

is our job on this committee to see that that doesn't happen for this country, and that is because we have to have enough energy.

Again, this is a Department of Energy council, made up of people in the industry, to give us a report to see where we should go in making sure that America has proper refining. It is not a report that is going to produce what we do. It is the kind of report that informs us in what we do. I know on our side of the aisle—I think on both sides of the aisle—we try to take as much information as we can to make a reasonable decision to make sure we have clean, sustainable, but ample and safe fuel for this country in order to get groceries to the grocery store, either through diesel or gasoline.

Prices matter. It hurts families when their electric bills are high and when their grocery bills are high because people have to eat and they have to have a safe and clean place to live. This is what this is about. This is what our struggle is over, and this is what we are going to accomplish as a committee.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage a “yes” vote on H.R. 3109, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 879, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Ferrari, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2741. An Act to establish within the Environmental Protection Agency the Office of Mountains, Deserts, and Plains, and for other purposes.

S. 2878. An Act to reauthorize funding to monitor, assess, and research the Great Lakes Basin, and for other purposes.

S. 3022. An Act to amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to reauthorize certain Environmental Protection Agency programs, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the request of the House of Representatives that the Senate return to the House the bill (H.R. 3426) entitled “An Act to amend title 40, United States Code, to limit the

construction of new courthouses under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.”.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 96-388, as amended by Public Law 97-84, and further amended by Public Law 106-292, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints the following Senator to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council for the 119th Congress:

The Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

UNLOCKING OUR DOMESTIC LNG POTENTIAL ACT OF 2025

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 879, I call up the bill (H.R. 1949) to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 879, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1949

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. ADVANCING UNITED STATES GLOBAL LEADERSHIP.

Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) through (c);

(2) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively;

(3) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c), and moving such subsection after subsection (b), as so redesignated;

(4) in subsection (a), as so redesignated, by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (in this subsection referred to as the ‘Commission’) shall have the exclusive authority to approve or deny an application for authorization for the siting, construction, expansion, or operation of a facility to export natural gas from the United States to a foreign country or import natural gas from a foreign country, including an LNG terminal. In determining whether to approve or deny an application under this paragraph, the Commission shall deem the exportation or importation of natural gas to be consistent with the public interest. Except as specifically provided in this Act, nothing in this Act is intended to affect otherwise applicable law related to any Federal agency’s authorities or responsibilities related to facilities to import or export natural gas, including LNG terminals.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d)(1) Nothing in this Act limits the authority of the President under the Constitution, the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), part B of title II of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6271 et seq.), the Trading With the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.), or any other provision of law that imposes sanctions on a foreign person or foreign government (including any provision of law that prohibits or restricts United States persons from engaging in a trans-

action with a sanctioned person or government), including a country that is designated as a state sponsor of terrorism, to prohibit imports or exports.

“(2) In this subsection, the term ‘state sponsor of terrorism’ means a country the government of which the Secretary of State determines has repeatedly provided support for international terrorism pursuant to—

“(A) section 1754(c)(1)(A) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4318(c)(1)(A));

“(B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

“(C) section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780); or

“(D) any other provision of law.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

□ 1350

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1949.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in February 2016, the first cargo of U.S. LNG set sail from the lower 48, making the United States a natural gas exporter for the first time since the 1960s.

Since then, exports have increased from 5 billion cubic feet per day in 2016 to nearly 12 billion cubic feet per day in 2024, making the U.S. the global leader in LNG in less than a decade.

U.S. LNG has played an undeniably important role in providing affordable, abundant, and clean energy to the world. This could not have been more evident than in 2022, when Russia invaded Ukraine, disrupting global commodity markets and leaving Europe without secure access to energy.

Immediately, for our friends in Europe, U.S. producers began sending cargoes of American gas to the Continent to fuel their economies and heat their homes, helping some of our most important global allies and friends.

However, in January 2024, the Biden-Harris administration announced an illegal and indefinite ban on new export authorizations, all in the name of vaguely stated climate change goals. Current law is clear. Requiring a statutory presumption in favor of exports are in the public interest.

Plus, the vast majority of studies show that not only do LNG exports boost our energy security but they also help maintain low domestic natural gas prices for Americans.

The Biden-Harris administration's action not only jeopardized our European allies but it threatened the faith and credibility of American companies' contracts. It emboldened Russia and other nefarious actors and created uncertainty for domestic producers of natural gas.

H.R. 1949, the Unlocking Our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2025, would ensure this catastrophic policy decision is never made again by removing DOE from the statutory authorization process.

This legislation maintains the President's authority to impose sanctions on foreign governments, prohibiting imports or exports, if justified. Free trade, open markets, and competitions have resulted in the U.S. emerging as a global energy superpower. Lifting these restrictions will help maintain this dominance at a time it is needed most.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 1949. At a meeting a couple of years ago with people at the highest levels of the German Government, they said they needed American LNG gas to rain down on them because of what was going on in Eastern Europe and Ukraine.

High natural gas prices around the world fund the Russian Army. That is how they fund their army. It is not that friends are buying from them but, as the world price goes higher, the Russian price goes higher from the people who do choose to buy from them. We are not talking about affecting those people. The President still needs to have the authority. We are talking about our friends and our allies who are dependent on us.

I worry about what we do here in our country, but also America cannot cut itself off from the rest of the world and have our friends and allies look elsewhere to other people for the natural gas they need to run their economy. They will do that if we don't step in and do this at this time.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill. This bill would allow unlimited amounts of our liquefied natural gas, or LNG, to be sent abroad to any designation in the world including to our adversaries like China.

This is all about China. The President gets up on a regular basis and says we need to export more LNG to China. My Republican colleagues say they worry about Beijing and what Beijing is doing to challenge us. Yet, they are going to allow with this bill unlimited exports to Communist China.

By sending more American LNG abroad, this bill would reduce our energy resources at home, raising our constituents' utility bills at a time when they can least afford it. It just makes common sense that if we send liquefied natural gas abroad, it is going to raise the price here because there will be less here. It is just Economics 101, in my opinion.

