Energy, we found when the price of gasoline went up last summer over $4 a gallon, we were pressed, I think appropriately, to try to find an energy future, a plan for our energy future, and we never really answered that question. Well, this morning in Charleston, West Virginia, where I'm from, the price of gasoline went up to $2.75 and has been going up almost daily. So we need a national energy plan that doesn't pick winners and losers, that takes into account real costs for real people.

Right now, the bill that's passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee is a national energy tax on every single American. We call it cap-and-tax. The supporters call it cap-and-trade. But what it is, in reality, is it has serious problems for States such as mine in West Virginia. Ninety-eight percent of the energy generation in our State is generated through coal. Well, naturally, we're the second largest coal-producing State in this Nation.

We've powered America for generations by giving of our natural resources across this country, and I'm proud to say we have a proud heritage, not only of turning the lights on in America but also of the coal mining jobs and the coal mining communities and families throughout my State.

But this will picks winners and losers because the heartland, of which I consider West Virginia—and we just heard the gentleman from Florida talk a lot about solar—but the heartland, which has had to rely on fossil fuels for energy generation and to keep our manufacturing jobs, we're going to be the losers here. We're going to be the ones who are going to pay the heavy price.

What kind of price are we going to pay? Number one, job loss. It's estimated that in my State alone over 10,000 jobs will be lost in our manufacturing sector because of this bill. And you ask, why is that? Well, because our industrial input will be lower because of the high cost of meeting the demands, because of the lack of a transitional period in this bill. We'll also lose probably many, many, 10s of thousands of jobs in our coal mining industry and associated industries alone.

Also, for the individuals, how is this going to impact the individual who is paying now the $2.75 in West Virginia? In some areas of the country, that probably sounds pretty good, but in ours, it's going up. We've had the luxury of lower energy prices, and we are pleased about that. But it's escaping us, and in this bill, we will no longer have that.

If you look at the West Virginia electricity, prices under this bill will go up over 100. Think about that: 100 percent of your electricity bill, somewhere in the estimate of $2- to $3,000 a year.

And who's the loser there? Small businesses are the loser. They're going to lose jobs because they're going to have the higher cost of turning on their electricity, running their business. And what's that going to result in? Job loss. That's going to result in lack of capital to invest in a small business. And then the higher cost of transportation would also hurt not only individuals but small businesses as well.

But it's also going to hurt those people who can barely afford to keep the lights on as it is, and those are our lower income folks. By the year 2020, it is estimated that with this bill, with this cap-and-tax bill, with this national energy tax, that the lower income folks across this Nation, that 25 percent of their income will go to paying for their energy costs.

Now, let's think about this. We've just gone through a housing crisis, where people are losing their homes and people are having trouble, people are losing jobs. Now, we're going to say to you, a quarter of your income is going to go to one of the basic needs that you have, and that's the basic need for energy.

Another loser are our State budgets. Think what an impact a national energy tax is going to have on every hospital, on every public school, on every university. Think of the cost of running the school buses that we've seen as the rise up in energy costs.

So I don't think that this is the kind of bill that is going to solve the problem. It sets up winners and losers, and it has real costs to real people. It does have in there a great portion of carbon capture and sequestration where we will use coal, and we will use the technology and innovation, but we need to keep moving in this direction so we can be realistic about how we're going to meet our energy needs and how we're going to transition to the next best source.

Green jobs and green future, that's what we all want. I think that it's a laudable goal, and it's one that we will reach, but we've got to do it where we're not picking winners and losers, where we realize that there are real costs to real people.

## THE CURRENT ECONOMIC RECESSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, as a Congressman from Virginia, also a coal-producing State, I wish to rise to address the current economic recession. We need to spur investment and create new jobs, and we need to act now. An essential part of that effort is the American Clean Energy and Security Act.

This legislation, unlike some of the statistics we've been hearing lately, recently approved by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, would reduce greenhouse gas pollution and create lots of clean energy jobs, including in the coal sector, and make polluters pay for the greenhouse gas pollution they're emitting right now.

