

taken itself off the shelf in terms of the ability to produce energy. Again, Joe Biden is the one who canceled all these sales. Joe Biden is the one who, as a candidate, said there will be no drilling. Cartels love this policy because they know now they control the supply.

America is producing oil today based on permits and actions that were taken years ago. What we are seeing today is an inability to continue developing these leases, which means ultimately they will dry up, as all of those leases do. That is why you are always exploring for the next round of finds.

Those next rounds of finds are not being explored for in America, they are being explored for in other countries, but it is countries that are cartels, countries that are monopolies, so they can control the price.

It is interesting that the gentleman brought up the last time we saw these kinds of prices was in the 1970s under a similar Democrat President who had the same kind of attitude toward American energy. It made our country dependent on foreign energy and it created lines at the pump where people had to wait days to get gasoline.

When you saw President Trump opening up American energy and allowing a free market to produce energy—we don't put those constraints in place when we are operating under a free market, so the cartels have no leverage, Putin has no leverage. The only reason he has leverage is if you have a President like Joe Biden who says we are not going to produce in America.

He said it. He took the actions to follow up on it, including just a few days ago. Amidst high gas prices, he actually took more American energy off the market, giving the cartels more monopoly power to raise prices. I wish we would address that. We have a bill to address that and reverse those bad policies. Unfortunately, I haven't heard the gentleman commit to bringing those to the floor yet.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1300

So I wish my friend would address that. We have a bill to address that and reverse those bad policies. Unfortunately, I haven't heard the gentleman bring it to the floor yet.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. It is unfortunate that at a time of war that we spend all our time blaming our own President.

It is unfortunate that when the Europeans put themselves over the objections of numerous administrations in a place where they had dependence on Russia, Russia has no leverage over us. We don't need Russia for energy. As a matter of fact, we voted overwhelmingly to stop buying any petroleum products from Russia which I supported strongly. On this side of the aisle and on the other side of the aisle we supported that strongly.

The fact of the matter is the gentleman refuses to recognize 80 million acres—now, it was overturned by the courts later—80 million acres. He says all these people want to produce it and they want to look to new places, and they want to find oil someplace. There was a 2 percent of response.

Mr. Speaker, 1.7 million acres out of 80 million acres were bid on. That doesn't sound to me like a stampede to find it.

But let me tell you what he doesn't tell the American people, Mr. Speaker, when he is making that presentation. And you would think the Biden administration has clamped things down. The Biden administration approved more drilling permits in 2021 than the Trump administration approved in the first 3 years they were in office. Let me say that again: The Biden administration approved more permits in the first year of their term than the Trump administration did in the first 3 years of their term.

So when he says: Oh, the Biden administration is shutting it down and that is why we are having the problem; we are having the problem because Russia—the second, third producer of petroleum products in the world—is an irresponsible dictatorship run by one man, essentially, who wants to use petroleum products as leverage. And he had leverage on the Europeans, and he had leverage certainly on the Ukrainians. They used energy as a bludgeon.

In addition to that, the oil companies were making huge profits as these prices kept going up. So they didn't go out and do a lot of drilling. They didn't bid on a lot of new opportunities that maybe they could have produced oil on. They didn't bother.

Why?

Because they were making so much money. Now, that is a business judgment. But the effect of not doing it meant that as demand went up and less of a supply, not just from their actions but from the actions of the Saudis, others, and the cartel, again, three times as many permits were authorized in the first year of the Biden administration than 3 years in the Trump administration.

So don't tell me about Donald Trump and the free market. The free market is one reason why this is happening. I am for the free market because sound business judgments work: we are making a lot of money, with that money we are going to buy back stocks; it will make the remaining stocks more valuable; we are going to pay good dividends; our stock value is going to go up, and everybody is happy—except the consumer, of course, because supply on the world markets—and it is a world market price, it is not Biden's price, it is the world market price—have gone up because demand is up and supply is down.

So I don't know how the gentleman rationalizes his comments about Biden constricting petroleum production when the permits issued are three

times—or said a different way—in 1 year three times the number of permits that Mr. Trump issued in the first 3 years of his term. I wish we would get off this and really focus on the enemy. I know there is a lot of politics here, but we are at war. We need to produce energy.

As I told my friend, Cove Point is now sending 80 percent, reversing Asia supply to European supply because they need it because we are at war. And we are up in almost every category of production of petroleum products. So we can go on and on and on about this. Rig counts that are producing oil are up 57 percent—57 percent from a year ago—a 57 percent increase in operating rigs. It doesn't sound to me like Biden is shutting people down.

Biden does want a clean environment. Biden does want us to look at alternative energy. That is what he was talking about in the campaign that he wanted to look to that. But President Biden has made it very clear he understands in the short term—short term could be 25 years or 5 years—in the short term, particularly during the course of this war, we need to have all the petroleum products, and we need to have them for ourselves and for our allies.

Mr. SCALISE. We will continue this discussion. I would like to see us bring up the bill that would actually address it. We will see this debate go on next week and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### CELEBRATING MOTHER NATURE'S GIFTS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as spring moves into full bloom, new life is bursting forth along the southern-most shore of the Great Lakes along Lake Erie. Over 100,000 nature tourists are flocking to the Ottawa and Cedar Point Federal Wildlife Refuges adjacent to Magee Marsh and Maumee Bay State Park. Nearby freshwaters hum with new life: pickerel, perch, and even salmon.