Americans are already being crushed by the rising cost of living. Now Republicans are making matters worse by pushing legislation that will only drive up monthly power bills even further. It is quite the departure from President Trump's campaign promise to cut American power bills in half. He said that during the course of the campaign that in the first year he would cut power bills in half. Instead, they keep climbing.

Right now, thanks to the congressional Republicans' backward energy policies, electricity prices are climbing more than twice as fast as inflation. More than 80 million Americans are struggling to pay their utility bills, with many having to make the impossible choice of either paying for medicine and food or keeping their lights on. I think it is a disgrace that, instead of offering up solutions to this affordability crisis, Republicans are here today to just make it worse.

Let's be clear, Mr. Speaker. It is a well-established fact that unlimited LNG exports would increase prices here at home. If my colleagues don't believe me, last year the Secretary of Energy noted: "Unfettered exports of LNG would increase wholesale domestic natural gas prices by over 30 percent."

Mr. Speaker, if you are a Republican who perhaps didn't trust the Democratic Department of Energy, I would certainly assume you could trust your own current Department of Energy.

Just last week, the Energy Information Administration noted that it expects natural gas prices to increase by 16 percent next year due largely to increased exports of LNG. Mr. Speaker, 16 percent is on top of the 15 percent increase in natural gas costs that Americans already suffered this year. It is all due to the LNG export approvals that President Trump made in his first term.

All this bill does is make that problem worse by ensuring there are zero restrictions on how much of our own LNG we are shipping out to other countries. The only ones who stand to benefit are fossil fuel companies, proving that Republicans care more about padding the profits of their rich fossil fuel friends than they do about lowering costs for the average American.

Mr. Speaker, I want to stress the China part again. China is one of the top recipients of American LNG, and not only the President but LNG companies are openly bragging about how they can sell to Chinese buyers. This bill completely removes any review of whether exporting more of our LNG to China is in the public interest.

The chairman said that that is a presumption that the public interest has met. I argue it is more than a presumption. There is no longer any review of the public interest. When I talk about the public interest, I am talking about price. I am talking about national security. I am talking about impact on the environment, the air, and whatever people breathe.

This bill completely removes any review of what is in the public interest before we export to China or anyone else. To me, it is the very reversal. The President talks about America First. This is putting America last in my opinion.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know what to say. We have seen this story before. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, Congress removed the ban on exporting American crude oil. I already mentioned that. Before that, we were only sending China 420,000 barrels of oil each year. We now send China more than 160 million barrels of oil a year.

Clearly, Republicans have learned nothing from that, despite constantly proclaiming the importance of beating China in the AI race and so many other things. Republicans consistently say that losing the AI race to China would be like losing the Cold War to Russia. The bill they are proposing today is like selling rocket fuel to the Soviets during the space race. It defies all logic.

Finally, I want to point out a basic fact. We have already approved enough permits to triple our LNG exports by the end of the decade, and that is on top of the more than quadrupling of LNG exports we have already seen over the last 6 years. When my colleagues on the other side talk about Europe and our allies, there is no way that at this point with the permits that have already been approved that the Europeans or any of our allies have to worry about not getting enough LNG from us.

Mr. Speaker, I think it makes sense to ask the Department of Energy to keep an eye on this to ensure that all these exports are actually a good thing and are in our public interest: For our economy, for our national security, and for the communities that we here represent.

All this bill does is get rid of all of that and say we don't care and we should export whatever we want to China or whoever else. The American people are tired of these antics. They don't have time for them. They need us to get serious about addressing the skyrocketing cost of living. Today they will see that Republicans are making it worse, while Democrats are fighting to make it better to try to reduce prices.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote "no," and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1400

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, this bill does nothing to prohibit the President, or whoever is President, from limiting LNG exports, sanctioning China, or tariffing China. There is no limit to that.

The people who are begging, I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, for our energy is Europe, who are our friends. I do know from just recently meeting with friends from Japan and Korea they want the natural gas that we have in our great State of Alaska. This is important.

The chairman of the Energy Subcommittee is a leader on this issue and has fought for reliable and sustainable energy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky, the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1949, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act, introduced by my friend and colleague from the 11th District of Texas.

This legislation will streamline regulatory approvals of LNG export facilities to meet the movement of global energy demands.

This legislation removes unnecessary and burdensome reviews at the Department of Energy for exporting U.S. LNG while maintaining the required site and environmental reviews at FERC. Increasing opportunities for exports increases overall U.S. production, putting downward pressures on prices for everyone.

The U.S. LNG industry contributed \$44 billion to the economy and supported 220,000 good-paying jobs while providing \$11 billion in taxes and royalty payments.

In response to Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine in 2022, American energy producers immediately supplied Europe and our allies with LNG. The U.S. was the number one supplier of LNG to Europe in 2023. Unfortunately, in 2024, the Biden administration took politically motivated actions to place an indefinite ban on LNG export permits to appease the climate lobby. This legislation ensures that future administrations cannot unilaterally prohibit exports of LNG for political purposes.

Nothing in this legislation limits the authority of the President to impose sanctions on foreign governments and does not affect the existing FERC authorities for reviewing facilities for environmental or safety purposes.

H.R. 1949 brings commonsense reforms to treat LNG just like other commodities such as crude oil. In the 114th Congress, I was proud to support legislation from the Energy and Commerce Committee that lifted the crude oil export ban which elevated the United States as the premier global oil producing nation.

This bill will similarly allow our vast natural resources to advance our national security interests.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I thank my friend, the chairman of the committee, for bringing forth this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), who is the ranking member of the Energy Subcommittee.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1949. It is a harmful bill that demonstrates how Republicans in Congress continue to ignore the rising cost of living and infla-

tion that is crushing American families and that they are willing to sell out American energy to our adversaries like the Chinese Community Party.

I know it wasn't even 2 weeks ago that President Trump said: I don't want to talk about affordability.

Well, we are going to talk about it, and we are going to stand up for people's pocketbooks at home.

