ years ago, before the United States Senate, when gas was getting to 4 bucks a gallon, and he said, hey, don't blame me, this isn't ExxonMobil doing this, it is Wall Street—because of the deregulation of Wall Street, the fact that we haven't yet implemented position limits on speculators, on commodities, as we were supposed to do under Dodd-Frank, which they want to repeal.

He said 60 cents a gallon. Drive up to the pump, and you are sending 60 cents a gallon to Wall Street speculators.

So if they wanted to do something today or tomorrow or yesterday or last year—or maybe next June—about spiking oil prices, it would be to go after

the speculators on Wall Street. That is the quickest relief that we could provide.

Mandate position limits—or even better—repeal the provisions of the Commodity Futures Trading Modernization Act—which I voted against, which was a Clinton-era Republican bill—that actually allowed massive new speculation by nonconsumers, nonproducers, something that we never had, never needed, and don't need today.

So next time you go to the pump, say, oh, well, if we just drill right here off of Maine or right here off of Massachusetts or right here, I would pay less; or think, wow, if they wanted to really give me relief, they would take on the big oil companies, they would take on Wall Street—but they won't do that.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN), a member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I want to first thank Chairman HASTINGS for his work on H.R. 4899, a bill that actually will ease the pain at the pump for moms and dads. There is no doubt about it.

Just since President Obama has taken office, gasoline prices have more than doubled, and I am not telling the American people anything they don't know because, when they reach in their wallet and take out money to pay for that gas—just to go back and forth to work or take the children to their sporting events or to school—they realize that more of their discretionary income is going to pay the fuel that runs the cars and the trucks that they drive.

I drive a diesel truck. I am paying—what—\$3.69 a gallon, most recently. I took this picture at a pump there in South Carolina, \$3.69 a gallon for on-road diesel fuel. Now, on that on-road diesel fuel is factored in all the highway taxes, but there was another pump right beside that one. It was for off-road diesel fuel.

Now, historically, off-road diesel fuel is a lot less than on-road diesel fuel. Why? Because there are no Federal taxes involved. It is not going to run on the road, so they are not going to collect taxes for that.

Where is that fuel used? It is used on farms. If you look at the price, it is \$3.54 and 9/10 cents a gallon. What does that mean? Well, that means farmers that are just finishing putting their crops in the ground across this Nation paid \$3.54 a gallon for off-road diesel fuel. Their input costs have gone up.

What does that mean? If this remains the same at harvest time, guess what? The commodity prices in this country will go up. We are already seeing historically high milk prices, historically high beef prices.

You can try to blame the commodity prices in the fall on the drought in California. Some of that will be the fact, but I can tell you that the input

cost for fertilizer and for diesel fuel to put the crops in the ground and harvest those are definitely a factor.

Moms and dads know what is going on. We can increase production in this country offshore and onshore through this bill. The President takes credit for increased production onshore, and I will give him this: production has increased onshore, but it has nothing to do with the policies of this administration.

It has everything to do with the private and State-owned land in South Dakota and places like Eagle Ford, Texas, where production is up. That State and private land has nothing to do with the administration's policies over the last 6 years.

Him taking credit for increased production is like the rooster taking credit for the sunrise every morning. Moms and dads in this country know you are spending more money for fuel costs.

The other side seems out of touch with America, about as out of touch as Hillary Clinton is, the pain you are feeling when you go to the pump to fill up your tank to provide for your family, going back and forth.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Chairman, as a Nation, we must work together if we are ever going to get a realistic energy policy that will provide clean, reliable energy for all America, that will reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources and preserve the beauty of our land.

We need a comprehensive energy plan for a country that includes not only the conventional resources like oil and gas, but also takes advantage of the new and renewable resources such as wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal energy.

At the end of the day, I don't believe we can simply afford to take any of these energy resources off the table. I, for one, am a firm believer that using all the energy tools in our energy tool box is the way that we must go forward.

In the San Joaquin Valley of California that I represent, we have shown that we can take an all-of-the-above approach. We have oil production taking place just down the road from our solar fields and our wind farms; yet, of course, we are all concerned about the rise of gas prices, but as the gentleman from Oregon said, there are multiple factors that are causing those rising gas prices.

I represent one of the newest University of California campuses in Merced, and it is blazing a trail for energy efficiency, crafting technology necessary for the next generation of solar energy production.

