

so the discrepancy between the labor rates has narrowed.

We have earlier talked about the energy supplies and energy costs. Many now are citing us as the millennium of Mideast here, with the supply of natural gas and energy issues that are being addressed significantly through innovation and alternative supplies and through natural gas supplies.

So the energy quotient in that formula for manufacturing has been very much flipping, cycling favor for the U.S. economy.

As these major factors begin to steady our way, there is a brighter bit of hope out there that is launched. If we accompany that with the appropriate policies and attached resources, if we can adopt, if you would, the Democratic agenda for Make It In America, great things can happen.

It takes a vision, and it takes leadership, and it takes planning so as to get to that point where we are investing in that pioneer spirit of America. I earlier talked about my grandparents and the fact that they claimed the 20th Congressional District in New York as their home.

They tethered their American Dream there. They went to work in those factories, on those farms, and made certain they could climb that ladder for economic opportunity. They shared that with their children and their grandchildren. They wanted to make certain that this American Dream was there for their family and then share it with others. That is us at our best.

Why not invest in that American Dream, so that as families go forward, as they dream their dreams, as they tether those dreams, as they become all they can be, as they submit to an American agenda that has always been about opportunity, about taking your natural skills, talents, and abilities and investing them for your own growth, but certainly for the growth of community and the American culture—that has been us, that is our history. Let it speak to us.

As we hear others who speak to us about the needs to grow the economy, let us respond. Let us do that with a keen sense of awareness, of empathy, of attachment to an American agenda for jobs.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO, it is always a great pleasure to be on the floor with you. You are so clear. Your vision and your purpose is so very, very clear.

The Make It In America agenda has many pieces: trade policy, tax policy, energy, labor, education, research, and infrastructure. All of it is designed for one purpose, and that is to give American working families an opportunity.

It has become part of our jump-start for the middle class. This is our policy. These are the things that we want to do as Democrats. We want to see the working families of America make it. We want it made in America, and we want American families to be making it, so the Make It In America is one part of this agenda.

When women succeed, America succeeds. This is the fact that a majority of the workforce in America is now women. The reality is they make 70 cents on the dollar for every man that makes a dollar, so we need to address that. We need to make sure that they have the opportunities.

Right now, there is an increasing concern about on-demand labor, which is mostly women. You can imagine the destruction to family life when a woman that is working at a retail store gets a phone call and has to immediately report to work for 3, 4, or 5 hours.

This is craziness, but there is a whole series of family-friendly policies for women that are involved in this issue, including the minimum wage.

Finally, the issue of education, which we have talked about. These are the jump-start the middle class policies that we are pushing forward.

Make It In America is the agenda that you and I have talked about so many times here on the floor—little progress is being made—but I am telling you, if we had the majority in this House, these pieces of legislation that we have talked about today would be sitting over in the Senate and they would be on the President's desk very, very quickly—critical policies for the future of this Nation, critical policies for the working men and women and the families of America.

We intend to do it. We intend to see this agenda, the agenda for the working men and women advance.

Mr. TONKO, do you want to have another 30 seconds before we are told to wrap?

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. Just underscoring your statement that when women succeed, America succeeds—when women succeed, that lifts all families, whether it is a single female head of family, whether it is a male-female household, two women in the household, whatever it is, across the board, that is a win situation.

□ 2030

So families prosper, families succeed, and then, of course, America succeeds. Again, a multifaceted agenda that speaks to core needs. It speaks to social and economic justice. It speaks to the fact that pay equity and equal pay for equal work is a cornerstone to our women succeed, America succeeds agenda, the minimum wage being lifted, and certainly quality child care, affordable child care. That is what sustains the agenda, so that when women succeed, families succeed, America succeeds. We move forward with a vibrancy that began with its underpinnings of support here on the Hill in Washington, with Congress working toward the needs of workers and the business community and making certain that we respond to the present-day needs that exist out there that only build upon the richness of history and allow America to truly succeed.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO and Ms. KAPTUR, thank you so very much for joining us tonight.

America will make it when we Make It In America.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ENERGY ACTION TEAM

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

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as part of the House Energy Action Team, it is important for us to address the hardworking American taxpayers that are concerned about their rising energy costs and who want to know what their United States Congress is going to do about the issue of energy independence, the cost of fuel, the cost of electricity, and the fact that they have got less money in their wallet after a week of driving back and forth between work and taking the kids to school and ball games and church and all the things that we, as average Americans, do. After they pay for the fuel to do all of that, to drive their vehicles to and fro, they reach in their wallet for extra cash, and there is none left. What is the United States Congress going to do about the rising cost of energy?

I came to Washington to focus on three things: jobs, energy, and our Founding Fathers.

Jobs. How about unleashing and unbridling the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of Americans that will actually turn this economy around by putting Americans to work, lessening the number of Americans on the welfare rolls, and actually having Americans earn their way? Jobs.

Energy. Energy is a segue to job creation in this country. Look at the States that have energy-driven economies like Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, and North Dakota. North Dakota has a 3 percent unemployment rate or less. In fact, McDonald's is paying a finder's fee. If you have got somebody who wants to go to work at a McDonald's in North Dakota, they will pay you a finder's fee.

Jobs and energy. Energy is a segue to job creation and putting Americans to work. We are not just talking about the men and women wearing the hard hats and the oil uniforms out on the drilling platforms or in the Bakken up in North Dakota, turning those drills and producing that, whether it is through horizontal drilling or hydraulic fracturing or shallow water or deep water offshore. Yes, those are good-paying jobs. Those are hardworking American taxpayers. But think about all the other jobs that support the offshore industry and the onshore industry.

These are Americans that are working doing pipefitting and welding. And guess what. Pipes fall on truck beds,

and the beds have to be repaired. So there are auto body mechanics and engine mechanics. All these people work in that industry. It can be those in HVAC. Folks are going out on the rigs to fix the air conditioner or provide the food service or the transportation or the supply vessels carrying the drilling mud and the diesel fuel.