This bill is just another example of how Republicans have not brought one single bill to the House floor that would lower energy costs for hard-working families.

Electricity bills are skyrocketing. It is getting harder and harder for people to pay their utility bills. Now Republicans and the Trump administration are making it worse. They have passed the big, ugly bill to rip away savings and rebates for cleaner, cheaper energy a few months ago and energy efficiency that keeps bills lower, all to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy and the well-connected.

Now they want to ramp up gas exports that will make life even more expensive. It wasn't even 1 year ago that the Department of Energy released its study that made it clear, continuing to approve gas exports would raise costs on U.S. households and businesses.

Don't just take it from me, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Industrial Energy Consumers of America dated November 17, 2025.

INDUSTRIAL ENERGY CONSUMERS OF AMERICA,

Washington, DC, November 17, 2025.

Re H.R. 1949 the "Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2025" is Inconsistent with President Trump's Pledge to Put America First

HON. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

HON. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Democratic Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADERS JOHNSON AND JEFFRIES: The Industrial Energy Consumers of America do not oppose LNG exports. We do oppose H.R. 1949, the "Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2025" because the bill prioritizes LNG exports over U.S. consumers by removing long standing Natural Gas Act consumer protections embedded in Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA). H.R. 1949 is inconsistent with President Trump's "America First" agenda. LNG exports are forecasted to increase 136 percent in the next five years (see Figure 1) and natural gas producers say they will struggle to meet LNG growth demand.

Prices are already increasing. The November 13, 2025 Wall Street Journal story "Natural Gas Prices Hit Highest Level Since Invasion of Ukraine" reported that natural gas prices reached their highest levels since December 2022, with December futures settling Thursday at \$4.646 per million British thermal units, up 67 percent from a year ago. For every one dollar increase in the Henry Hub natural gas price, consumers pay on average \$34 billion more for natural gas and \$20 billion more for electricity, or \$54 billion annually. One hundred percent of our member companies are from the manufacturing sector and are price sensitive.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has already approved a significant volume equal

to 48 Bcf/d for shipment to non-free trade agreement (NFTA) countries, which equals 49 percent of 2024 net supply. Why then is it in the public interest for Congress to remove consumer protections? This is not a national security issue. What is approved is far more than enough to supply our allies.

When Congress passed the NGA several years ago, it initiated an "America First" energy regulation. Congress, in their wisdom, understood that natural gas is essential to the economy and that U.S. consumers do not have an alternative, which makes them vulnerable. Section 3 of the NGA requires that exports to NFTA must not be inconsistent with the public interest. About 80 percent of U.S. LNG is shipped to NFTA countries. The public interest includes impacts to prices of natural gas and reliability. Section 3 gives DOE wide latitude to protect U.S. consumers now and in the future as larger amounts are exported.

H.R. 1949 removes Section 3 and the protection that it affords. The bill removes DOE's authority and responsibility to consider the public interest when considering approval of new LNG exports volumes to NFTA countries.

LNG exports do have the ability to impact domestic prices. U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) data proves that LNG export volumes are highest during our winter peak heating season months of November through March, which accelerates a reduction in U.S. inventory, increasing the prices of U.S. natural gas and electricity and reducing reliability. The severity of the problem increases as export capacity increases (see Figure 2).

Unlike manufacturing companies, LNG customers are countries who are insensitive to price and will pay any price to keep the lights on in their country. No matter how high U.S. prices will go, they will buy away U.S. natural gas even when our winter inventories fall and prices rise. The LNG 20-year contracts shift supply and price risk from LNG buying countries to U.S. consumers and the economy.

For all of the above reasons, we urge you to oppose H.R. 1949 and preserve consumer protections.

Sincerely,

PAUL N. CICIO,
President & CEO.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. They say this bill is inconsistent with the President's pledge to put America first, and it prioritizes gas exports over U.S. consumers by removing longstanding consumer protections. They urge everyone to oppose this bill and preserve those consumer protections.

Mr. Speaker, when you export more gas, that raises domestic gas prices, electricity prices, and the cost of manufactured goods. A vote for this bill is a vote to raise utility bills. That is particularly problematic to the neighbors back home I represent in the State of Florida. The State of Florida, the Sunshine State, you would think would be powered by the sun, Mr. Speaker, but we are 75 percent reliant on gas to generate electricity.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you are saying: Okay, Floridians, you are already being crushed by utility bills, and now Republicans are going to make it worse.

It is raising costs on all of us in more insidious ways too because we do have a climate crisis across the world. Mr. Speaker, when you are paying more to

address climate-fueled disasters caused by hurricanes, such as repairing your home, emergency response, and property insurance, then that is an additional cost.

Given that large methane and carbon dioxide emissions are emitted during fracking, pipeline transport, liquefaction, overseas shipping, and combustion, costs go up, and so do pollution and health risks, especially along the Gulf Coast.

Now, let's talk about point number two. Mr. Speaker, if higher costs in electric bills are not going to convince you to vote against this bill, then I hope that America's national security will. Republicans and the gas industry and their lobbyists want *carte blanche* to export gas to anyone, even our foreign adversaries.

Now, under current law, the U.S. Department of Energy is responsible for authorizing exports of domestically produced gas to foreign countries. In doing so, DOE makes a determination whether or not that export is consistent with the public interest. Republicans and the industry want to eliminate that important review, that even if the gas goes to the Chinese Communist Party and other foreign adversaries that is okay, there is no need to look and no need to review that. That is wrong and dangerous.

Aren't Republicans in Congress concerned that shipping American energy overseas to China to power their AI data centers and their manufacturing is a risk, an economic risk, and a military risk?

I also serve on the House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party. On that committee, we have heard over and over about the dangers of Chinese industrial dominance. They want to just kind of sweep up all natural resources across the globe for their economic and military advantage.

Why would Republicans in Congress be party to that?

Through this bill, House Republicans want to make it easier for China to import U.S. energy to power their industrial and military sectors.

