

I have been a long time supporter of the wind energy tax credit and other similar incentives to utilize new and efficient energy sources.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for allowing me to offer my support for this important legislation. I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE
ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Chairman, we are in the midst of an energy crisis brought on by years of ignoring the potential problems. During the next 20 years, U.S. oil consumption will increase by 33 percent and the demand for electricity will rise by 45 percent.

At this rate, the demands for energy will far outweigh the supply if we do not enact a comprehensive energy plan. With that I urge my colleagues to support the Securing America's Future Energy Act which emphasizes conservation, infrastructure upgrades and further development of traditional fossil fuels.

I would like to take a moment and focus on some of the conservation aspects of H.R. 4. This bill provides a tax credit for residential solar energy use, which not only encourages the use of solar energy but it will reduce electric bills and the load on the electric grid. Through tax incentives, H.R. 4 also encourages the development and use of clean cars by increasing technology and reducing costs.

Studies indicate that 275,000 alternative fuel vehicles will be purchased because of this bill, reducing gasoline consumption and the effects of greenhouse gases. Conservation is also emphasized in H.R. 4 through tax credits for energy efficient appliances, homes and businesses.

Use of super energy efficient appliances in all households would save more than 200 trillion BTUs, which is equivalent to taking 2.3 million cars off the road. If all households upgraded their insulation, electric consumption would be reduced by 7 percent.

As you can see, this bill provides valuable tools to promote conservation among Americans. I realize, Mr. Chairman that conservation alone will not go far enough, but neither will drilling. In fact, 37.5 percent of this bill stresses conservation, while 23.8 percent focuses on production and 38.7 percent on reliability. That is why I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4 because it is a well-balanced plan that provides for the future energy needs of America.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE
ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this bill. At a time when this country is wasting a huge amount of fuel and electricity, this bill provides \$34 billion dollars in subsidies and tax breaks for the big oil, coal, gas and nuclear companies to drill for more oil and gas and to produce more and more energy. These companies are making record breaking profits by gouging consumers, destroying our environment and threatening our health. Can anyone tell me why we need to give more corporate welfare to Exxon-Mobil, the most profitable company in the history of the world with a net income of \$17.7 billion, while providing little more than lip service to energy efficiency and renewable energy and absolutely no relief to middle income Americans struggling to pay their energy bills? Mr. Chairman, this is outrageous. We simply cannot drill our way out of this mess.

At a time when emissions from dirty coal-fired power plants produce acid rain and carbon dioxide that threatens our global climate and our health; at a time when scientists throughout the world believe that we have an enormous amount of work to do to combat the danger of global warming; at a time when wind energy is the world's fastest growing source of energy and when the price of solar energy has been coming down in recent years due to better technology, I find it outrageous

that the best we can do is to study whether our country can get to 5 percent renewable in the next 15 years.

Mr. Chairman, we don't need a study on renewable energy, the studies have already been done. The technology is already there. What we need is a firm commitment. I tried to offer an amendment to require that 20 percent of our nation's electricity come from renewable sources of energy such as wind, solar, and biomass by 2020. Unfortunately, the Rule Committee denied the opportunity for debate on this amendment.

While renewable, non-polluting wind power has been the world's fastest growing energy source in recent years, wind energy contributes less than 1 percent of the national supply of electricity in the United States, and renewable energy only 1 percent. We can and must do better.

The growing dependency on imported oil is dangerous not only to our economy but also to our national security. We must attack this problem by increasing our use of renewable sources of energy such as wind, solar and biomass, but his bill does not get this done.

Mr. Chairman, the price gap between fossil fuels and renewable energy has narrowed. For example, the price of natural gas has more than doubled in the past year, while the cost of wind energy has dropped more than 80 percent in the past two decades.

Mr. Chairman, they are doing it in Denmark, they are doing it in Northern Germany, and they are doing it in Northern Spain. 13 percent of Danish electricity consumption is covered by wind right now. In Northern Germany and in Northern Spain the figure is 20 percent.

Danish companies have supplied more than half the wind turbines now in use worldwide, making it one of the country's largest exports and employing more than 12,000 people. Germany has 6,113 megawatts worth of wind turbine, which meets 2.5 percent of the country's total electricity demand. Spain, the fastest-growing market for the past 3 years, now has almost as much wind capacity as the entire U.S.

Right now we have the opportunity to set an energy course that saves money, restores our environmental health, and enhances both the competitiveness of our economy and our national security. There is no question that the U.S. has the technology and the resources to move us away from our reliance on fossil fuels and towards renewable, non-polluting sources of energy. Unfortunately, this bill does not get the job done. I urge my colleagues to defeat H.R. 4.