Conventional energy, together with renewable resources and a strategy for energy conservation—which we do quite well in California—I think will best serve our long-term energy needs. That is why I have cosponsored the

American energy opportunity act of 2014.

We must create a viable energy policy that not only acknowledges our short-term challenges, but our medium and our long-term challenges as well. We must enhance our path toward energy independence—which we have made remarkable progress in the last 4 years—from over 60 percent of importing our energy needs, now down to less than almost 40 percent.

We can do more. Expanding responsible domestic energy production on the Outer Continental Shelf, advancing alternative energy, including wind, solar, biomass, wave, geothermal, and other clean alternatives.

Developing clean coal technology, developing additional nuclear energy technology, expanding the energy of efficient products and alternative fuel vehicles, and restoring and protecting our Nation's wildlife refuges and national parks and lakes and waterways are not mutually exclusive with a good energy policy; and if we do this, we can also pay off our national debt.

Again, that is why I am a cosponsor of H.R. 4956. This bill does all of those things. It could do them in different ways, though, because clean energy is a critical component of our future.

Before we debate any energy legislation, I think we must acknowledge that a green energy supply is not happening as fast as we might like it to.

However, this transition must happen in order to address the continuing impacts brought on by climate change—yes, climate change—and regardless of whether or not one acknowledges the human contributions of climate change, it is a fact.

As a matter of fact, it has been changing for millions of years.

□ 1715

A combination of increasing our own domestic supply of natural gas and oil as well as reducing demand will lower energy costs, create jobs, and allow us to transition to cleaner fuels.

It also has another important factor. As we know, our European allies are focusing and refocusing after the events of Ukraine and Russia, which seems to be here and there about focusing as a responsible energy supplier.

H.R. 4899 is an important measure that we are discussing. I agree with my colleague from Washington, Representative DOC HASTINGS, when he said that the “best way to create jobs and help address rising prices is to develop the American energy resources we have right here at home.”

And there are beneficial provisions within this bill, such as expanding domestic energy production on the Outer Continental Shelf, expanding domestic energy production on our Federal lands, directing the administration to complete an energy strategy every 4 years, and reducing the Federal debt, which are all good, commonsense public policies.

Unfortunately, this bill is not perfect. No bill ever is. The bill

prioritizes—and I am concerned about this—extractive energy policies and fails to take into account the need to diversify our energy portfolio.

I voted in favor of both the offshore and onshore provisions of this bill because I think we need to expand their utilization for domestic use.

But it is clear that this bill will not become law as it is, as my colleague from Oregon has indicated. We have previously voted on these measures before in other bills in this Congress, and the United States Senate has failed to take them up, nor will they take this bill up.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DEFazio. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. COSTA. So if the Senate is not going to take up this bill and our constituents are counting on us to create legislation that, in fact, will solve problems and, therefore, truly make a positive impact in their lives, then we cannot continue to push talking points over well-crafted, thoughtful public policy. The only way to accomplish that is for us to start working together and stop talking past one another, which is what we must do.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), a subcommittee chairman on the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. LAMBORN. I thank the chairman for his great leadership on energy in the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014.

The offshore and onshore provisions in this bill will create American jobs, contribute to economic growth, and increase revenue to both State and Federal Governments. This legislation takes steps to move our country forward on a path towards energy independence.

This legislation will streamline the onshore permitting process and ensure that energy projects can be permitted in a timely fashion. It will instill regulatory certainty into the leasing process by ensuring that BLM, the Bureau of Land Management, leases a minimum number of acres annually, and it will allow energy developers to move forward with energy production.

It also requires the Secretary to develop a 4-year plan for energy development, opens up the national petroleum reserve in Alaska for production, and modernizes the leasing process by allowing BLM to conduct lease sales through the Internet.

The Obama administration has made energy production on Federal lands so burdensome that companies are avoiding Federal land in favor of State and private lands. Both oil and gas production on Federal land are down under Barack Obama, by 6 percent and 28 percent respectively. In a State like my

home State of Colorado, with a significant amount of Federal land, this is a problem because less energy production means less jobs and less growth.

This bill injects much-needed certainty into nearly every step of the energy production process. It will ensure timely permit approvals, ensure that BLM field offices have the funds they need to process permits, prohibits the Secretary from changing lease terms, and ensure that our Nation has a plan for an energy future.

