

Members on your side of the aisle an opportunity to say they are for something which we all know the majority of your Members are adamantly opposed to.

Why does Congress have the lowest approval rating in the history of the Republic? Because instead of having a real debate on a real energy producing bill, one that will give incentives to the States to actually join in the production of new American energy, this Democratic majority is instead offering up a bill that will not produce a single drop of new oil or a single ounce of new gas.

With so much uncertainty in the hearts of the American people today, today's vote is a kick in the teeth to every hardworking American who's tired of paying more for oil and gas.

Shame on us. Shame on you.

A BIPARTISAN BILL IS NEEDED

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

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise with disappointment today. People in my district and the working people of this country are begging us to resolve this energy issue. They're struggling to drive their cars, and they don't have any idea how they're going to heat their homes and run their businesses with today's energy prices. They expect us to do something.

Speaker PELOSI's been telling the country that drilling's not the answer; it would take 10 years. Well, the Pelosi team drafted a bill. It will take 10 years, maybe 15, maybe 20, folks. This bill will not produce energy. It locks up 97 percent of the west coast forever. It locks up the most productive part of the gulf that we can produce quickly forever.

Folks, we need a bipartisan bill. Twenty-three Republicans and Democrats sat down and drafted a bill, 11 Democrats and 12 Republicans. We drafted the Peterson-Abercrombie bill that opens up all kinds of energy for America, funds all the renewables, and gives hope to the American people.

That's the kind of bill they don't want. They don't want a Republican bill. They don't want a Democrat bill. They want a bill that Members of this Congress sat down with no oil companies, no lobbyists. We sat down and drafted a simple bill—not 290 pages—one we could understand. We need to vote on a bipartisan energy bill that will give hope to the Americans that there is an economic future.

ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the energy crisis that we are facing in America today is affecting

every segment of our society, and my constituents in coastal South Carolina are getting more concerned every day that with what goes on that we do not have a solution to bring a more domestic supply of energy on line.

My constituency sees Russia holding Europe as an "energy hostage," and they do not want to allow foreign and sometimes unfriendly nations to have the ability to hold the United States as an energy hostage in the future.

Right now, Russia supplies 50 percent of Europe's natural gas, and by the year 2020, Russia will supply 75 percent of Europe's natural gas. Right now America is 70 percent dependent on foreign energy. So much of American energy is being produced in prime hurricane zones that are susceptible to natural disasters every year.

Mr. Speaker, we should view our energy resources as a natural asset, not as an environmental liability. The energy crisis that we are currently in cannot be solved by having us being dependent on foreign and sometimes unfriendly nations.

We all must learn a valuable lesson from what's currently going on between Russia and Europe and seize this opportunity to vote on all-of-the-above.

STOP PLAYING GAMES WITH AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION

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

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, my, my, my, what a difference one night can make. Last night we were in session until about 7:15. There was no energy bill. All of a sudden, we wake up this morning and we have an energy bill, but it's an energy bill that even the majority of, well, I would say even the conservative Blue Dog Democrats have not seen, much less even the Republicans in the House. And so why do we have this today happening?

It's because there are people in this body who do not want to produce energy for America. We're playing games with American energy production. We're hurting the American economy. We're hurting the pocketbooks of our American businesses. We're increasing our dependence on the foreign oil.

All of the Americans right now are very concerned about our economy, they're concerned about our unstable financial institutions, they're concerned about home foreclosures, they're concerned about trade deficits, they're concerned about foreign countries who are coming in and buying American assets. They're concerned about the cost of gasoline, the cost of food, the cost of consumer goods.

You know, families are struggling, businesses are struggling. But yet in this body, we have an energy bill that has been brought forth today that we have not seen, that we have not had time to debate, to look at. It's one of the most important issues facing our Nation.

Producing an American energy bill that produces American energy is the course for the future of this Nation. It's a threat to America's national security, our economic security not to pass the energy bill.

OPEC WOULD SUPPORT DEMOCRATS' ENERGY BILL

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, for months we've been talking about the need to address this national energy crisis that's facing our country that's hurting our economy. We've been talking about getting a bill on the floor like the American Energy Act that approaches this in a comprehensive way and addresses all of the issues.

But yet I rise today in strong opposition to this bill that the Democratic leadership filed in the dark of night with no discussion that they're going to bring up today and allow no amendments on. And let's look at why that bill is so bad.

First of all, it puts a permanent ban on 88 percent of the known Outer Continental Shelf reserves. That's billions of barrels of oil that we know right where they are, and yet there's a permanent ban on these reserves placed in this bill. That's something that OPEC would want because OPEC now would have even more leverage on us because they know that we would be taking off-limits 88 percent of our known reserves offshore.

If you look at the new taxes and the billions of dollars in new spending that they have that has nothing to do with energy, and yet Speaker PELOSI says we don't have money to give States their own fair share of royalty sharing because she knows that's a deal breaker that will lead to absolutely no drilling.

Mr. Speaker, I would attest to you that OPEC could not have drafted a better bill than what the Democrats filed in the dark of night.

We need to vote this down. The American people see through it. Bring up the American Energy bill. We have no time to waste.

WE NEED TO COME TOGETHER ON AN ENERGY BILL

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

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, like most every Member inside this House, the first day that you are sworn in is a highlight, one of the highlights in your life. As I look across this floor, I see Members from both sides of the aisle that experienced that for the very first time with me this January.

I sat on the floor, and I brought my young son and daughter with me. I listened intently as Madam Speaker held