

The bill rolls back authority currently given to our Federal Trade Commission to deal with price gouging. It seems to target smaller retailers while limiting the areas that can be investigated for price gouging. According to a September 1 Wall Street Journal article, after Hurricane Katrina, unleaded gas prices surged 36 percent in just 3 days, pushing the wholesale price average up 132 percent above a year ago. And this massive increase occurred despite the fact that in the same 3-day period, the price of crude oil went up just 4.25 percent. Over the past year, crude oil prices have gone up 64 percent, so that means that the wholesale price of gasoline jumped nine times as fast as the price of crude in 3 days and is running more than double the increase of crude over the past year. And these companies are just swimming in the windfall benefits.

So instead of renewing our vows to imported oil, we need to be developing new renewable energy sources here at home: wind power, solar, biofuels, fuel cells, hydrogen, clean coal. We consume 25 percent of the world's oil production, spending tens of billions of dollars to import oil from some of the most unstable and undemocratic regions of the world. At the same time, we have only 3 percent of known reserves.

According to a study done for the National Resources Defense Council, if we were to follow an aggressive plan to develop cellulosic biofuels over the next 10 years, we could produce the equivalent of nearly 7.9 million barrels of oil per day. That is equal to more than 50 percent of our current oil use for transportation and more than three times what we import from the Persian Gulf alone. We have more than 5 million vehicles on the road right now that will run on 85 percent ethanol and a growing number that run on biodiesel blends of 5 percent or higher. The people who drive these cars in many cases do not even know it, and if they do, they cannot find the fuel in their home communities because we have not done enough to make these renewable and less costly fuels available to our own constituents. What a shame.

Some want us to keep drilling. They do not care where. It could be in a critical water area like the Great Lakes. Perish the thought.

In my view, we do not need to drill any more holes in our own heads. What we really need is an energy plan that develops self-sufficiency from renewable sources and a plan that not only calls for renewable fuel standards but provides support for the infrastructure and public education campaign to get there. A country that could land a man on the moon can do this as well. We need resolve right here in this Congress.

I urge this Congress to take a giant dose of Beano and cast a resounding "no" vote on the Gas Act of 2005 that will come up tomorrow. We can and surely must do better for our children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCCAUL of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. KUHL of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. SCHMIDT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING ELMIRA COLLEGE'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KUHL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KUHL of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the sesquicentennial of one of the greatest educational institutions in my district of upstate New York, Elmira College. Elmira College turned 150 years old on October 2, just a couple of days ago this year.

Elmira College was the first college for women with a course of study and degree requirements equal to those of the Nation's finest colleges.

On October 23, 1853, the Regents of the University of the State of New York granted a charter to the college, and the cornerstone of the building that would later come to be known as Cowles Hall was laid in June of 1854.

In October of 1855, Elmira College opened its doors to its first students, and the great, historical Cowles Hall still stands as a monument to women's college education in Elmira and the United States.

Elmira College is sometimes known as "the mother of women's colleges." The official college colors, purple and gold, were taken from the colors adorning the banners of the women's suffrage movement and from the college flower, the iris, which is also the name of the college yearbook published each year since 1896.

Its location in Elmira, the commercial and cultural center of the Finger Lakes region, was through the efforts of Simeon Benjamin, the college's earliest benefactor, often referred to as "The Founder." Benjamin was instrumental in the selection of the college's first president, Dr. Augustus Cowles, after whom the college's original building was subsequently named.

Another of the college's founding trustees was Jervis Langdon, whose daughter Olivia, an alumna of the college, later married Samuel Clemens, to most of us also recognized as Mark Twain. To this day, Elmira college has been closely associated with Mark Twain, who wrote many of his best known novels in Elmira, in a structure,

the Mark Twain Study, which was relocated to the Elmira College campus in 1952.

Elmira college became coeducational in all of its programs in 1969 and quickly achieved an even gender balance. Entering its 15th decade, Elmira College continues its commitment to provide a sound liberal arts education while strengthening its professional programs. Its standards of academic excellence resulted in the award of a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa in 1940.

College traditions are cherished. The Sibyl, one of the oldest student-literary magazines in the country, has been published continuously since 1876. Mountain Day, faculty and administration "Patron Saints," the Midnight Breakfast, and the Holiday Banquet are among the many traditional activities which enrich college life.

While academics are a priority at Elmira College, school spirit emanates from its students through athletics. Elmira College offers 26 varsity and junior varsity teams and intramural sports as well. Elmira College strives for excellence both in the classroom and on the field by embracing the student athlete. Fifty-six percent of the students maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or better. National rankings and post-season tournament play have also been annual traditions for the Soaring Eagles. Most recently, the women's ice hockey team has made four consecutive NCAA tournament appearances, including winning the National Title and sporting an undefeated season in its inaugural season.

On the one hand, Elmira College is securely rooted in the local community by a tradition of excellence, "town-gown" relations and reciprocal sharing of resources. A good example of this is the public lectures presented by the internationally known Mark Twain scholars who are brought to Elmira by the college's Center for Mark Twain Studies. Another example is the college's community service program, which has been commended by the President of the United States.

At the same time, the college expands its worldwide view with opportunities such as its various innovative projects offered in an intensive 6-week spring term made possible by the distinctive academic calendar. While proud of its history and traditions, Elmira College looks ahead to the future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

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