Everything that it takes to support energy production in this country, guess what. Those folks are going to the local restaurants and they are eating and they are giving tips to the waitresses. They are going to their churches and they are tithing. They are joining the United Way and they are sponsoring ball teams. They are supporting our local communities.

You see it all up and down the Texas and Louisiana highways. You see it in North Dakota and Oklahoma. And guess what. We want to see it in South Carolina.

In fact, there are some gentlemen here that want to see it off their coast or may want to see it expanded in their States, whether it is onshore or offshore. They understand that energy production is a segue to putting Americans to work.

Jobs, energy, and our Founding Fathers. Limited government, free markets, individual liberties, unleashing that entrepreneurial spirit that Americans have within us to go and create and do and put Americans to work and, yes, pay taxes to the government so the government can do its constitutional role.

Jobs, energy, and our Founding Fathers is a great acronym. It spells "Jeff," and I am all about Jeff.

We want to see the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf opened up. We want to see some seismic work done first. That is the first step. Let's see what is out there.

They are looking at 30-year-old seismic graphs, trying to figure out are there recoverable resources off the coast of South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, the States that want to see that area opened up.

Using 30-year-old technology and 30-year-old graphs, let's see some 21st century technology drug in the Atlantic, like 4-D and 3-D technology, to actually see down in the Earth and see what sort of resources might be recoverable.

Let's allow the seismic work, and let's allow universities like the University of South Carolina do it. Being a Clemson graduate, it pains me to say that the University of South Carolina and Dr. James Knapp are leading the way, teaching the young, new minds to use that seismic technology and look at those graphs and figure out where those resources are. He is doing tremendous work there at the University of South Carolina. Let's open up more areas.

It is hard for me to applaud the Obama administration on a whole lot, but I will applaud them on a transboundary hydrocarbon agreement

signed by then-Secretary Clinton with Mexico that opened up a million and half acres in the Gulf of Mexico, shared resources right under that maritime boundary between the United States and Mexico.

Mexico just denationalized their energy company, Pemex. They are opening up to more private investments. We are going to see great things happen in the transboundary area. But even though she signed that agreement, the administration failed to send to this Congress the implementing language to actually make it happen and to include those areas in the next 5-year plan. That took an act of Congress. That took a bill that passed out of this body last year. That took efforts like PAUL RYAN had in the omnibus to get the transboundary hydrocarbon implementing language in the omnibus so that we could open up that million and a half acres and we could put more men and women here in America, hard-working American taxpayers, to work developing the energy resources that we have in this country.

God bless the United States of America. He continues to bless us with the resources here to be truly American energy independent. We are working with our neighbors to the north with something like the Keystone pipeline—which should happen—to bring that Canadian oil into this country to the refineries where we have idle capacity and to put that oil into the marketplace in gasoline and plastic and asphalt and diesel fuel and all the other butanes and all the other elements that come out of a barrel of hydrocarbons when you put it under pressure and it separates naturally in all sorts of wonderful God-given elements.

The Keystone pipeline should happen. That is a no-brainer for most Americans that I talk to, but apparently the administration just doesn't get it. They don't get that the Keystone pipeline will put Americans to work.

We are talking about jobs. We are talking about energy. We are talking about less government. The Keystone pipeline and North American energy independence includes working with our neighbors to the south in Mexico as they decentralize, denationalize their energy industry, and more private investment, more American companies going down there developing those resources so we can possibly have North American energy independence, if not just American energy independence.

I am joined by a number of Members of Congress here that are part of the House Energy Action Team. One gentleman from the neighboring State to my north understands what I talked about with the Outer Continental Shelf and that mid-Atlantic, south Atlantic OCS area that we believe has resources. If you look at the geology, North Africa and the Middle East and England were all together one time with the United States, and the resources and geology are very similar. We believe that in the south. I know in South

Carolina we may have some recoverable resources, and we can be players in that.

I know the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) wants to talk, I am sure, about that North Carolina offshore area.

Mr. HUDSON. I thank the gentleman, my neighbor from South Carolina, Mr. DUNCAN. I appreciate your leadership on this issue. I couldn't agree with you more.

Many of our constituents back home in North Carolina and South Carolina are entering the second half of the summer. They are preparing to take trips to the beach, maybe trips to the mountains, maybe going to visit relatives. Many of our constituents are contemplating those trips and, frankly, are experiencing a little sticker shock as they factor in the cost of gasoline and what it is going to cost their family.

Many of our constituents are struggling. They either are not in the job they want to be in or they are looking for a job, and it is tough to make ends meet. If you add the high cost of energy to that, it is a real burden on people. It affects real people back home.

Frankly, it doesn't have to be that way because we have got tremendous opportunities to have American sources of energy. It is just a shame we are not going after them.

I agree also with my colleague there are not a lot of things that President Obama and I agree on, but I do applaud his decision to allow us to do seismic mapping off the shore of the Atlantic Coast. We have tremendous opportunities in North Carolina, as well as Virginia and South Carolina, to find these large reserves. We know there is natural gas there. We know there is petroleum there. We need to find out what is exactly there.

So this is an important first step to get this seismic permitting so that we can know what kind of energy resources we have exactly. But I want to get North Carolina in the energy business. We have got the opportunity to put people to work.

As my colleague mentioned, North Dakota pays a \$2,000 signing bonus at McDonald's because they can't find enough people because everybody has a job, and I look at North Carolina and my neighbors who are struggling to find work. Let's put people in energy jobs. Not only will it bring down the cost of energy for us at the pump, but it will put people to work.

There is another phenomena happening out there. We have lost a tremendous amount of manufacturing jobs in North Carolina, particularly in my part of the State, but we are seeing some of those jobs start to come back. The reason they are starting to come back is because of energy costs.

Even despite the fact that the current President won't allow any new permitting on public lands, through fracking and other technology, we find it on private lands. We are being able

to bring down some of our energy costs through exploration.

Imagine what we would do if we could unleash American energy by allowing us to go after all of our resources, whether they are on public lands or offshore. We can have a manufacturing renaissance in this country by having affordable American energy. We can start creating jobs like you wouldn't believe. There is no reason why we are not doing that.