Republicans have also enacted policies that wave a white flag to China on cleaner and cheaper energy, on electric vehicles, and on the next generation of energy manufacturing and technology, all evidenced by what they have done in gutting clean energy tax credits in manufacturing, in jobs, and in cost savings in their big, ugly bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STRONG). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Plus, it is hypocritical for Republicans to condemn Chinese forced labor, subsidies, and intellectual property theft on the one hand and then allow massive amounts of U.S. resources to flow to Chinese factories on the other hand.

These are not hypothetical concerns. In June, the President posted that hopefully China will be purchasing plenty of oil from the U.S.

Then, after meeting with President Xi in October, the President said that a very large-scale transaction may take place concerning the purchase of oil and gas from the great State of Alaska.

This is all too much. If these projects come online, then U.S. LNG would represent up to one-quarter of all of China's contracted LNG under the contracts that have already been entered into.

I urge my colleagues now to do the patriotic thing. Really, go ahead, and put America first for a change.

It is vitally important that energy export decisions benefit the American people, not our foreign adversaries. Exporting more LNG without guardrails does nothing to lower energy bills for hardworking families. In fact, it will make it worse, and people deserve better.

□ 1410

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, there are still protections in place so the President can sanction and not send to any adversaries. What this does is prevent a President from suspending LNG gas exports for some reason at a time when our friends in Europe are literally begging for it, and I know our friends from Japan and Korea are asking for it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER), the vice chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee and my good friend.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1949, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act, led by my friend and fellow Texan, Representative PFLUGER.

For years, America has been blessed with abundant natural gas. In Texas, we have been at the heart of it all. We are the world's number one producer of oil and natural gas and the top exporter of LNG. That didn't happen by accident. It happened because American workers, American innovators, and American energy producers were finally unleashed.

Under the previous administration, we launched an indefensible freeze on LNG export permits, a politically motivated blockade that put our economy at risk, undermined jobs, and was just simply wrong for global security.

That was wrong for Texans, wrong for America, and wrong for our allies working to wean themselves off of Russian gas.

H.R. 1949 fixes that. This bill removes outdated restrictions on natural gas imports and exports and puts decision-making authority back where it belongs—with FERC, not some bureaucrats using climate reviews or climate change as a backdoor veto.

Some of you have seen that even the Microsoft founder, Bill Gates, is now backing up on his climate claims. This is ridiculous.

This bill restores certainty for developers who have already committed more than \$70 billion—with a b—in new investments since President Trump took office.

It strengthens our hand abroad by ensuring our allies that they can rely on American energy instead of their adversaries'. Most importantly, it reinforces a simple truth: Energy security is national security.

In southeast Texas, we understand that better than anybody. We produce it. We refine it. We ship it. We keep America moving every single day.

H.R. 1949 is pro-jobs, pro-growth, pro-ally, and proudly pro-American energy. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1949 and keep America the world's energy leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ), a member of our committee.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the residents of California's 25th Congressional District against H.R. 1949, which would increase their energy bills.

The desert communities I serve are already bearing the brunt of high energy bills and underinvestment in infrastructure. They simply cannot afford this bill.

Under Trump, in the last 9 months, electricity prices have gone up by 11 percent across the Nation. Trump's one big, beautiful bill, better known as the big, ugly law, will simply make matters much, much worse by delivering higher energy costs. It will raise energy costs by over \$600 a year in California.

In my district, families are already struggling with some of the highest energy costs in the Nation. Families in the desert are paying hundreds more per year, not because they are using luxury power, but because extreme heat makes air-conditioning a necessity.

For many families, the rising costs of energy are not abstract numbers. High costs force impossible choices between cooling their homes or risking heat-related illnesses.

These bills being debated here today directly affect their health, safety, and financial stability because they raise costs.

More specifically, H.R. 1949, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act, is a direct threat to working people and middle-class families in my district and across the country.

This bill removes the requirement that the Department of Energy determine whether LNG exports are in the public interest, like lowering costs, before approving shipments to countries without free trade agreements.

In other words, this bill assumes automatically and without review that every LNG export is good for America. That assumption is not only irresponsible, but it is also dangerous and absolutely false.

Analyses have shown that increasing LNG exports drives up natural gas

prices here at home. DOE's own review last year could not have been clearer: Unconstrained LNG exports will raise costs for American families and harm our economy.

DOE found that the kind of unlimited exports authorized under this bill would increase household energy costs by more than \$100 per year on top of the cost increases already burdening families under the Republicans' One Big Beautiful Bill Act, i.e., the big, ugly law.

Let's be clear. H.R. 1949 is a substantial giveaway to major oil and gas corporations, billionaires, and executives at the expense of working people once again.

It strengthens foreign adversaries, including China, while forcing American families, especially those in extreme heat regions like mine, to pay the price through higher monthly bills.

For the hardworking people of San Jacinto, Coachella, and Imperial Valley, the pass area, where triple-digit heat is a life-threatening reality, these rising energy costs are devastating. They represent choices no family should ever be forced to make between cooling their homes during extreme heat or keeping their loved ones safe.

This is not hypothetical. This is unacceptable.

The people I represent are resilient and hardworking. Right now, they are facing higher energy bills while already dealing with extreme heat and limited resources.

This bill will make matters worse. This bill will raise their costs even more. We need to lower costs, not raise them. That is why I urge a "no" vote on H.R. 1949. Let's lower costs.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN), a very valuable member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and my good friend.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1949, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act, and I thank Representative PFLUGER for his leadership on this bill.

In January of last year, former President Joe Biden unveiled the latest of many attacks on our domestic energy capabilities when he announced an indefinite pause on all pending approvals of liquefied natural gas exports, or LNG.

This certainly made the Russians happy, and Europe could have used some help with their energy demand.

Not only was this decision completely unnecessary, but it was also economically and strategically dangerous. Under both Democratic and Republican administrations, DOE has consistently found that U.S. LNG exports serve the public interest, contributing positive economic benefits and strengthening energy security for the American people.

Even more, recent studies confirmed that increased American LNG exports do not significantly raise global emis-

sions. In fact, it is quite the opposite. Clean natural gas is a major reason why the United States has significantly reduced emissions.