Last week, the United States Climate Action Partnership, known as USCAP, hosted a congressional briefing to discuss the business reasons for passing legislation to reduce global warming pollution. The USCAP is a coalition of many American businesses who support the legislation, including especially in the energy sector. They include Alcoa, BP, ConocoPhillips, Dow, Duke Energy, DuPont, Exelon, General Electric, General Motors, Johnson & Johnson, NRG Energy, Shell, and Siemens. Environmental groups are also members.

Many of these companies have built billion dollar companies through the extraction, processing, or sale of carbon-intensive fossil fuels. For example, most of BP, Shell and ConocoPhillips' business is in oil exploration and production. Duke Energy produces 75 percent of its electricity from coal. Manufacturers such as GE, Alcoa, and Dow consume a great deal of electricity and would be negatively affected by higher energy prices. They support this bill.

These businesses worked for 2 years with environmentalists and Members of Congress to develop a blueprint for legislative action that laid out a plan to reduce greenhouse gas pollution, create jobs, and spur investment in renewable energy. This blueprint for legislative action formed a foundation for the American Clean Energy and Security Act, passed by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, on a bipartisan vote I might add.

At its briefing, USCAP members emphasized the importance of the American Clean Energy and Security Act in spurring innovation and economic growth. Representatives of Dow, NRG Energy, and Shell said that without passage of this legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, there simply will not be sufficient market incentive to invest in carbon capture and storage, something necessary, especially for the coal industry, Madam Speaker.

Carbon capture and storage is a technology that holds tremendous promise; it is essential to more sustainable coal-generated electricity production. The minority party claims that the American Clean Energy and Security Act will hurt coal, as we just heard, but the business community, including companies that rely principally on coal for electrical generation, support this bill.

The minority party claims that the American Clean Energy and Security Act will impair our ability to deploy American energy resources. Yet USCAP members, ConocoPhillips and Shell, for example, noted at the briefing that without this bill, they simply will not be able to develop the next generation of biofuels.

Right now, we get most of our oil from overseas, Madam Speaker, from countries like Saudi Arabia. We must end our dependence on foreign oil. By spurring development of biofuels, the American Clean Energy and Security Act would help reach that objective while creating economic opportunities here at home.

I think the business community said it best. At USCAP's recent briefing, a

member representative said, ''One of the reasons that many members of USCAP are enthusiastic is because we see that it is essential for our businesses to move to a low carbon economy.''

Madam Speaker, let's unleash new investments in America. Let's produce more of our energy here at home. Let's wean ourselves off foreign oil dependency. Let us create new, clean energy jobs in America. We cannot delay economic recovery, and we cannot risk further destabilization of our climate.

## REPUBLICANS WANT ENERGY INDEPENDENCE FOR AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, my colleague from Indiana made some very, very eloquent and compelling remarks about the status of our economy, and my colleague from West Virginia gave valuable information on energy and called attention to some important issues.

My distinguished colleague from Florida, whom I like and admire very much, says the energy bill will create jobs, but he's wrong. It will kill jobs. He never answered his own question: Why don't we produce those mirrors in the United States? Because our taxes are high and regulations drive jobs overseas.

America, if the Democrats pass this cap-and-tax bill, get ready to pay more for electricity, a lot more. This cap-and-tax scheme, better known as a national energy tax, if it becomes law, will cost $846 billion. That's according to the Congressional Budget Office's latest estimate. The CBO is a nonpartisan organization.

Who's going to bear the brunt of this new national energy tax? Anyone who turns the lights on, but it's also going to be especially harmful for many of my constituents and all others who work in manufacturing.

As companies adjust to this new energy tax, many will be forced to ship jobs and the accompanying greenhouse emissions overseas where energy costs will be much lower. Many employers will face the tough choice of outsourcing or going out of business altogether. This destructive energy policy will kill millions of American jobs and permanently send them overseas, and I and many others cannot support this.

I want to quote from a report that came out from the Ways and Means Ranking Member DAVE CAMP, who has based his comments on this CBO report that's come out. He says that, ''The facts are plain and clear: Democrats in Congress are breaking the President's pledge not to raise taxes on working families. The President has repeatedly stated married couples earning less than $250,000 a year would not face higher taxes, but this legislation imposes an energy tax on every American and provides no help to families making more than $42,000 or individuals making as little as $23,000. Increasing Americans' fuel and utility bills in this recession is not only bad policy, but it completely ignores the hardships millions of Americans are already facing. This is dangerous legislation in desperate need of closer review.''