So I am happy to be here tonight with my colleagues to talk about the importance of this. I am just ready to unleash the American energy and ready to bring those jobs back.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I thank the gentleman from North Carolina.

This is a picture of the State newspaper in South Carolina. It says: Oil Exploration OK'd Off South Carolina and the Entire East Coast.

The Department of the Interior has actually said: You know what? We are going to allow some seismic to actually happen off the coast of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia so we can see what is out there.

This is good news, America. This is good news because we are actually going to see that there are recoverable resources of our coast.

And I ask the question again of the Americans that may be tuned in: How much more is your regular travel costing, with gasoline prices being well north of \$3 a gallon in this country? Or to ask a different way: How much less money do you have in your wallet after you travel back and forth to work—your normal travel and not summertime vacation travel—your normal travels from home to work and back, taking the kids to school, taking them to the ball games, going to church, going to the grocery store, all the things that you do, how much less money do you have?

I know in North Carolina and South Carolina, our constituents have experienced that.

Another member of the House Energy Action Team from Texas—and Texas gets it, because, God bless Texas, with Spindletop, Eagle Ford, Barnett, and a lot of other resources, they understand energy and they understand the jobs that come about from energy production.

I yield to Mr. WEBER of Texas, because I know he has got a great story to tell.

□ 2045

Mr. WEBER of Texas. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the things that make America great are the things that America makes.

Now, how do we do that?

We have a stable, reliable, affordable energy supply.

Mr. Speaker, I want you to think with me here for a second. We have to have a strong America. Whether it is a

typhoon or whether it is a hurricane or whether it is famine or flood or pestilence or civil war—no matter what it is—when the world has a catastrophe and they dial 911, who is it who answers?

It is the Americans—isn't it?—with our military, with our might, with our goodness, I would argue. So I would argue that, for the world to be a safer place, we must have a strong America. How do we do that?

Like I said, a stable, reliable, affordable energy supply.

Mr. Speaker, this is not just about jobs and the economy. This is about a strong America that leads this world and makes the world a safer place to live in. I would further argue, Mr. Speaker, that you are seeing the result of an administration's policy. Around this world, we are seeing the results of people who understand that the current policy is weak, ineffective, and to be trampled upon.

It is bewildering to me and, quite frankly, to many Americans that the President and his administration continue to stand in the way of the potential that this country has to offer with respect to domestic energy production for the reasons I just stated. In fact, the President has canceled lease sales and has effectively closed off 85 percent of our offshore resources from exploration. Yet the majority of Americans support tapping these resources so that we can make our country more energy independent—and again, so the world is a safer place to be.

This country needs a President who will empower our energy sector, not suffocate it. I always say, as I did in my opening remarks, that the things that make America great are the things that America makes. Mr. Speaker, when more things are made in America, more Americans will make it in America. When government gets out of the way, we can create thousands of good-paying jobs and a whole lot of affordable, reliable, dependable, secure energy. Then and only then, when more things are made in America, more Americans will make it in America.

The energy sector, as the gentleman said, is one of our Nation's leading job creators, and much more can be done to unleash our energy in these United States. Just look at my home State of Texas. Texas has been responsible for close to half of all new jobs created in the United States since the end of the recession. Texas has allowed the energy industry to flourish while, at the same time, protecting the environment.

Shale gas development, which is booming because of innovations like hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling—despite this administration—is leading to billions in new investments in my district alone, billions in my District 14 on the gulf coast of Texas, for example. Chevron Phillips Chemical Company is investing \$6 billion to build two polyethylene plants in Sweeny, Texas, bringing 400 new per-

manent jobs and 10,000 new construction jobs to my district alone. You all know polyethylene is used to produce common plastic products we use every day, and it is derived from natural gas. In addition to many other projects, two companies in my district are waiting to invest billions—with a “b”—of dollars in liquefied natural gas export facilities, which would bring an untold number of new construction jobs to my State and the Nation.

It is a puzzle to me that this administration, instead of encouraging more of this kind of private investment nationwide, has decided that what we need now are more regulations. Are you kidding me? Just this past March, the administration announced that it is in the process of developing regulations on methane emissions from various sources, including from hydraulic fracturing sites. This is despite the fact that methane emissions have fallen by 11 percent since 1990. Such government overreach, which, undoubtedly, will also encompass emissions from cattle—if you can believe that—will raise costs for consumers, destroy jobs, and hurt energy production. This administration is so extreme it is proposing to regulate cow emissions. Now, in Texas, we call that a lot of bull. This Obama administration is out of touch with everyday Americans and is out of control with energy regulations. The administration's announcement on methane emissions is just one small piece of a much larger regulatory strategy.

Take the EPA, for example. The EPA is requesting millions of dollars to conduct a study of hydraulic fracturing, which is a technology that has been safely utilized by the oil and gas industry in Texas since at least 1947. In at least three cases, the EPA has blamed hydraulic fracturing on water contamination. In all three of those cases, they were forced to retract their conclusions. Therefore, I suspect the purpose of their study is only to justify further regulatory actions.

Most importantly, we cannot forget that the administration is planning to repropose a new rule on ozone this December. When originally proposed in 2010, this regulation was widely cited as the most expensive regulation in history, which would cost hundreds of billions of dollars and put over 80 percent of our Nation out of compliance—80 percent of our country in nonattainment when it comes to ozone regulations. Mr. Speaker, I would offer that the EPA needs to use common sense when it comes to the common sense of their nonattainment.

Unlike our counterparts in the Senate, the House has passed legislation to expand domestic energy production. It has acted to hold the Obama administration accountable for its regulatory agenda. On June 26, with my support, the House passed H.R. 4899, Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America that Works Act. If enacted, this legislation will require the administration to move forward on the new offshore

production that the gentleman was referring to in areas that are projected to contain the most oil and natural gas resources by requiring new lease sales and by streamlining permitting. I could go on and on and on.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, even though, when he was running, the President said he had an all-of-the-above energy strategy, the truth is it is none of the above. He is in the process of killing the coal industry. Make no mistake. Fossil fuels will be next.