Thankfully, we now have a Commander in Chief who understands the importance of embracing an all-of-the-above energy strategy and unleashing the production and export of clean, affordable, and reliable American LNG.

In the first days of this administration, the President signed an executive order reversing President Biden's LNG pause, an important step in reclaiming global energy dominance and lowering costs across the board.

It is shocking to me that House Democrats will run to the news cameras and clamor about the cost of living while they also offered their full support for reckless anti-domestic energy policies from the Biden administration that caused prices to skyrocket in the first place.

I mean, look at the price of gasoline at the pump 2 years ago. Look at the price of gasoline at the pump today. That is all you have to do.

The reason that energy prices are spiking is because input costs are spiking.

□ 1420

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will join us in passing H.R. 1949, which amends the Natural Gas Act to repeal all restrictions on the import and export of natural gas, effectively overturning the Biden-Harris administration's attempt to undermine U.S. domestic energy production.

Removing unnecessary export controls on LNG will strengthen the domestic economy and increase the energy security of the U.S. and our allies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 1949.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), a member of the committee.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to H.R. 1949.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would force the Department of Energy to rubberstamp every LNG export and strip the Department of its ability to review whether those exports are actually in the public interest.

At a time when families across the country are already seeing rising costs, Republicans are doing the opposite of what is needed. Instead of working to lower energy bills, they are prioritizing legislation that props up the fossil fuel industry and blocks affordable, clean energy that is ready to be connected to the grid.

We already know that increased LNG exports means higher energy prices for our communities at a time when families are already facing an affordability

crisis. Due to skyrocketing demand, including from data centers, families in New Jersey saw a 20 percent spike in electricity bills this summer.

Further, Republicans claim that we need more fossil fuels to compete with China. If that is their concern, why advance a bill that makes it easier for China to purchase even more of our domestic energy? Why are we driving up our own energy bills to help an adversary? It makes absolutely no sense.

If we are serious about competing with China, we should take an all-of-the-above strategy to energy production and fast-track clean energy onto the grid.

Further, my colleagues across the aisle should tell the Trump administration to get Revolution Wind, which is off the coast of Rhode Island, back on track. That is how we produce more energy in this country. Doing so would bring down prices for American families in the process.

Mr. Speaker, I am strongly opposed to this bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me. Let's put the interests of our communities and of our country first.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON), another good friend. I am yielding to all of my good friends, but I yield to a very valued member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans and President Trump remain firm in our commitment to lowering costs for families and restoring American energy dominance.

I am proud to represent parts of the Utica and Marcellus shale formations, where natural gas development has transformed local economies and strengthened our Nation's energy security. Boosting natural gas production in Ohio and expanding LNG exports are essential to our vision of energy dominance.

Under the last administration, President Biden repeatedly undermined the domestic energy producers, including imposing a ban on new LNG export permits. This misguided action discouraged investments in American natural gas and harmed our allies abroad, who are working to reduce their dependence on Russian energy.

The Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act ends political interference in the permit process and unleashes America's full energy potential.

Here are the facts on LNG:

Increasing LNG exports would add over \$70 billion to the U.S. economy and create over 400,000 American jobs by 2040.

American LNG is more than 40 percent cleaner than Russian LNG.

Since we have increased our LNG exports, domestic natural gas prices have remained affordable and stable.

Under President Trump, we are restoring American energy leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman AUGUST PFLUGER for leading this important legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 12 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Kentucky has 17½ minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. ELFRETH).

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1949, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act.

Mr. Speaker, I asked for 2 minutes. I only need seven words: We should not be fueling our adversaries.

This bill strips the Department of Energy's authority to provide oversight on exports of liquefied natural gas to foreign adversaries like China and Russia, which poses what should be an obvious and grave threat to our national security.

Unfettered sale of LNG to countries like China and Russia would power their data centers, AI systems, and cyber missions, all by using American energy.

This legislation, importantly, is a departure from how we regulate all other energy sources. Sources like oil and coal, we have laws that impose certain restrictions on exports to foreign entities of concern, like China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea.

Mr. Speaker, under this new bill, LNG would not be subject to this policy, and I have to ask: Why?

If this bill is really about better supporting our allies in Europe and the Indo-Pacific, I support that, but there are currently no restrictions from literally fueling our adversaries. In fact, by exporting LNG, we could be risking higher domestic natural gas prices, meaning our constituents and our neighbors would face higher electricity bills and pay more at the gas pump.

That is why I planned on introducing legislation requiring DOE to certify that LNG exports to our foreign adversaries are actually in the public interest and aligned with our Nation's national security needs.

We must close this current loophole exempting LNG from oversight and affirm DOE's role in the process. The premise is simple. It is not and should not be controversial or partisan. We should not be fueling our adversaries.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER), the sponsor of the legislation and a valued member of our committee.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my legislation. I am proud to offer H.R. 1949 today, Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act.

It has been a long time coming. For 4 years, we suffered as a nation under the Biden administration's disastrous energy policies that put our energy security and the security of our allies at serious risk.

The White House launched a whole-of-government assault on American en-

ergy production: slow-rolling permits; killing infrastructure projects, like pipelines; and, most importantly, pandering to radical climate activists. Then they delivered perhaps the most damaging and egregious move of all: They banned new exports on LNG. This wasn't to help the environmental laws or to lower prices for American families. It was to satisfy the radical green activists.

Let me be clear that this ban put politics over people by jeopardizing the American economy and handing Vladimir Putin a lifeline as our European allies were forced to scramble for energy. That was not leadership. That was failure.

It gets worse. After independent experts uncovered major flaws in the study used to justify the freeze, the Biden administration doubled down, and senior officials deliberately hid reports that completely contradicted their argument.

The administration knew the truth, and they hid it. They buried it.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve the truth that exporting American LNG strengthens our country. U.S. LNG exports replace dirtier fuels from adversaries like Russia and Iran. In fact, during Biden's LNG export ban, Russia overtook the U.S. as the lead supplier of gas to Europe. In no world was this good for the American consumers or our allies.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that Republicans and Democrats have similar goals, but that is just not true. We had 4 years to study this. We had 4 years of evidence on this. Democrats want to kill hydrocarbons, plain and simple.

