

person won a national title that should have gone to a female athlete.

Instead of denouncing this farcical nonsense, ESPN decided to celebrate it. It is a sad day for women's sports when our Nation's premier sports broadcaster chooses to celebrate biological males competing in women's sports.

The evidence is overwhelming that males have competitive athletic advantage over females. It, therefore, makes zero sense to allow men to compete in women's sports.

Do you call this progress? Certainly not for women athletes.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, every day across America, millions of seniors take their medicines on an empty stomach. They are hungry, on a fixed income, can't drive—and their fridges, pocketbooks, and wallets are empty.

If they are lucky, they have people like Janice Pierce and Maggie Woodward in their corner.

Last week, I joined Janice and Maggie to deliver meals to seniors in Oakham, Massachusetts. They are one of thousands of Meals on Wheels chapters in America.

Experts tell us that seniors who are hungry are more likely to get sick and be admitted to the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, programs like Meals on Wheels aren't nice; they are a necessity. While they do good work, America's seniors shouldn't have to get lucky. Their health outcomes shouldn't be determined by whether heroes like Janice and Maggie live around the corner.

Congress needs to strengthen, not cut, programs like Meals on Wheels, as some of my Republican friends are proposing.

In the richest country in the history of the world, our seniors deserve no less.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Kaitlyn Roberts, one of his secretaries.

HONORING THE HEROES OF WEST READING, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, last week, tragedy struck my community when an explosion rocked the R.M. Palmer chocolate factory in West Reading, claiming the lives of seven people and injuring many others.

Most people know Palmer chocolate for their Easter bunnies and other holi-

day treats, but we know them as an important part of our community.

Since the tragedy, our first responders have been heroes.

Our neighbors, nonprofits, and local businesses have set up programs to help and, in some cases, literally have given the shirts off their backs for those who were impacted.

Similarly, and also not surprisingly in our community, government leaders at the local, State, and Federal levels are also on the ground, collaborating together to support our community and recovery.

I speak today full of grief for the families and friends of those whom we have lost, and I speak today full of gratitude for the strength and dedication of so many in our community who are doing so much.

We see you, and we honor you. We are very proud to stand with you.

SUPPORT LOWER ENERGY COSTS

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, Americans have been hit hard by the high fuel prices caused by the Biden administration's anti-energy policies.

Today, Virginia families are paying \$3.30 a gallon at the pump for regular gasoline, over a dollar more than when President Biden took office. That is why we are bringing to the floor H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act. This legislation will reduce costs by increasing domestic energy production, cutting burdensome red tape, and reforming the permitting process.

Folks, it is evident that Joe Biden has waged war on America's energy independence. That war ends today.

House Republicans are working to put America back in the driver's seat of energy production by voting for the Lower Energy Costs Act so families can keep more of their hard-earned paychecks.

I urge every one of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

COMMEMORATING VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, March 29, to commemorate Vietnam War Veterans Day and honor those who served in this conflict.

We acknowledge and deeply appreciate the sacrifices made by our brave soldiers, their families, and the communities that supported them.

We also need to make sure that we honor our POW-MIA Gold Star families who lost their loved ones or still endure the uncertainty of their fate during the war.

In addition to representing a large community of Vietnam vets, I have the

distinct honor of having a Gold Star daughter, Maureen Hickman Caporaso, serve in my office. Her father, United States Air Force Captain Vincent J. Hickman, is one of the 1,553 service-members still unaccounted for to this day.

We must never forget the sacrifices of these families, and we must do everything in our power to continue searching and bring closure to those who still wait for their loved ones to return.

Why keep searching after all these years? Because you never leave a fallen American behind.

To the veterans of the Vietnam war, we offer a long-overdue welcome home. We honor your courage and your commitment to our country, and we thank you for your unwavering dedication to defending our freedom.

Today, let us recognize the immense sacrifices made by our servicemembers, their families, and the entire Nation during the Vietnam war.

□ 1215

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BENEVOLENT PROTECTIVE ORDER OF REINDEER

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Benevolent Protective Order of Reindeer.

This organization is one of New Jersey's oldest African-American fraternal organizations. It was founded in 1923 in response to the prejudice in other animal lodges.

Early organizations named after animals would not let African Americans become members, so the Benevolent Protective Order of Reindeer was formed and invited everyone to join.

Today, the organization's principles of service, unity, and charity are represented in its exceptional social work. In addition, it provides scholarships for worthy students and engages in community activism to fight for social justice.

The Benevolent Protective Order of Reindeer is an outstanding organization in my district, and I am proud to celebrate its 100th anniversary on the House floor today.

IN SUPPORT OF LABOR UNIONS

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, one of the best ways for workers to get the pay and benefits that they deserve and to raise their families and provide for them is to join a labor union.

Unions have helped millions of American families join the middle class, including thousands in Rhode Island. The

freedom to join a union is the most fundamental right afforded to all workers in this country.

Unfortunately, that right is constantly under attack by big companies that spend millions and millions of dollars engaging in intimidation and retaliation against those seeking to exercise their right to unionize.