Let me close by saying I call on the President, as the gentleman did, to permit the Keystone pipeline. Let it get built. Let America continue to be an energy leader in the world. Let America be solid and strong, and let us, once again, have a safe world.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I thank the gentleman from Texas. As I said earlier, Texas gets it.

I remember a colleague of ours from Louisiana who said that drilling equals jobs. That sums it up—drilling equals jobs. I appreciate the gentleman from Louisiana, Jeff Landry, our former colleague, for sharing that with us.

I drive a diesel truck. I was filling up just recently back in the spring, and there happened to be an off-road diesel pump right beside the on-road diesel pump that I was at. I was paying about \$3.59 a gallon for diesel fuel for my pickup, and I noticed the off-road diesel fuel price was about 10 cents less, about \$3.49. I took a picture of it, and I shared it on Facebook because I wanted folks to realize America's farmers are paying \$3.49 a gallon for off-road diesel fuel. This is a fuel you can't run on the highway because the Federal Government and the States don't collect any highway taxes from off-road fuel. It is just pure diesel fuel. If this is what America's farmers put in their tractors, it is off-road for a reason. If they are paying \$3.49 a gallon for off-road diesel fuel, that is an input cost. That is a cost of production.

They are putting \$3.49 a gallon of diesel fuel in their tractors to plant our crops and, in the fall, to harvest our crops. I think about the cost of fertilizer right now, which should be low because natural gas is abundant in this country—and I think the gentleman from Pennsylvania is going to talk about this in just a minute and what they have found in Pennsylvania. Natural gas is a huge component in the production of fertilizer, but fertilizer is at an historical high still. So you have got the input cost for farmers of off-road diesel fuel at \$3.49 a gallon—that input cost and the cost of fertilizer.

We know of the regulations the gentleman from Texas was talking about that the EPA continues to push down on Americans, and America's farmers are feeling the brunt of it on where they can spray their pesticides or their herbicides and how far from ditches they need to be. There is some common sense there, I understand, but there is regulation after regulation. We have even combated, since I have been in

Congress, the regulation of farm dust. Now, can you believe that the EPA would want to regulate dust created through the normal agricultural process?

The input cost of farmers will be affected and will affect the price, rather, of the commodities that moms and dads buy when they go to the grocery store this fall after harvest time. You think about commodity prices being high, and we are already seeing historically high milk prices, historically high beef prices, historically high fuel prices to go back and forth to the grocery store just to buy those commodities. It means less money for the hard-working American taxpayers at the end of the day who are having to pay extra for ObamaCare, extra in taxes to pay for the large government and government spending that we see. We can help. This Congress can help by lowering the price of fuel—gasoline for America's truckers and for America's moms and dads who travel back and forth.

We have got an abundance of natural gas in this country. It gets a bad rap when you use words like "hydraulic fracturing." I will tell you it is working in Marcellus in Pennsylvania and Ohio. It could work in New York if they would get off their can and open up those areas.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) understands. He understands the area of Marcellus, so I yield to the gentleman so he can talk about that area.

Mr. ROTHFUS. I thank the gentleman from South Carolina for yielding and for organizing this important discussion about energy.

Mr. Speaker, I talk a lot in my district, District 12 back in western Pennsylvania. Western PA is where you had the start of the oil industry back in the 19th century and, of course, the development of coal, and we are seeing this explosion in the development of the gas industry out there that is creating lots of jobs.

I talk a lot about energy in western PA because I contend that we can relight America from western Pennsylvania. We need to relight America. We need to boom again. A lot of people have given up on the idea that America can boom again, but for us to get this economy growing, energy is a huge part of it.

Again, we are seeing thousands of jobs throughout Pennsylvania because of the gas industry, and we are seeing people who are able to stay on their farms. Imagine that. They are fracturing the shale in Pennsylvania to release the energy. They are not fracturing families, because the families can stay on those farms and get the revenues from that gas to help them keep their farms in business. Growing our energy economy means more family-sustaining jobs and lower energy prices for families in western Pennsylvania and around the Nation. Developing our Nation's plentiful natural re-

sources and being good stewards of the environment need not be mutually exclusive.

I want to bring attention, Mr. Speaker, to a little known area of energy that uses something known as refuse coal. Refuse coal was coal that was mined decades ago, often for the steel industry, and it was determined not to be of sufficient quality for use in the industry, so it was left. It was left on hillsides throughout Pennsylvania, throughout Appalachia, but technological advancements have allowed certain power plants to turn piles of this low-quality coal that has been left throughout Pennsylvania's countryside into cheap domestic energy. This has allowed for cleaning up the environment and restoring landscapes and rivers.

Just take a look at the remarkable difference here in these before and after pictures of the Barnes-Watkins coal refuse pile in Cambria County, in my district.

□ 2100

Plants across Pennsylvania and States including Illinois, Montana, Utah, and West Virginia are doing tremendous work to clean up the environment and generate affordable electricity.

Unfortunately, the unelected Federal elites at the EPA with their one-size-fits-all rules are threatening to shut down the plants that use this waste coal and stop the progress on cleaning up places like what you see right here.

This will cost middle class jobs. It will raise energy prices for many Americans and put an end to the positive work that these plants do to clean up our environment.

To address this very problem, I introduced H.R. 3138, the Satisfying Energy Needs and Saving the Environment; it is the SENSE Act, S-E-N-S-E, because it makes sense.

This commonsense legislation recognizes the important energy and environmental benefits that power plants like the ones in Cambria County provide. The SENSE Act offers a reasonable balance that keeps these plants open, saves local middle class jobs, preserves important domestic electricity generating capacity, and helps to continue cleaning up the environment.

I would urge my colleagues to take a look at this legislation and help us get it through.

But, again, we need to boom. We need to boom again because when America is booming again, that is when the jobs come in. And when we get people back to work, every person we get back to work, that person is paying Social Security tax, that person is paying Medicare tax, that person is paying income tax that allows us to pay for the critical social service programs that we need like Social Security, Medicare, veterans benefits.

A booming economy is going to do that, and a key to the booming economy is the booming energy sector.