Republicans are moving to lower prices, and anybody who knows this industry, anybody who has studied this industry, and anybody who has been to where this industry happens, knows for certain that this is a good bill because they understand not just the economics of it, but they understand the long-term implications of this industry. If Members vote against it, they are telling me and the American people one thing: They haven't studied this industry.

Gas exports strengthen our economy. They stabilize prices, and they drive much-needed investment in energy infrastructure that bolsters our energy security.

The facts are clear: We must reform the broken approval process and unlock LNG's potential. My bill does exactly that. It eliminates the politicized DOE, which was weaponized by the previous administration, and gives FERC sole authority over that authorization process.

This is common sense. FERC already leads the review of LNG facilities under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act. It completes the environmental work. It completes the technical review. It completes the full analysis. We are cutting the red tape.

□ 1430

This is promises made, promises kept. The Unlocking Our Domestic LNG Potential Act removes that red tape and replaces it with a streamlined, transparent process that gives producers certainty, strengthening global energy security, and lowering the cost for all of our domestic consumers.

We have to depoliticize the export process. Once again, when the Biden administration banned LNG exports, they weaponized and they politicized that aspect, but today we have the opportunity to stand with American families and businesses and lower the cost and restore energy dominance.

This legislation should be an easy, bipartisan bill. If you support affordable, reliable energy, then this bill strengthens our economy. It lowers prices, and it signals that you have studied the industry and that you know your facts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this and am proud to offer H.R. 1949.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I will mention to my colleagues on the other side that the Biden administration did not ban LNG exports.

There was a pause because they were concerned about the public interest, in particular, because the price was increasing for power, for natural gas, and so many other things.

It made sense to take a review and see what that meant for price, what that meant for national security, what that meant for the environment and climate.

The reality is that the amount of natural gas permits and LNG permits continue to rise and rise every day. This idea that somehow they banned it is simply not the case.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN).

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, my colleague just said that to vote against this bill means you haven't studied the energy industry.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as someone who spent 20 years working in the energy industry. I rise today as the son of someone who spent his entire career in the energy industry. I will take my fancy book learning or school of hard knocks learning against any of you all any day.

What strikes me in listening to this debate is, it reminds me of a paperweight my dad had on his desk when I was a kid. It was a little paperweight of an oil barrel. On one side of the barrel, it said: "Relax. The price will go down," if you flipped it over, it said, "Relax. The price will go up," because energy consumers want the price to be cheap. Energy producers want the price to be high.

If you work in the energy industry as long as I have or even if you worked there for 35 seconds, you spend time talking to consumers and producers. The debate that is going on here in this body is not what is in consumers' interest, what is in producers' interest, but what is in the national interest.

The Republicans across the aisle are making a very articulate case for energy producers. It is not lost on us that most of them represent districts that are heavily dominated by producers.

Over here, there is a very articulate case on behalf of consumers because most of Americans—I would hazard a guess that all Americans are consumers.

Because when we export natural gas from the United States, we reduce domestic supply, which pushes up the price. That is why the Natural Gas Act since 1935, among other things, has required that gas export facilities can't be built unless they are in the national interest, not producers' interest, not the drillers' interest, not some random Chinese fertilizer manufacturers' interest, but the national interest. They go on to talk about facts. If you want to talk about people who studied this, let's talk about the Department of Energy.

There is an LNG export terminal, I am sure you are aware of it, in Freeport, Texas. In June 2022, it was shut down because of a fire for about a month. That gave us real-time experiments on exactly what happens when you make a marginal shift in the export of LNG from the United States.

According to the Department of Energy website, this is what happened: "The U.S. natural gas spot price fell by 13 percent on June 9. The price continued to decline by an additional 17 percent through the end of June. Prices fell largely because the outage at Freeport decreased U.S. natural gas exports, putting downward pressure on natural gas prices."

That is 30 percent inflation in just one month from just one facility. Supply and demand is real. This is not complicated.

Mr. Speaker, understand what this bill is trying to do. By stipulating that all exports are in the national interest, you are stipulating that raising every American's monthly heating bill is in the national interest.

This week, Donald Trump gave a speech where he said: "We are looking at affordability—we are going to bring it down for everybody. . . ." I think he meant we are going to make things more affordable, but you understand the point.

If the Republicans all care about affordability, if they care about the national interest, if they just care about proving Donald Trump right for once, if they just care about doing what he tells them to do, vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK), another distinguished member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GUTHRIE for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Unlocking Our Domestic LNG Potential Act.

In 2024, America exported nearly 12 billion cubic feet of LNG every single

day. That is enough LNG to power almost 48 million homes in a single day.

What we are now faced with is making President Trump's vision of American energy dominance real.

LNG has a huge part to play in this vision, but we are fighting with one hand tied behind our back.

American oil and gas producers are restrained by bureaucratic red tape and the lingering rules and regulations of the Biden administration.

The Unlocking Our Domestic LNG Potential Act stands as a pivotal piece of legislation poised to bolster United States energy security, foster economic growth, and promote environmental sustainability. At its very core, the bill aims to streamline the regulatory process surrounding the exportation of LNG, thereby unleashing the full potential of America's abundant natural resources.

Now in north central Florida, not many people know this, but we are home to one of the largest bunkering LNG hubs in North America. This is critical to our domestic economy, as well as our national security.

The reason why this bill is so important is, first and foremost, it addresses the Biden administration's extreme LNG permit ban. By facilitating the exportation of LNG, we reduce our reliance on foreign energy sources, mitigating the geopolitical risks, and enhance our national security in the process.

By expanding LNG export capabilities, it means that this is job creation. It stimulates investment in our energy infrastructure and fosters innovation across the related industries.

Increased LNG exports translate into expanded markets, bolstering domestic production, and will do more in the next 50 years than we can imagine.

