

the other side of the aisle decrying Democrats as somehow responsible for the problem of the current high energy prices.

The fact is our friends on the Republican side controlled everything, by and large, for the last 7 years. They passed an energy bill in 2005 which was a perfect energy bill for the 1950s.

Nothing that they are proposing in terms of draining America dry by opening up more drilling is going to make any difference for 8 to 20 years, according to all the experts, and oil companies already have 68 million acres available for exploration now that we're encouraging them to use.

It's interesting that after the Republicans blocked even a study of improved fuel efficiency standards for our vehicles, the Democrats for the first time in 30 years have improved those efficiency standards. We're stopping Government competition with the oil companies by suspending Federal purchase of oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. We had to pass legislation to force the administration to do that.

Now, we're looking at squeezing speculators a little bit, and there are a range of choices to help commuters compete now.

It is time for us to talk honestly about the options and what's going to make a difference, not pretending that turning our energy future over to oil companies will make any difference in price or supply for years to come.

#### FLUOR'S IMPACT IN THE GREENVILLE COMMUNITY

(Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, you know, there's plenty of economic bad news around, coupled here and there, and we've had our share of those in the upstate of South Carolina, but there's also some bright spots, and those are very much worth celebrating.

Fluor Corporation's employment in Greenville, South Carolina, has gone from 2,500 in 2003 to 5,400 today. An additional 3,200 project-based workers help in projects around Greenville. Fluor is currently looking for 2- to 300 engineers to come help with significant new projects that they've won all around the world.

In fact, their growth has been so significant they've been a major cause of the drop in the vacancy rate in class A office space in downtown Greenville, going from 24 percent down to 11.9 percent in the central business district.

That's impressive, Mr. Speaker. It's worth celebrating, and especially worth celebrating is the fact that Fluor will now be taking over the contract at the Savannah River Site, where for 50 years, we've been producing and storing tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen that will give us the opportunity to learn how to

store hydrogen and break through to a hydrogen economy.

#### THE ENERGY DEBATE

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

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I actually think that we're at a refreshing point of clarity in the energy debate, because the one thing that we have learned is the only thing standing between the American people and lower energy prices at the pump is the Democrat-controlled Congress.

They've made their position very clear. It is drive less and pay more. Or, as we heard yesterday, drive small cars and wait for the wind. Or, the other suggestion we've heard is the Congress has done such a wonderful job running a railroad, now let's have Congress take over the energy industry and we can run that, too.

It's only been in the last 18 months that we have seen energy prices increase a dramatic 76 percent. At 9 percent approval rating, I don't think we're hearing a clamoring from the American people for Congress to take over and run anything.

The Republican Party now has become the party of the little guy. We want to open up energy exploration, permit expediting so that we can get this online. We don't have to wait 20 years. That's Congress that caused those barriers. Congress can unlock those barriers and bring clarity back to the issue.

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#### ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, here is the problem: When President Bush took over as President the price of a barrel of crude oil was \$23. When the Democrats became the majority, the price of a barrel of crude oil was \$58. Today, it's hovering around \$140 per barrel of crude oil. All we're trying to do on this side is bring forth some solutions. We're doing that today with a discharge petition on one such technology, coal-to-liquid technologies, H.R. 2208. It's not my bill. It's my Democrat colleague, RICK BOUCHER's, bill.

The United States has the largest coal reserves in the world, 250 billion tons of recoverable coal. China has invested \$24 billion in coal-to-liquid technologies. We, in the United States, have invested zero. The largest reserves, zero investments.

This is how it works: We operate a U.S. coal mine, U.S. jobs. We build a coal-to-liquid refinery, U.S. jobs. We have liquid fuel to compete with crude oil fuel, we pipe it in a pipeline, U.S. jobs. We go to our aviation industry

with jet fuel. All these budget airlines are going broke because of high cost fuels. This is "a" solution, not one, but one of many.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5811, ELECTRONIC MESSAGE PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1318 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1318

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5811) to amend title 44, United States Code, to require preservation of certain electronic records by Federal agencies, to require a certification and reports relating to Presidential records, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions of the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration of H.R. 5811 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN). The gentleman from Vermont is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 1318 provides a closed rule for consideration of H.R. 5811, the Electronic Message Preservation Act. The resolution, as you know, provides 1 hour of debate controlled by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The rule makes no amendments in order because no amendments were submitted for consideration.