Republicans want energy independence for Americans, and we can have it but not under this cap-and-tax bill.

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Madam Chairman, I would like to point out one other issue that is before the Congress recently, and that is money for the IMF, the International Monetary Fund, in the supplemental bill. What the Democrats want to do is cut $5 billion from our troops in order to fund the IMF. And because any IMF member country may apply for these loans, Iran, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, and Burma are all eligible. Therefore, state sponsors of terrorism can receive American taxpayer money under the Democrats' proposal.

The New York Times reported on May 27 that Hezbollah is in talks with the IMF about continuing loans to Lebanon should they win the election. Therefore, a terrorist organization could receive American taxpayer dollars under the Democrats' proposal.

To loan the IMF $108 billion, the U.S. will have to borrow the money from other countries, like China. A loan of this size to the IMF will put America further into debt, a cost that will be paid by our grandchildren and children, a point so well-pointed out by my colleague from Indiana. Also, according to the Center for Economic and Policy Research, American taxpayers will actually lose money by loaning it to the IMF. While countries like China, Russia, Brazil, and India have announced they will not participate in loans, the Democrats are asking Americans to support this.

Finally, the American taxpayers are sick of bailouts in their own country. How can Democrats rationalize a global bailout?

## AUTOMOBILE DEALER ECONOMIC RIGHTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MAFFEI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask Chrysler and General Motors to continue to honor their commitments to auto dealers in this country. Chrysler and GM should not deprive economic rights to profitable dealerships across this country.

Yesterday, I joined with Representative FRANK KRATOVIL of Maryland and introduced the Automobile Dealer Economic Rights Restoration Act of 2009. The act claims to restore the economic rights of GM and Chrysler dealers as they existed prior to each company's bankruptcy. We want to preserve GM and Chrysler car dealers' rights to recourse under State law and, at the request of an automobile dealer, require GM and Chrysler to reinstate franchise agreements in effect prior to those companies' bankruptcies. These are bankruptcies negotiated with Federal officials, and taxpayer dollars are helping to maintain both companies. Therefore, these bankruptcies should not be used to change the rules that dealers have been operating under.

I first wrote a bipartisan letter with Representative CHRIS LEE of New York and more than 65 of our colleagues to the auto task force in May asking them to work with the companies to reconsider the forced closings. Since then, thousands of dealers have been informed by GM and Chrysler, through a seemingly arbitrary system, that their relationships were ending essentially immediately, leaving some dealers with millions of dollars invested in car stock with no options for consolidation and little leverage for liquidation.

In my home district in upstate New York, there is a dealership, Lewis Goodman Chrysler, which has been the cornerstone of one of our communities for 50 years. Mr. Goodman opened his dealership in 1959 in Syracuse. Two years ago, at the age of 82, Mr. Goodman passed away, but his dying wish was to make sure the dealership reached the half century mark. His widow promised to keep their dealership running at least through its 50th anniversary, which was just last week. Lewis Goodman Chrysler received a letter on May 15 informing them that Chrysler was severing their relationship. The letter gave no indication as to why this particular dealership was targeted, just that the relationship was ending.

I visited Mrs. Goodman last week to celebrate the 50th anniversary. This is a dealership that is profitable, partly because of selling preowned cars. It employs dozens of people and has been loyal to them for years. It is exactly the kind of small family business that we in this House claim to want to help, not close.

We all recognize that the economy is not favorable to the auto industry right now and especially not in certain sections of the country where the population can no longer support an extensive dealer network. We have already seen layoffs from parts manufacturers in my district, plant closings, and a Chapter 11 among one of their suppliers. In this context, across central New York 11 dealerships have closed on their own since 2007, and we expect to see other dealerships consolidate and close this year. But we do not, in the middle of a recession, need to take a hatchet to local, family-owned businesses that have supported our communities for decades when market forces are already at work. These dealerships employ hundreds of people across my district. They sponsor our local little league teams, our pancake breakfasts, and they buy ads in our local newspapers and local TV newscasts. They