I urge all my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

Mr. DEFazio. I have no further requests for time and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON), another member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. TIPTON. I thank the gentleman from Washington, Chairman HASTINGS, for yielding time and for his leadership on this critical matter. I appreciate the opportunity to be able to work closely with him on this legislation and am pleased my Planning for American Energy Act was incorporated as part of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014.

Mr. Chair, this final commonsense package seeks to put in place a responsible energy plan that reduces gas prices and other energy costs for consumers, while also spurring economic growth and job creation.

Unlocking our vast natural resources right here at home will lead us closer to energy independence. The legislation before us today would unleash the potential for thousands of new jobs and establish a reliable, affordable, and secure source of American energy through responsible production.

As Americans make plans to celebrate our Nation's independence next week and prepare for summer trips, they are noticing that gasoline prices are rising. Many people are facing gas prices above \$3.50 a gallon to \$4 a gallon at the pump. These rising fuel costs have a ripple effect across our economy. But, sadly, this upward trend has been steady for the last several years. Fortunately, this doesn't have to be the case.

Nature and entrepreneurial ingenuity have created the potential to allow America to take complete control of its energy future. This legislation will enhance the value of our energy reserves by removing overly burdensome, redundant bureaucratic barriers that stand in the way of responsibly developing our Nation's energy production infrastructure.

Incorporated in this vital legislative package, my Planning for American Energy Act seeks to establish commonsense steps to create an all-of-the-above American energy plan for using Federal lands to meet America's energy needs. Under title II of this legislation, the nonpartisan Energy Information Administration would be required to provide the Secretaries of the

Interior and Agriculture the projected energy needs of the United States for the next 30 years. The Secretaries would use this information to establish environmentally responsible 4-year energy production plans.

The bill allows for energy development on public lands in order to promote the energy and national security of the United States, in accordance with the multiple-use management standard established by the Federal Land Policy Management Act. It requires that all energy resources, including wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal, oil, natural gas, coal, oil shale, and minerals needed for energy development, be included in the plan. These goals would be accomplished responsibly, without repealing a single environmental regulation or review process.

Since President Obama took office, energy production on Federal lands has declined significantly. Additionally, the drastic increase of burdensome Federal regulations imposed by this administration is having a detrimental effect on small businesses, jobs, and consumer prices across the board. A recent study showed that the regulatory burden on Americans is costing our economy about \$1.8 trillion annually.

Colorado and our Western neighbors are home to vast energy reserves that, if tapped and developed responsibly, could fuel our Nation's economic recovery and ensure the United States remains competitive in the world market. By promoting a commonsense regulatory framework, embracing domestic energy research and development, and applying environmental and safety standards already on the books, rather than adding costly new mandates, we can help meet America's energy needs right here at home, providing energy and economic security that will benefit American families.

America's energy capabilities are being strangled, and rising gas prices is one of the consequences. This doesn't have to be. A true all-of-the-above energy strategy that unleashes our abundant resources will lead to affordable energy for our families and small businesses for years to come. Our nature and the future prosperity of our citizens requires a true all-of-the-above domestic energy plan that responsibly increases production on Federal lands while streamlining efficiencies and reducing red tape.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. TIPTON. That is exactly what H.R. 4899 will accomplish. This legislation puts people to work, putting people in America first, keeping energy costs low for families and businesses, and strengthening our national security.

I urge immediate passage of this bill.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, nothing I have heard has refuted the points I made earlier.

In fact, the gentleman from South Carolina made the point about high diesel prices. Well, if he was harking back to a time when diesel was actually cheaper than gasoline, well, back then, we didn't export much refined diesel. Now we are exporting in the vicinity of 1 million barrels a day of diesel. So the price of diesel is up because we are paying the so-called world price. And if we exported 2 million barrels a day, the world price wouldn't go down.

And then you have the issue with the speculators on Wall Street, as I mentioned earlier. According to the head of ExxonMobil, 60 cents a gallon—and that would be diesel and gasoline—goes directly to speculators on Wall Street, those high-frequency traders who are so vital to our economy.

We do have a few statistics just to keep it straight. Gasoline production was at a record high in May, but unfortunately, gas prices were pretty darn high. This is from the Energy Information Administration, and they quote the American Petroleum Institute, which is the group that wants to begin to export crude oil. So if we produce more crude oil, we will put it in the world market or sell it to China so they can refine it. And that will somehow insulate us against price spikes because we will be flooding the world oil market with oil that is produced more cheaply here but sold more expensively over there. But unfortunately, that means that we pay the same price here that gets paid over there. That is another problem.