I, again, thank my colleague from South Carolina for highlighting the important role that the energy economy is going to play in relighting America.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania. He has been a leader in his short time in Congress as a freshman on energy issues because he gets what is going on in his home State.

I keep returning to the State of Texas because Texas, they have been developing energy resources for a very, very long time. When you think about Texas and Oklahoma, that is where it began in this country, the immense resources they have.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), one of my heroes and good friends who wants to talk about what is going on in his home State.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for sponsoring this leadership hour and bringing the issue of energy to the attention of the House and the American public.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we consider where I live, Houston, Texas, the energy capital of the world because it is the energy capital of the world. And it is because of our location. Fifty percent of the Houston ship channel exports exports are energy-related, not just energy itself, but everything that is used in the development of energy throughout the world. Fifty percent of the economy of Houston is based upon the Houston ship channel.

We are experiencing a phenomenon in this country that nobody thought would happen 5 or 6 years ago, and that is the abundance and surplus of natural gas and what we call Texas sweet crude, or light crude, an abundance of it in this Nation. There is so much natural gas being produced in this country that in south Texas, in the Dakotas, they are flaring gas wells. They are capping wells in west Texas.

What does that mean?

That means that when they flare wells, there are over 1,500 wells that are being flared. That is enough energy to take care of a million homes. We are talking about a lot of energy. We are talking about a lot of natural gas.

So what do we do with that?

Well, we should sell it.

There is an ice cream company down in Texas. It is a little creamery in Brenham, Texas, a German community, called Blue Bell Ice Cream. It is the best ice cream in the world, Mr. Speaker, by the way. Their motto is simple about their ice cream: We eat all we can and we sell the rest.

Well, that should be the American motto for our natural gas: use all we can, then sell the rest throughout the world. And yes, there are a lot of buyers who want to buy American energy, natural gas.

When I was in India, I talked to the Prime Minister, and all the Prime Minister wanted to talk about was getting natural gas from the United States to India. Mr. Speaker, there are a billion

more people in India than there are in the United States. They can take it all. They will buy it all if we will just make it happen.

When I was in the Ukraine, right before the Russians invaded the place, that is all that the Ukrainians wanted to talk about: getting natural gas from the United States, mainly from Texas, to offset being held hostage by the Russians where they get gas from. You know, the Russians turn off the gas in the Ukraine when they don't like the politics in Ukraine.

Give them an alternative. Give them a free market alternative. Sell them American natural gas. The same with other Eastern European countries. Same with Western Europe. Give them an alternative to Russia. It is not only an energy independence thing for those countries, but it takes them politically away from the stranglehold of Russia. That is one thing we can do to offset Russian aggression: sell American natural gas throughout the world.

Then why aren't we doing it?

Well, we are, but it is slow. It is very slow. It takes forever to get the Department of Energy now to grant those permits.

Here is the way it works. Since we are now permitting to sell natural gas or exporting that product, it not only takes FERC to have a permit, but then the company has to get the Department of Energy to permit them as well, and it takes too long. So we don't get to sell the gas, and we lose out on that opportunity to competitors throughout the world who will sell their natural gas, who don't have to deal with the Department of Energy.

We need to expedite that, expedite the sale of natural gas. That helps the United States with jobs, as the gentleman from South Carolina has said. It helps us with American jobs. But it also makes us energy-independent.

We can make, Mr. Speaker, the Middle East irrelevant, not just their energy and all the turmoil. We can make them politically irrelevant because we can take care of ourselves, not only exporting natural gas but, of course, exporting what we call Texas sweet crude, or light crude, throughout the world. That is what we should do.

We should export. We should be willing to use all we can and then sell the rest. We should adopt the motto of the best ice cream company in the world.

A couple of other matters, if I may. The Keystone pipeline: How ridiculous is it that we haven't started building it? You have got to get that crude oil to market some way. What do you want to do, put it on ships? We have already found out that is not such a good idea.

How about railcars? Well, I think we have had some problems with railcar transportation of crude oil.

You want to use thousands and thousands of trucks to move that crude oil around? That is kind of dangerous too.

The safest way to move crude oil is through a pipeline. There are thou-

sands of miles of pipeline. The XL pipeline, why it hasn't been done is because of political reasons, not because there is common sense involved in it. We ought to get through the politics and build the Keystone pipeline.

It comes from Canada down to southeast Texas to where the refineries are. My former district, Mr. WEBER now represents that area where they are waiting.

How much crude oil are we talking about? We are talking about as much crude oil, Mr. Speaker, as we get from Saudi Arabia. Now we are talking about a lot of crude oil.

Once again, make America energy-independent but energy-secure, and it is a national security issue as well. It is just sense. It is common sense. It also brings in revenue to America, to the American people to be able to sell throughout the world natural gas and crude oil.

I want to thank the gentleman for the time.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I thank the gentleman from Texas. He has been a leader as long as I have known him on energy issues, representing Houston. I have been to Houston. I have seen the activity around the oil and gas industry, and I can tell you there are some States that want a little piece of that. South Carolina is one of those.

You are exactly right on the LNG terminals. Ukraine, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, they are all reliant on Russian gas now and they are concerned about the posturing of Russia, and they are concerned about whether that spigot might be turned off, that pipeline might be interrupted that supplies the much-needed energy that they enjoy currently.

They are looking west. They are looking to the United States. How about exporting your natural gas? You have got a ton of it. How about giving us some of it? We will buy it. We will pay you for it.

India, as the gentleman said. It is a geopolitical advantage that the United States has.

I was mentioning earlier about the areas that are opened up for development, and I wanted to show America this. I know it is small, but you can see the orange. That is right around South America. All that area in orange is open for energy development.

But look at North America. There is a lot of blue water. There are a lot of areas outside of the Gulf of Mexico, outside of the area off of Alaska, that are not available to energy production. They should be and they could be.

We have got a letter, a Dear Colleague letter, that we are sending to Secretary Jewell, saying, Look, we need a new 5-year plan for leasing the Outer Continental Shelf area. We want to see certain areas like the mid- and South Atlantic included in that area, want to continue opening up more and more of the gulf.