What is worse is that companies are often allowed to write off the expenses for union busting from their taxes. You heard that right. All of us, the taxpayers of America, are paying for companies to intimidate workers out of joining unions.

This has to stop. That is why I am a proud cosponsor of the No Tax Breaks for Union Busting Act, led by Representative NORCROSS because enough is enough. We need to make it easier in this country for workers to join a union if they choose to do so, and we certainly should not be giving tax breaks to companies to intimidate workers out of exercising that right.

LOWER ENERGY COSTS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIFANY). Pursuant to House Resolution 260 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1.

Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) kindly take the chair.

□ 1220

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 further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1) to lower energy costs by increasing American energy production, exports, infrastructure, and critical minerals processing, by promoting transparency, accountability, permitting, and production of American resources, and by improving water quality certification and energy projects, and for other purposes, with Mr. CLOUD (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 3 hours remained in general debate.

Pursuant to House Resolution 260, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) will each control 90 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act.

My goal as the chair of Energy and Commerce Committee is to make sure Americans have access to affordable, reliable energy. This was a key promise in the House Republicans' "Commitment to America," and we are hitting

the ground running to deliver on that promise. This is just the beginning.

Energy is foundational to everything. For centuries it has driven human progress and development. It is why America has done more to lift people out of poverty and raise the standard of living than anywhere else in the world.

Today, over 3.7 billion people are living in energy poverty. That is half the world. They have a 10-year lower life expectancy, 35 percent fewer years of education, and many don't have electricity at all.

Here in the United States of America, we are blessed with the ability and the resources to continue to raise the standard of living globally and even lift people out of poverty.

Our goal today is to celebrate how our abundant energy resources have unleashed prosperity and invited people from around the world to come across the globe to America to achieve their hopes and dreams.

We have accomplished this as a leader in reducing emissions and with the highest environmental and labor standards in the world. We cannot afford to move backward with a reckless command-and-control so-called climate agenda that forces people to pay more and go without reliable electricity.

H.R. 1 prioritizes the American people over this radical climate agenda.

On his first day in office, President Biden started a war on American energy. Predictably, gas prices skyrocketed to the highest levels in American history. President Biden revoked the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline, imposed a moratorium on oil production on Federal lands, and directed agencies across the Federal Government to impose punitive and burdensome regulations.

As the American people suffered, President Biden turned to OPEC and Russia to boost supplies. In the face of Russia's aggression, President Biden looked the other way and green-lit the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, emboldening Russia to attack Ukraine. The CCP now is deepening ties with Russia and consolidating its control over more than 90 percent of the world's critical mineral supplies.

To win the future, we cannot allow our energy security to be surrendered to our adversaries. H.R. 1 sends the strong and unmistakable signal to restore American energy dominance and bolster our national security. H.R. 1 will unleash American energy, lower costs, and secure our supply chains. This package helps lift barriers to expanding our energy supplies, remove red tape for exporting and importing LNG, and build more pipelines with our North American allies and across the States.

It would repeal President Biden's burdensome natural gas tax, which will harm communities, shut down production, and raise prices across the entire economy.

H.R. 1 will encourage innovation and production of critical materials here at

home to cut China out of our energy supply chains and ensure America is leading the world in innovation and next-generation energy technologies.

We have heard a lot of talk, and Democrats are forcing a so-called transition that requires the American people to suffer through supply chains and price hikes. What Republicans are offering through H.R. 1 is a commitment to energy expansion that will deliver on lower costs and reliable and affordable energy.

The fact is, higher costs are making life unaffordable for hardworking people in this country while forcing us to be dangerously reliant on Chinese supply chains that are dirtier and use slave labor.

I think about the farmer who told us that this so-called climate agenda is raising the cost of food and making it harder for farmers to feed our families; an advocate who shared with our committee that record-high energy costs hurt low-income and minority families the most; and the mayor of Midland who told us her community is thriving because of the investment in jobs the oil and gas industry brings.

We must embrace and expand America's position as the number one energy producer in the world while continuing our leadership to reduce emissions.

People all over this Nation are counting on us for a better quality of life. With H.R. 1, we will boost energy production, lift regulatory burdens for the construction of more energy infrastructure, cut China out of our critical material supply chains, and lower costs across the board. This is how we build a more secure future for Americans.

Mr. Chair, I urge support of H.R. 1, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1. The Republicans call it the Lower Energy Costs Act. In fact, it does the opposite, and it puts polluters over people, so we call it the polluters over people act. That is justified because that is exactly what it does.

This bill is nothing more than a grab bag of Big Oil giveaways and loopholes that endanger the health, safety, and security of Americans. It does absolutely nothing to lower energy costs for American families. In fact, it will actually drive up costs while doubling down on costly fossil fuels.

Now, does the GOP really believe that Big Oil cares about Americans?

During the COVID crisis in the last 3 years, we had a hearing where we brought in some of the large oil companies. It was quite clear that they wanted to keep prices high. It was quite clear that they were benefitting from OPEC and the fact that Russia had invaded Ukraine and that oil supplies had become more limited because of that invasion of Ukraine and that as a result, prices for oil and gasoline were going up. They didn't care. They liked it.

We actually asked them at the hearing whether or not they would increase