But anyway, the chief economist for API, John Felmy, said: "We've developed a good export market for distillates. So we produce more gasoline than demand warrants." Yet the price is up. Go figure.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I will make a couple points here, Mr. Chairman. My good friend, the gentleman from Oregon, was right, that we have debated these issues on the floor before. We passed the bills—the offshore bill and the onshore bill, two separate bills—with bipartisan support. But there seems to be a pattern in this Congress that we are trying to break because we know that any legislation cannot become law until the House acts on it and the Senate acts on it. And those bills are over there awaiting action in the Senate. So hope springs eternal. Maybe if we put these things together and then have some reforms on the offshore regulation, maybe, just maybe, the Senate will come to some sort of epiphany and say, we will pass these bills together. So that is the hope that we have here, and hopefully that will happen.

Now, I want to make a couple of other points that have not really been made here in the debate today. We need to understand that crude oil is a global product and, therefore, is subject to

global price pressures. But there is also one other factor that is rarely mentioned, and that is that the global market is largely controlled by one cartel, and that is OPEC. The last figures I have is that they control roughly 40 to 45 percent of the world market.

Now, we know from basic economics, where you are talking about other commodities where there is a cartel holding prices up, the best way to beat cartels is to out-supply the cartels. When you out-supply the cartels, you have less speculation in the marketplace, as has been proven over time. And the point that we are making here with the potential resources we have in America, we have the opportunity to start the process of out-supplying cartels. That is what is so important in this debate. And that is why we should act on these bills, and that is why the Senate should act on these bills.

And finally, the last point: when we do have leases in this country, it takes a long time, from the standpoint of when the lease is let, until you produce oil or produce any product whatsoever.

At the start of this administration, back in 2009, this administration had the benefit of the lease sales that went into place under the Bush administration. So this administration had the benefit of high production on Federal lands because of the work of the Bush administration for the 8 years before that.

But as I mentioned in my opening remarks, lease sales have gone down now, production has gone down, the fact that this 5-year plan that was just introduced by the President will probably take more time. I think we are going to see more of a decrease in production on Federal lands. That is why this bill is needed so much.

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So, Mr. Chairman, this is legislation that the House has faced in the past and has passed with bipartisan support. We need to do it again because, with rising gas prices, this is an answer to the long-term rising gas prices and energy prices in this country.

So, with that, Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this bill.

The legislation before us today is hardly worth debating, not because these issues are unimportant, but because these are the same tired pro-big oil and gas bills that we have debated over-and-over again.

H.R. 4899 is a combination H.R. 2231, Offshore Energy and Jobs Act and H.R. 1965, Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act of 2013.

Both these bills have already been passed by the House in the First Session, over my objections, and in the 112th Congress we similarly considered nearly identical bills.

The White House threatens to veto these bills, the Senate will never bring them up, but here we are again, on the week before the July recess, in another attempt to score political points by pushing policies that harm our

environment and ignore the threat of climate change.

I know my friends on the other side of the aisle wouldn't consider themselves environmentalists, but I'm glad to know that at the very least they support recycling.

I think this has been said before but there are three Rs to recycling and one of them is reuse.

However, another recycling-R is to reduce but we certainly are not making an effort to limit how many times we can bring the same bill to the floor. And the bill before us absolutely does not recognize that our domestic demand for oil has decreased in recent years even as production has continued to rise.

I'm opposed to H.R. 4899 for the same reasons I have opposed H.R. 2231 and H.R. 1965.

This bill would require a new outer continental shelf leasing plan, even though the Department of Interior has already begun the process of writing a new plan. It would require leases of offshore areas that have been excluded from leasing previously because of lack of infrastructure and environmental concerns.

The bill cost the federal government money by providing more offshore revenue to a handful of coastal states.

The bill prevents coordination of agencies with coastal management responsibilities by prohibiting the National Ocean Policy. This will create more offshore conflicts and likely limit the ability of energy companies to operate safely and effectively in coastal areas.

And all of that is just offshore.

Onshore H.R. 4899 irresponsibility and unnecessarily would expedite the approval of drilling, while limiting judicial review.