But we would love to see the areas that are reflected in blue and not open on the map I just showed. Countries like Canada and Mexico and China, they are ramping up their efforts to develop their offshore resources and will be directly competing with the United States.

It is past time, America, that we develop the resources that we have been blessed with here in this country.

This letter, I am a leader on it. I am asking my colleagues, I am asking Americans to contact your Congressman and say, how about get on that letter to Secretary Jewell that Congressman DUNCAN has got, and let's encourage her to open up more areas that might be available in the next 5-year plan.

Five years out, let's open up more areas for energy production. Let's have lease sales. Let's allow exploration.

I know the next gentleman from Virginia, he gets it as well because I have dealt with Virginia for a long time. Senator Frank Wagner, from over near Norfolk, I met early on in my delving into the whole energy spectrum and arena.

I went offshore on the Gulf of Mexico with the Senator, and he taught me about what Virginia was doing. They were leading with an energy plan for the State of Virginia. They were leading with looking toward the offshore areas.

I know the gentleman that represents that area in the United States Congress, Mr. RIGELL, fully understands that. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. RIGELL. I thank my friend for his leadership in this critical area, and for having us out here tonight to talk about the tremendous opportunity to really shape the direction of our country in such a positive way by responsibly opening up our coastal regions for energy exploration.

The potential is great in job creation. 25,000 local jobs in the Hampton Roads area—that is southeast Virginia, jobs that would be going to some of those who need so desperately to have job opportunities, for our veterans who are coming out of our military right there in Norfolk and in Virginia Beach and other areas of our district.

Let me frame this discussion, Mr. Speaker, with this quote. It was said in this very Chamber. "This country needs an all-out, all-of-the-above strategy that develops every available source of American energy."

Mr. Speaker, that was shared by President Obama in 2012. So, in words and in speeches, it surely looks like there is common ground. Now, there is a disconnect in what the President's been saying and what the truth is and what reality is. We will get to that in just a moment.

But let's look for a moment at the tremendous opportunity that coastal Virginia energy represents and really, across the country, if we open up our shore lines in a responsible, environmentally responsible, way to improve

the lives of Americans, to set our country on a far better fiscal path that gives us the revenues we need to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid and Social Security, and our national security as well.

I am an entrepreneur in a season of public service, and I have had these incredible opportunities to look so many in the eye and say, you are hired. And I have also known the great joy, myself, of being on the other end of that and having somebody say to me that I have been hired, and I go home and say, I got the job. We want to hear that more and more in our country.

These are the kind of jobs we need in America. They are high-paying jobs. They are skilled jobs. They are tradesman jobs, jobs that we need in our country.

□ 2115

I have seen it firsthand, Mr. Speaker. I led a bipartisan delegation to go down to Port Fourchon in Louisiana. They are so proud of their economy. They are proud that their young people are having opportunities. It is just a bustling place. I think of it as booming and growing and optimism.

They are also proud of their schools and their roads and their bridges. Why? Because they have got the revenue that they need—this is how they are generating their revenue, through growth.

They are also, Mr. Speaker, so proud of their environment. They are so proud of the fisheries that they have there and the gulf waters that are such a part of their lives and have been for generations.

Some would present it to us as we are faced with this choice: either you are for the environment or you are for job creation and coastal energy.

Look, I reject the premise, Mr. Speaker. It is a false premise. We have a moral obligation to leave our children with clean air and clean water and clean soil. This is common ground, and we also have an obligation. Indeed, I think it is a moral one, to have a strong economy and to leave our children free from a heavy burden of debt, and energy really represents, I think, the principle way that we can grow our economy.

There are some, as I mentioned earlier, who present this false argument about either we protect the environment or we grow jobs through coastal energy. We need to really wrestle with these issues of safety, and I am ready for the debate, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the debate.

As I mentioned, I have been to Port Fourchon, and that was really the epicenter of the Macondo challenge that we faced there, so much of what we have learned from that has been integrated into the safety policies that we have.

We can open up the coast and also create jobs, like they are doing in Norway, like they are doing in Canada. It is not this either-or proposition.

So what we have to do is we have to make the words that were spoken by

the President—to go beyond a talking point, and to make it a reality, and I thank my friend from South Carolina for his leadership on this issue. I am with you on that letter, and I appreciate your leadership.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for getting on the letters, the right letter to include that area.

Energy production in the United States means lower energy costs for Americans. It is as simple as that. Energy independence through production here at home in our own backyards keeps Americans safe from the turmoil around the world.

The U.S. Atlantic and the entire OCS is a missed opportunity, but it is not an opportunity we are going to continue missing. It is an opportunity we are going to continue to propose, we are going to continue to support, because when Americans are free to dream and innovate, they will always find a cheaper, safer, cleaner, and more efficient way to produce energy and use energy. We need to make it happen.

I will now ask my colleague from Oklahoma—who I believe will be the next Senator from Oklahoma and will take a tremendous amount of experience over to the United States Senate, where I know he will talk about what is going on in Oklahoma now and what has gone on in Oklahoma in the past because he has educated me.

They have been fracturing down in Oklahoma for about 50 years. I remember the comments he made to us on the floor one day, right here in a HEAT Leadership Hour. He said: come to Oklahoma, and drink our water.

So I will now yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD).

Mr. LANKFORD. I thank the gentleman from South Carolina, and the invitation still stands. Come to Oklahoma. We have been fracking since 1948, and I would encourage folks to come drink our water, see the beautiful land, breathe our beautiful air, and understand that you can do this.

Oklahoma is one of the places where we do all-of-the-above energy. We have solar. We have wind. We have coal. We have oil and gas. We understand all-of-the-above energy, and we understand all that can work together.

For viewers that are on C-SPAN and the lights in this room, we understand that energy drives our economy. We don't interact with anything in our economy, whether it is food, whether it is transportation, whether it is home heating, whatever it may be and however we operate, it operates because of energy.