As I mentioned, the State of Florida is a dominant player in this role. We need to make sure that we are doing everything we can to make sure that the unelected bureaucrats are not hindering growth.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I will say that we want the world price produced by what we have here in our country. The price does fluctuate on a stop price day-to-day. However, just because we are sitting on massive reserves of natural gas where our friends in Europe are suffering, where our friends in Korea and Japan are asking for it, the argument is, if you don't export any natural gas, the argument some people seem to be making is the price would go down, but that is just not true because the producers are going to produce to world price. A real problem in price of natural gas is getting it distributed to where it needs to go and that is pipelines. I hope we can work together on permit reform.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE).

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Unlocking Our Domestic LNG Potential Act, which will support a robust natural gas industry in the U.S. and meet President Trump's goal of achieving American energy dominance.

Natural gas is a major engine of economic growth, particularly in Oklahoma. LNG exports alone in the U.S. support more than 273,000 U.S. jobs and contribute \$40 billion to our GDP.

This sector is a lifeline for communities across the country, including Oklahoma's Fifth Congressional District, and we must ensure it has a stable framework to reach its full potential.

LNG exports are also a win for the environment. A recent S&P Global study found that U.S. LNG exports reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by 65 million tons. Anyone serious about lowering global emissions should strongly support the expansion of American LNG.

□ 1440

Yet, despite this abundance of benefits, President Biden chose to unilaterally ban the issue of LNG export permits. While this was overturned by a court, if approval for export is determined by political appointees at the Department of Energy, the threat of a future ban from a progressive Presidential administration remains in place. Turning these decisions over to a neutral party, like the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, will ensure the industry is kept safe from such reckless attacks in the future.

Some argue that LNG exports raise energy prices for Americans by reducing domestic supply. This claim is simply false. Increased export opportunities incentivize production and drive efficiency gains, which will help domestic prices continue to be affordable.

Given the abundance of economic and environmental benefits from LNG exports, I believe it is critical that we help protect the industry from misguided political attacks such as those made by the Biden administration last year.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of this legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, I hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, the Republicans, talk about the demand for LNG in Europe and how we are not giving Europe or other allies enough LNG. The fact of the matter is that we are sending more LNG to our European allies and our other allies than ever before.

DOE, the Department of Energy, has issued enough permits to triple our export capacity from what it is today, even if they never issued another permit. That will take us into the early 2030s, when European policy is set to reduce natural gas consumption. We have approved so many terminals that

most forecasters are seeing a massive glut of LNG on the market starting next year and running well into the 2030s.

If this bill never becomes law, our European allies, our allies—I think South Korea or Japan was mentioned—will be well supplied.

What is really happening here with this bill is helping China. That is what this is about, Beijing, Communist China.

In 2024 alone, the United States exported over 200 billion cubic feet of gas to China. At a time when Americans are struggling to pay their heating bills and our power grids are facing unprecedented demand, President Trump and his Republican Party care more about subsidizing China's economic development and basically lining the pockets of their fossil fuel friends.

Republicans claim to be obsessed with beating China in the AI race. Why are they trying to advance a bill that makes it easier to send American LNG to China to fuel their data centers and AI tools? Why are they putting the profits of Chinese technology companies over the well-being of American families and the success of our American companies?

I have said this before, but it bears repeating. Republicans on the Committee on Energy and Commerce have compared winning the AI race with China to the importance of winning the Cold War. If that is true, then why are we sending more energy and trying to send even more and more energy to China? It makes absolutely no sense.

H.R. 1949 will enrich Big Oil and the Chinese technology companies that rely on LNG to fuel their data centers, all while worsening the energy affordability crisis that Americans are experiencing. The only Americans who benefit from this deal are the rich fossil fuel executives.

H.R. 1949 squarely puts China first and America last. The President and the Republicans keep talking about putting America first. How does this bill do that? This bill does the opposite.

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I was actually in a meeting with Europeans at the highest level of government, and when they talked about needing more LNG exports from the United States and criticized the ban, somebody made the point that my friend just made to them and said: Well, I understand all of your terminals are full. You couldn't receive any more anyway. They said: We need the world price to come down. We have to have the world price come down.

Energy prices in Germany are three times what they are here. Could you imagine trying to compete in the global economy when energy prices are three times as high and when you have a neighbor just a few countries over that has an unprovoked and illegal invasion of another country?

We can't just dismiss that this is important to Europe as well just because they have full terminals.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER), my good friend from a neighboring State and a good neighbor.

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1949, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2025.

As co-chair of the Energy Export Caucus, I understand that eliminating harmful barriers around American energy exports is essential to strengthening our economy and national security.

This legislation takes a crucial step, cutting through bureaucratic red tape, which has slowed or even stalled natural gas imports and exports for far too long.

Giving the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission sole authority to approve or deny natural gas applications eliminates permitting bottlenecks and gives American energy producers a clear and reliable path to move forward with critical projects.

H.R. 1949 ends the harmful Biden-era delays on liquefied natural gas export approvals. Delays discourage investment, undermine our energy leadership, and threaten the security of our global partners who depend on the United States to break free from harmful foreign influence.

The United States is blessed with abundant natural gas resources, and our producers stand ready to meet rising global demand.

Our Nation must capitalize on what we have here at home and continue to make meaningful progress to stay competitive in the global energy arena. H.R. 1949 ensures that American energy remains affordable and accessible, keeping it unmatched on the world stage.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), my good friend.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1949, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2025. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this very important legislation.

The United States is already the world's leading producer of oil and natural gas and also the top exporter of LNG. A whole lot of that energy comes straight out of my district in the great State of Texas.

That is why it is long past time that we repeal the harmful, politically motivated Biden-era restrictions that have shackled and locked down our LNG industry. These restrictions did nothing but threaten American jobs, drive away investment, and undermine

the energy security of our own allies and friends.

H.R. 1949, led by my friend Representative AUGUST PFLUGER from Texas, fixes this. It lifts restrictions on the import and export of natural gas and allows American LNG to flourish once again.

