

them back where they came from." Thirdly, it enables them to vote so they can make choices about who should run the country, state or city.

Voting is something that comes naturally to people from the English-speaking Caribbean where parliamentary democracy is taken seriously. People routinely join political parties, become candidates for elected office or campaign for persons they believe are best suited to serve in national parliaments or local government bodies.

That experience should prove to be a powerful magnet for citizenship and political participation.

That's why it is so baffling that so many of them fail to become citizens.

The reluctance can't be explained simply by a devotion to their original nationality. After all, almost every Caribbean state recognizes dual citizenship, meaning that naturalization adds to their life but doesn't detract from their standing as people from the Caribbean.

One possible explanation is that some can't be bothered to go through the process. The result is they often end up placing their children and themselves at a disadvantage.

That's a crying shame. It explains why Congressman Meeks' appeal was relevant and should be listened to.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the last time Congress enacted an energy bill was in 1992—13 years ago. Since that time, Republicans and Democrats alike have made clear that as a part of our national homeland security strategy, we must wean the country off of foreign oil. Yet, the bill before us would not achieve that goal. For that reason Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

There is no doubt that the final House-Senate energy bill is vastly better than the House-passed bill. It extends the renewable electricity production tax credit and provides tax credits for energy efficiency, which, together, will catalyze investment and usage of the next generation of energy technology. It also would re-fund the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, which provided \$42 million to clean-up the Delaware River after the November 2004 oil spill and was on track to be depleted by 2009. I hope no other region in the country experiences a similar incident; we must be prepared to adequately respond if it does.

Additionally, the bill does not include unnecessary liability protections for the manufacturers of the gasoline additive known as MTBE or allow for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—authorities that would have put our precious natural resources at-risk while doing very little to reduce our dependence on imported oil.

While I am pleased with these improvements in the bill, I do not support investing \$14.6 billion in taxpayer funding on energy policies that ultimately will not reduce our dependence on and usage of foreign oil over the next 11 years.

My colleagues, the bill fails to include a renewable energy portfolio standard of 10 percent by 2020.

It fails to adequately invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies by only providing 26 percent of the bill's tax incentives for the development of cleaner, less expensive energy sources under our control; while allocating \$2.6 billion in tax benefits for oil and gas industry. Industries that are already profiting from record high oil prices, which are currently over \$60 per barrel.

It fails to increase to automotive efficiency standards—a policy that would save up to 67 billion barrels of oil over the next 40 years, which is 10 to 20 times greater than the potential oil supply that could be extracted from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. Speaker, the bill fails to send us in a new direction, and that is unacceptable. We cannot leave ourselves positioned to return years from now and still be searching for ways to end our reliance on foreign oil.

With nations like India and China rapidly increasing their consumption of oil we must set the nation on a course to energy independence. That requires a balanced energy policy that aids domestic production but, more importantly, sends us in a new direction by investing in renewable and energy efficient technologies. This conference report failed to accomplish this goal.

I urge a "no" vote on H.R. 6.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 Conference Report. Completion of this energy bill is yet another step forward in our struggle for energy security and independence. A reliable and affordable energy supply is crucial to America's economic vitality, security, and quality of life.

While this final conference report is not perfect, we continue to make progress towards promoting energy conservation and efficiency; increasing the use of all domestic energy resources, including coal; improving energy infrastructure; and promoting the development of advanced energy technologies.

The combustion of fossil fuels is essential to our energy policy and must continue to be a part of a balanced energy plan for this country. Coal is absolutely critical to our nation's economic health and global competitiveness. Coal accounts for more than 50 percent of U.S. electricity generation, far ahead of nuclear power, natural gas, hydroelectric power, petroleum and other sources. There is no present alternative to coal to meet our energy needs. New and improved technologies hold the promise of far greater emissions reductions and increased efficiency.

Clean coal provisions are included in the final conference report that would assist in burning coal more efficiently and cleanly. These clean coal technology initiatives encourage the development of new technologies for cleaner, higher efficiency coal combustion in new and established plants with the hope of achieving a healthier environment while maintaining jobs. Specifically, the conference

agreement includes a \$1.8 billion authorization for the Secretary of Energy to carry out the Clean Coal Power Initiative, which will provide funding to those projects that can demonstrate advanced coal-based power generating technologies that achieve significant reductions in emissions. Further, the bill authorizes \$1.14 billion for coal research and development. I fought hard for robust funding for coal within the fossil energy research and development budget and I was glad to see they were included in the final version.

Additionally, I authored two provisions which were retained in the final conference report and greatly benefit Southern Illinois. First, I secured \$75 million to create a program to develop advanced technologies to remove carbon dioxide from coal emissions and permanently sequester it below ground. Illinois is one of the leading states when it comes to research on carbon sequestration and Southern Illinois is listed as one of the prime spots for carbon sequestration, which is one of the technologies the FutureGen project is designed to use. Second, the bill authorizes the Clean Coal Centers of Excellence. Under this provision, the Secretary of Energy will award competitive, merit-based grants to universities that show the greatest potential for advancing new clean coal technologies. Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC), which I represent, continues to be a leader in clean coal technology research, doing extensive work at its Coal Research Center. With funding and collaborative support from industry and government, SIUC has conducted long-term projects relating to surface mine reclamation, coal subsidence, coal desulfurization, coal characterization and combustion, coal residue management and utilization, coal market modeling, and environmental policy. Faculty, staff, and students in fields as diverse as engineering, science, business, education, law, and agriculture have contributed to the University's international reputation in coal research. The past two energy conference reports named Southern Illinois University as a "Clean Coal Center of Excellence" and the school is well-positioned to be a potential recipient of the award again this year. It is a testament to SIUC's high caliber research program that it was also named as a university to study and commercially deploy transportation fuel technology using Illinois coal. Finally, I am pleased this legislation promotes clean fuels by providing tax incentives for clean coal technology. This will greater enhance our ability to use Illinois basin coal.

In addition to the clean coal provisions, the energy conference agreement contains provisions instrumental in helping increase conservation and lowering consumption. Included in this are ethanol provisions that are used as a replacement and additive for gasoline consumption. Illinois currently produces 800 million gallons of ethanol per year. Under this legislation, ethanol use would increase, nearly doubling the current production level. The renewable fuel standard (RFS) in the bill is expected to increase the average price of corn paid to farmers 6.6 percent, or 16 cents per bushel and increase average net cash income to farmers by \$3.3 billion over the next decade, or more than six percent. Increased production of ethanol will greatly benefit the agricultural industry in Southern Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, this energy bill will shape energy policy for the next decade and beyond. I