If at some point this administration's policies are fully implemented, we will watch the price of energy, the price of food, the price of everything we do in America go up, simply because of preferences, not because of reality.

We can do this in an environmentally friendly way and also build a strong economy. If you want to come to Oklahoma, unemployment right now in

Oklahoma is 4.5 percent. We are one of the top energy producers in the country.

If you want to go to North Dakota, the unemployment rate is 2.7 percent. In fact, technically, they have a negative unemployment rate. They actually have more job listings than they have unemployment there. Why? Because they are finding a way to be able to tap American energy to produce an American economy that can grow and thrive, and in those places where energy is thriving, the economy is also thriving.

Just look at one simple statistic here: from 2007 to 2012, private sector employment increased by 1 percent or about 1 million jobs. In oil and gas, however, they added 162,000 of those jobs and had an increase of 40 percent in employment. Just in that one sector, there was a 40 percent increase in employment.

What affect does that have on us? Obviously, that is Americans that have jobs, those are families that are taken care of, but it is also our trade deficit.

From 2012 to 2013, just in Saudi Arabia, our trade deficit declined 13 percent. That is oil and gas produced here in the United States, offsetting what we are purchasing from the Middle East. The positive effects of that are overwhelming, and we understand it full well.

We understand that, in the 1990s, our economy had a huge boom from the Web. The Internet and the expansion of the Internet created incredible entrepreneurial opportunities and an incredible expansion of our economy.

That boom in the economy right now is solely around energy, and the energy development that is happening and the revolution that is happening and the opportunity for people to be able to get good-paying jobs is happening strongly in one sector in our economy, energy.

Let's not blow it. Let's expand it. In the days ahead, we should be able to export oil and gas. That should be a prime something that we do.

You can send grain all around the world, just like you can send flour, but right now, you can't send oil all around the world. You can only send gasoline or diesel. You have to literally refine the oil before you can send it out.

Well, let's fix that. If you send grain, you should be able to send flour as well. If you can send timber, you should be able to also send lumber. It makes basic sense that you can send oil as well as you can send gasoline out.

This would help our economy. It would also reduce the price of oil globally. That price would drop because of the competition in the United States, estimated to be about 8 cents per gallon for a gallon of gas, if we get on the world market and start pushing back to bring the price down.

The same thing happens in liquefied natural gas, in natural gas. We are talking about the production, just to allow the enhanced production and ex-

port of oil and natural gas, around 1 million additional jobs in our economy.

Now, in a Nation that is looking for jobs, we literally have the jobs under our feet, and it is time we stand up and provide the opportunity to be able to explore for additional oil and gas, continue to expand our use of coal, to be able to export that worldwide and allow the United States to be the economic leader and the energy leader that she should be.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for sharing that. He is exactly right.

It is simple. It is supply and demand. That is simple economics. Let's put American oil and natural gas out there on the world market, and I believe you will see the spigot turned on by others that don't want to see us become energy independent, and I think you will see the price down go.

You know, I will get criticized because I want to allow seismic to happen off the Atlantic coast in the OCS areas, and they will say: oh, you are going to hurt the marine mammals, the dolphins and whales and other things.

Well, the environmental impact statement came out. There is good mitigation in there that industry can live with to mitigate any damage. If the whales are migrating north, they could stop those activities, but even with that, there hasn't been a single proven instance.

Now, we have been doing seismic all over the Gulf of Mexico, off the coast of Africa, in the Mediterranean, in the Red Sea, in the Persian Gulf. All over the world, they have been doing seismic work and not a single proven instance where seismic testing has caused permanent deafness or any other injury to a marine mammal, not a single one, but yet that is the criticism that we will take for wanting to actually look down on the Earth and see if there are recoverable resources.

I will tell you where there are recoverable resources, and that is in the great State of Wyoming, where they get energy—about \$1 billion of revenue back to the State of Wyoming through revenue sharing, through the development of their natural resources and those oil and gas and coal deposits they have, and the single Member representing the State of Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS), I am sure can talk about that.

Mrs. LUMMIS. I thank the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina for gathering us to talk about American energy.

I want to talk about it from a couple of perspectives. My State of Wyoming had the first national park in the Nation, Yellowstone National Park; the first national forest, the Shoshone National Forest; the first national monument, the Devils Tower. We have an abundance of beautiful scenery and natural resources. We have the smallest population in the Nation. Our State is pristine.

What you may not have known is that Texas' production of energy is here. Wyoming's is here, and the next State catching up on us is far behind those two States. We know how to produce energy responsibly.

Mr. Speaker, I am here tonight because I want to talk about the people that are affected by the price of energy. I want to talk about a woman I met at a gas pump.

She pulled up in a very old car. She had a little baby in her back seat that she was taking to the sitter's before she went to her job, earning minimum wage, at a convenience store. Her husband, a young man, was also working at a very lower middle-income job. They were trying to make ends meet.

She only put \$5 worth of gas in her car. I asked her why. She said: well, I can only afford enough gas to get me to work after I drop my child off, and while I am at work, I will get enough money to put a little more gas and pick my child up.

That is how a lot of Americans are living. That is how a lot of our seniors are living. They are living on an amount of money that squeezes them every time the price of gasoline goes up, the price of electricity goes up, the price of heat goes up, the price of air conditioning goes up.

That is the price of energy to the American consumer. Those are the people we need to be looking out for. Those are the people who need abundant, affordable, reliable electricity, gasoline, diesel fuel, heating oil, and other resources like natural gas, so they can be warm and protected from the cold, so they can be cool and protected from the heat, so they can get to work and the grocery store and to their doctors.

This is the American story, and it is American jobs that pay American taxes that can help those people make ends meet, that can help fund our social safety net.

We need Americans to work. We need American energy to put Americans to work. If it wasn't for the energy economy, there would be no economic recovery at all in this country. I know that it is a rather anemic recovery. It would be zero recovery without the energy industry.

The importance cannot be overstated of energy in our economy. The importance of energy in our daily lives cannot be overstated.

I want to thank the gentleman who recognizes that we can have a clean environment and we can have affordable, abundant energy, so our quality of life in America is proudly second to none.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I thank the gentlewoman from Wyoming. She does a fabulous job.