Mr. Speaker, America should never ever voluntarily surrender its energy advantages, not when our production strengthens families, their paychecks, and communities, and certainly not when Texas and our Gulf Coast stand ready to supply LNG to the world safely, cleanly, and reliably. Energy security is national security. We must never forget this.

I am proud to support this bill. It is a wise, good bill that will strengthen America. I urge my colleagues to join me in unlocking America's full LNG potential to achieve world energy dominance.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I should have introduced my good friend from Texas (Mr. BABIN) as a colleague and fellow chairman, the chairman of the Committee on Science.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), chairman of the House Committee on the Budget, my good friend.

□ 1450

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, as I listened to the ranking member talk about China's need for U.S. energy, thank God it is that way and not the other way around.

If we followed the green new manifesto, with the regulatory assault on U.S. energy, and kept throwing hundreds of billions of dollars in distorting Green New Deal energy subsidies, that is exactly what would happen, we would wake up and be dependent on China for yet one more critical product.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand alongside Chairman GUTHRIE and my fellow west Texan, AUGUST PFLUGER, in support of the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act. America is the world's top exporter of LNG, a vital pillar of both our economic strength and national security.

In an effort to placate the radical left, which I think was primarily the motivation, the Biden administration, with its whole-of-government assault on American energy, froze new LNG export permits with no economic, environmental, or national security justification. That reckless decision threatened billions of U.S. investments, undermined our allies, and harmed energy-producing regions like west Texas.

Thankfully, we now have a President in the White House who is committed to doing the right thing for the country, for our producers and consumers, and committed to making American energy great again, not weaponizing

this authority for purely ideological purposes.

This bill removes politics from the export permit process and secures America's position as the world's energy superpower. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and prevent future administrations from threatening America's energy dominance. I thank the chairman again for his leadership.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I respect the chairman of our committee so much. The last time he spoke, he said that we need the world energy price to come down. What about the price here in the United States? The price is higher in the rest of the world than it is here, and that is why the rest of the world wants more of our LNG, because it is cheaper for them.

What about us, though? Shouldn't we be primarily concerned about Americans and the price here?

This bill, in my opinion, is just a giant handout to Big Oil and Gas that enriches our adversaries, primarily China, and forces middle-class families to pay the price with higher home energy bills. The bill removes the requirement that the Department of Energy determine LNG exports to be in the public interest before approving any export applications.

The bill assumes that all exports of LNG are automatically in the public interest. I think this is absurd, considering multiple analyses have found that increased LNG exports directly lead to higher natural gas prices here in America.

Last year, the Department of Energy's own review was clear: Unfettered gas exports will hurt the American economy. It found that energy costs would go up by more than \$100 per year for every individual. At the same time, that is on top of the costs imposed by Republicans' big beautiful or ugly bill.

The Department of Energy also found that natural gas prices would increase by over 30 percent, so we are essentially, in this bill, removing crucial safeguards. What you are going to have instead is a Wild West, allowing all adversaries like China to purchase even more of our energy, essentially, to use against us.

This is the same playbook that Republicans ran when they repealed the crude oil export ban in 2015. After that repeal went through, oil exports to China increased from 420,000 barrels per year to over 160 million barrels per year in 2023. Last year, the United States sent 213 billion cubic feet of LNG to China, but Trump says he wants to send even more. He says that all the time.

All I am saying is if beating China is really as important as Republicans and President Trump claim, we shouldn't be raising our own energy prices just to fuel Chinese data centers. That is what this bill does.

I ask my colleagues to vote "no," and I yield back the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the price is different around the world because of the way it is distributed. The price of natural gas is the price of natural gas. To use it, you have to get it to market. You have to have it there.

To use an example my friend from Illinois said, Mr. Speaker, that you have a real-world example, he said there was a terminal that went offline that was supposed to export natural gas. It burned, so it went offline. There was natural gas moving to that terminal. All of a sudden, for a few days, you had an excess of capacity of natural gas. The argument would be, we would have the same production of natural gas if we just shut down all of the ports. If you can use one as an example, if you shut them all down and continue to produce the same level of natural gas, the price would drop.

The issue is, there is a certain point where it costs you to produce natural gas. You have to reach that point. What we are saying is, there is a world price for natural gas. If you continue to expand markets for people to ship natural gas, you will continue to have natural gas, and they will continue to drill to meet those market demands around the world.

If you shrink the demand around the world artificially by banning the exports, then they are not going to produce as much natural gas, and it doesn't affect the price. You can point to times when there are disruptions in the supply, but overall, it is basic economics. That is how it works.

Mr. Speaker, also, you can call what President Biden did a pause as opposed to a ban, but I know from the time he implemented the pause or ban until President Trump came into office, you couldn't ship natural gas. Either pause it or ban it, I think that is saying the same thing.

Mr. Speaker, this is important. We do want to beat China. I have a tremendous amount of respect for my ranking member. We want to work together to beat China, and we are going to work together to beat China because that unites all of us. Everybody in this room and everybody in this Chamber wants America to be first. We are going to work together to do that.

I think this is important. We may disagree on this policy. I think it is important. I encourage my colleagues to vote for this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 879, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAWLER) at 5 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Passage of H.R. 3109; and,
Passage of H.R. 1949.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

RESEARCHING EFFICIENT FEDERAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR NECESSARY ENERGY REFINING ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 3109) to require the Secretary of Energy to direct the National Petroleum Council to issue a report with respect to petrochemical refineries in the United States, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 230, nays 176, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 303]

YEAS—230

Aderholt	Begich	Burlison
Alford	Bentz	Calvert
Allen	Bergman	Cammack
Amodei (NV)	Bice	Carey
Arrington	Biggs (AZ)	Carter (GA)
Babin	Biggs (SC)	Carter (TX)
Bacon	Bilirakis	Ciscomani
Baird	Bishop	Cline
Balderson	Boebert	Cloud
Barr	Brecheen	Clyde
Barrett	Bresnahan	Cole
Baumgartner	Buchanan	Collins
Bean (FL)	Burchett	Comer