The bill would also require a plan to lease an ever increasing amount of area onshore, in part by requiring a plan to cover the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska with a spider web of roads and pipelines.

In closing, oil and gas production is up, thanks in part to the policies of the Obama administration, and as a result energy imports are down.

This bill will not lower energy prices, and it will not help us develop new sources of clean energy. These are the same policies and the same talking points we have heard again-and-again.

And again, I am strongly opposed to this bill and I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 4899.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TIPPON) having assumed the chair, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

NATIONAL PRIDE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am here today on behalf of both the Progressive Caucus and the Equality Caucus, as we are here today to talk about June being national Pride Month—Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month—as we celebrate every June.

This year has been an especially significant year. We have had a lot of victories. One year ago Thursday—tomorrow—is the year anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that ensured that people could have their marriages recognized by the Federal Government.

We have also had a number of States in the last year—bringing us up to 19 States and the District of Columbia—where you can legally be married in this country and several others that have approved it, but are currently in the legal status, including my home State of Wisconsin. We have had a big year, in that Michael Sam was the first openly gay person to be drafted into the NFL.

So we have had a lot of successes in the last year since our last Pride. We are here today to talk about that and what an important contribution to this country we have from our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender citizens, but as much we have had all these successes, we have also had a number of projects that we still have to get done.

Until everyone has access to full equality in this country, we have not provided equal treatment under the law to each and every person as we would expect.

Mr. Speaker, we still have a number of States where you can be fired simply for being gay or lesbian. Michael Sam, as much as he has finally made it into the NFL, could be fired in a number of States in this country under the current law.

We still have too many students and too many youth who attempt suicide who are bullied in school. We have to make sure they have equal access to a quality education, and we still have too much uneven treatment, depending on what State you live in, whether or not your family is recognized. Whether you are in Wisconsin or Massachusetts, the law is different, certainly, in the State level.

We are here today to talk about the many successes we have had and the challenges we still yet have. I am very happy to be joined by a number of colleagues today, and I would like to yield, if I could, right off the bat, to one of my colleagues who has been an outspoken advocate for equality, Representative AL GREEN from the great State of Texas.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I greatly appreciate your yielding the time, and I greatly appreciate your work in the Congress of the United States of Amer-

ica to bring equality to all persons, regardless of who they are, where they are from, or where they happen to be at a given point in time.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that one God created all of humanity to live in harmony, regardless of sexuality. I believe that human rights are not conferred by a State. I don't think they are accorded by a constitution. I think that human rights are birthrights, and these are rights that one acquires simply by being born a child of God.

As such, I believe that all human beings deserve dignity and respect and that all human beings deserve equality under the law, regardless of who you are, regardless of your race, creed, color, national origin, familial status, or sexuality.

I believe that we, who hold ourselves out as people of goodwill, should do all that we can to make sure that every person on the planet Earth is treated fairly and with a great degree of dignity.

To this end, I am proud to have filed in the Congress of the United States of America H. Res. 416, which recognizes the month of June and celebrates it as LGBT Pride Month.

I am proud to say that this resolution has been cosponsored by 25 Members of Congress, including all seven cochair of the Equality Caucus. I am also proud to tell you that the Honorable Barney Frank, who was an openly gay Member of Congress and chaired the Financial Services Committee, is an honorary sponsor of this legislation.

I would like to, if I may, my dear friend and brother, I would like to just give some indication as to what the resolution does, so that persons who may not be familiar, who may not have an opportunity to peruse certain records and documents, will at least hear some of what it does.

This resolution specifically recognizes the protesters who stood for human rights and dignity at the Stonewall Inn, on June 28, 1968, as some of the pioneers of the movement.

It celebrates the creation of gay rights organizations in major cities in the aftermath of the Stonewall uprising. It highlights the importance of the American Psychiatric Association removing homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses in December of 1973.

It recognizes Elaine Noble as the first LGBT candidate elected to a State legislature in 1974 and Barney Frank as the first Representative to come out as an openly gay Member of Congress in 1987.

It highlights the importance of the Civil Service Commission eliminating the ban on hiring gay persons in most Federal jobs in 1975.

It celebrates Harvey Milk making national news when he was sworn in as an openly gay member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on January 8, 1978.

It praises the thousands of activists who participated in the National March on Washington for Lesbian and