That is one of the things I enjoy about serving in the United States Congress, is meeting the congressmen from all of the other States that can educate me and can educate America about what is going on in their States—what is going on in their

States to help meet Americans' energy needs, to help us truly become energy independent, to do all of the things that we have talked about here this evening.

You know, people back home may say: What have y'all done in Congress? What have you done in the House to address these issues?

We have sent numerous bills over to the Senate, where they languish in HARRY REID's office. The majority leader fails to bring the bills that the House has passed—even if you differ with the elements in those bills, bring them up. Bring them into a committee hearing, and let's have a markup.

Let's change those bills and pass whatever meets your desires for American energy independence or a lack thereof in the Senate. How about change the bills and send them back? We will go to conference, and we will work something out.

Instead, we have got a logjam. All these bills are right behind the dam, and then we could unleash all that power behind the dam by unleashing the American energy independence potential that you have heard talked about here tonight.

We just recently passed an offshore energy jobs bill, Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act, to open up these areas.

I want to commend Chairman Doc HASTINGS for his work on the Natural Resources Committee to really open up those Federal areas where we talk about those resources. I would like to give a moment of praise to my Senator TIM SCOTT who has got the SEA Jobs Act that would address a lot of the all-of-the-above energy issues that I have got in the EXPAND Act, to expand Americans' opportunities to pursue their resources and become energy independent, and it provides resources back to the State and revenue sharing and jobs. It works, America.

Energy is a segue to job creation, and that is what we are here to talk about tonight, putting Americans to work, meeting our energy needs, using those geopolitical levers that we may have to influence politics around the world, to help our friends and allies in Ukraine and in Europe that need America's energy resources, that want America's energy resources.

□ 2130

So as we wind down our time here tonight, energy production in the United States means lower energy costs for Americans.

I started out with a very simple question: Americans, how much more is your regular travel costing you? How much more does it cost you to drive from your home to work and back, from your home to school and back, from your home to church and back, and how much less do you have in your wallet at the end of the day because of the amount of money it has taken you to meet the energy needs of just transportation and electricity costs because of EP regulations?

You heard the gentlewoman from Wyoming talk about it and others. We could do something about it. We could solve it here today by meeting our energy needs with energy production. That is why the House energy action team is leading on this issue.

I appreciate the other colleagues being here tonight, and with that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE CRISIS AT OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized until 10 p.m.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friend from South Carolina. He understands what is at stake here. I would like to ask him a question if he has got time to answer one question, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to ask my friend from South Carolina what it would mean to the people of South Carolina if we could get back to \$2 a gallon gasoline or less.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I thought the gentleman from Texas wanted to talk about energy because I have had the conversation with the gentleman from Texas. I understand it is a passion of his.

Mr. GOHMERT. It is.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. But I know the issue you are going to talk about tonight, and that is on that southern border. I know that is on that gentleman's mind because that southern border is porous, and we have no idea, America, who is coming in our country. You are only seeing the 1 to 2 percent of the folks that have actually violated our national sovereignty by crossing our border illegally, and that is the children. But the other 98 percent of the people are not children, and they are not all Hispanics. Some are African and some are Middle Eastern.

I just got a notice a little while ago from RANDY WEBER from Texas. He showed me on his phone. He was with the Border Patrol this weekend, and they caught someone from Asia who couldn't speak Spanish and couldn't speak American. What is he coming for? Is he coming because there is violence in Guatemala or Honduras? I don't think so. What is he coming to this country for?

I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for his leadership on focusing on this border. Let's keep America secure. Let's secure our border. God bless Texas and Governor Rick Perry for putting the National Guard down there and taking matters into his own hands, because the guy at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue has failed America and failed us in securing our border.

So I want to thank the gentleman for his time, and I want to encourage him to keep pounding that rock because you crack a rock—a big rock—by hit-

ting it in the same spot over and over and over. Eventually, it will crack. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank my friend from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN), and I do appreciate the hour spent on talking about energy, because if you hit a big rock in the right way, you just might get oil or gas out of it, and it would bring the price down in no time.

I do wish to talk about our southern border, but I was inspired by my friend, Mr. DUNCAN, and it brought back a history lesson from east Texas where I live.

In 1930, a man named Dad Joiner—"Dad" was not his given name. His parents didn't give it to him. But, anyway, that is what he went by, Dad Joiner. He just knew there had to be oil in east Texas. He tried and he tried and he tried. He ran out of money. He had no more money, and he had the men. He could drill one more well. He thought he knew geology. He thought he had figured out there had to be an east Texas oilfield, and since he knew he could only drill one more time, Dad Joiner set his sights on the one place there had to be oil because he knew if he didn't strike it there—he was broke—he probably would never have another chance to do anything and be broke rest of his life.

This big old rig was on wooden skids, and they were dragging it toward the spot where he knew there had to be oil. The people in my district there in east Texas, they are praying people. They were praying people back in the 1920s and the 1930s. The Depression had just begun, and here you had Dad Joiner just sure there had to be oil.

Well, one of the skids broke. He didn't have money to fix it. He knew he couldn't get to the perfect spot there had to be oil for his last attempt, so he didn't have any choice. He had to drill where the rig broke, where the skid broke, broke down, so he drilled there and he struck oil. He found the East Texas Oil Field that, until North Dakota and west Texas got so productive, for a while during World War I, it was the largest known oilfield in the world, and then the second largest for a long time after that. But it turned out if he had gotten to that spot he thought there was sure oil, he would have missed it, would have missed the big East Texas Oil Field. It would have been American tanks and vehicles running out of gasoline in Europe during the Battle of the Bulge instead of German. But we had gasoline, and we had the oil we needed because east Texas was producing.

But if that skid hadn't broken where it did, none of that would have happened. And so as it turned out, all through the 1930s, when people were looking for jobs, many people were told, well, they found oil down in east Texas. There have got to be jobs there.

People flooded down to east Texas, and they got jobs. They didn't go to the government. They didn't look for government to dictate what to do in their