This week our region is celebrating the 30th anniversary of what has grown into the biggest week in American birding. Over 100,000 visitors head to our northern Ohio heartland region for fishing, boating, hiking, and, yes, bird watching to fully welcome and celebrate the vast array of two-winged creatures that fly and thrive along our freshwater coast and wetlands: bald eagles, egrets, trumpeter swans, blue herons, indeed, every species one might imagine.

This splendid, colorful display by nature occurs at the crossroads of the Mississippi and Atlantic flyways. Nearby the Great Lakes Black Swamp Bird Observatory is raising funds to build a new welcome and education center to

introduce youth from across our world to Mother Nature's power and the beauty and value of our environment.

Nature tourism is not only healthy, it gives an over \$40 million economic boost to our region just during May. Northern Ohio welcomes guests from around the world as we celebrate the gifts that we have been given to shepherd to generations to come. Congratulations to all who responsibly steward our region forward and our precious corner of Mother Earth.

#### AO DAI DAY

(Mrs. STEEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ao Dai Day this Sunday, May 15. I am proud to represent nearly 200,000 Vietnamese Americans in my district in California.

My district is a home to Little Saigon which has the largest Vietnamese population outside of Vietnam. Many of these men and women fled communism in Vietnam in search of freedom here in America. They have worked hard to build their American Dream.

The Ao Dai, which I am wearing today, is a traditional dress that represents the adaptability and strength of the Vietnamese people. It is a symbol of beauty and pride in Vietnam's unique and wonderful culture.

Last year, the State of California officially approved a resolution to recognize May 15 as Ao Dai Day. I join them in celebrating this special day and the many Vietnamese families in my district who are proud to call our great country home.

#### NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrated National Teacher Appreciation Week earlier this month, I rise to recognize the hard work of teachers across northwest Indiana. From the time our children take their first steps into a classroom, teachers empower them with knowledge and support and serve as inspiring role models.

As a parent, I am grateful for their devotion to their students, for offering stability in an uncertain time, and for their determination to ensure that students can thrive in a safe and productive environment.

I personally thank all the teachers who helped shape me into the person I am today.

I thank Mr. Janich, may he rest in peace, for being an inspiration; Mr. Woodward, my government teacher, Mrs. Bliss; and Mrs. Marciniak. All of these teachers inspired me to be a better person.

I also thank my sister, Francis Majchrowicz, who is a teacher molding

young minds and making sure that students are taken care of.

Good educators create engaged citizens, and I appreciate the lessons and work ethic they helped to instill in me every day.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking all of the impactful teachers in northwest Indiana and throughout our Nation as we continue to recognize National Teacher Appreciation Week.

#### WORSENING CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, as we break for the weekend, I remind the other Members of this body that when we come back, there is no greater crisis this country faces than the crisis at the border.

I leave Members with just a few numbers that we want to turn around quickly: first of all, the number of people coming here who are not appropriately vetted who are sometimes referred to as illegal aliens; two Marches ago there were 11,000; one March ago 63,000; and the most recent March Border Patrol puts at 150,000.

Think of that: in 2 years from 11,000, 63,000, 153,000 per month. And the Cabinet Secretary in charge of this says that he inherited a mess. He inherited great laws including the Migrant Protection Protocol, and now we have a true mess.

The second number: 110 deaths in the past year in this country from fentanyl, a horrific drug, almost all of which comes across the southern border. By comparison, 57,000 Americans died in the Vietnam war. Twice as many people die every year in this country from illegal drug overdoses as died in 12 years in the Vietnam war.

I sincerely hope this body will deal with the southern border and make it a priority when we come back.

#### ABORTION ACCESS

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, this week 51 Senators voted to allow the Supreme Court to strip women of their fundamental right to abortion healthcare. If Roe v. Wade is overturned, abortion access will be left in the hands of State legislatures dead set on turning the clock backward 50 years.

We have already seen what Republicans are capable of when it comes to women's personal liberties, and now I fear women in my home State of North Carolina could face a similar fate. All that stands between us, and an egregious abortion ban is Governor Roy Cooper and enough of his allies in the legislature.

Despite this threat, I am still hopeful because I believe that the women of North Carolina will make their voices

heard. We are ready to fight for our freedom and liberty. Women deserve to have their decisions protected and respected.

#### HONORING BILL JONES OF PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

(Mr. COMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my very dear friend, Bill Jones, of Paducah, Kentucky, upon his retirement from U.S. Bank. Over his 37 years with U.S. Bank, Bill took on numerous leadership posts with the company and thrived in each role.

His time in the financial business totaled 45 years and spanned significant changes in industry operations. As a leader, he was frequently forced to adjust to modern trends to ensure customer needs were met. And time and time again he has passed that leadership test with flying colors.

In addition to his work in the banking industry, he has also served his community in the Commonwealth of Kentucky on numerous boards, including Kentucky Educational Television, Mercy Health Hospital, and other commissions geared toward economic development.

As someone who has spent a lot of time in the banking industry myself, I know that the industry is better off thanks to Bill's contributions and leadership.

Bill Jones is a west Kentucky legend. On behalf of all the residents of the First Congressional District of Kentucky, I wish Bill Jones a very happy retirement.

□ 1315

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE SERGEANT AT ARMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JONES) laid before the House the following communication from the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 9, 2022.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, following consultation with the Office of Attending Physician, I write to provide you further notification that the public health emergency due to the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 remains in effect.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. WALKER,  
Sergeant at Arms.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the extension, pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 8,