

when it comes to energy. We can aggressively pursue renewable energy, nuclear energy and other innovative alternatives while continuing efforts to expand our domestic supply of fossil fuels. We live in a country rich in energy sources, and Congress should encourage production from all available resources and technologies.

Tonight I'd like to focus on a reliable, clean-burning alternative fuel which is in extraordinary abundance right under our feet in this country, and that is natural gas.

Located in my district in northwest Louisiana, recent estimates have projected the Haynesville Shale contains 234 trillion cubic feet of potential natural gas production. This would make it the largest natural gas play in the United States and one of the largest in the world, the equivalent of 18 years' worth of U.S. oil production.

I want to point out to you, the crosshatch area is the so-called Haynesville Shale. As you can see, it overlies several parishes in Louisiana as well as several counties in Texas, a very wide area. Now of course for those listening, shale is nothing more and nothing less than a rock formation deep down in the Earth, somewhere around 2 miles in depth, that acts like a sponge that's full of either gas or oil, and sometimes both. Today we have great methods of extracting fossil fuels from the shale.

But let me turn to some more statistics regarding the Haynesville Shale. It's provided massive injections of capital into the Fourth Congressional District of Louisiana, my district. It's pumped \$4.5 billion into the economy in FY 2008. It's created nearly \$3.9 billion in household earnings in the same year. The greatest impact on indirect and household earnings was experienced by workers in the mining sector, with new household earnings of \$191.3 million in 2008. It's created over \$30 million in new earnings in seven separate sectors. Number one, mining, \$191.3 million; health care, \$56.7 million; management, \$46.6 million; professional, scientific and technical services, \$38.5 million; retail trade, \$35.7 million; manufacturing, \$33.5 million; and construction, \$31.8 million.

It directly and indirectly created over 32,000 jobs. The new jobs created by the extraction activities in the Haynesville Shale are widely dispersed across industries. Large impacts have been felt in utilities, 5,229 jobs; mining 3,808; health care, 3,496 jobs; and retail trade, 3,433.

Those are a lot of numbers, but I think you understand that the magnitude is what counts here. Conservative estimates report that State and local tax revenues increased by at least \$153.3 million in 2008 due to the extraction activities of the Haynesville Shale. Needless to say, Louisiana is not suffering from the effects of the recession, unemployment, or real estate that many other States are today, largely due to the Haynesville Shale.

Some parishes are reporting a 300 percent increase in sales tax collections.

I wanted to talk a moment about how we get the natural gas out of that shale that we're talking about that's 2 miles deep in the Earth. The method is called hydraulic fracturing, or "hydrofracking" is a more common term. This method has been used for over 60 years and is responsible for 30 percent of America's recoverable oil and gas. Of wells currently operating today, over 90 percent have been fractured at least once.

Environmentalists and their allies in Congress are escalating their assault on affordable and reliable energy with the legislation that would place regulation of hydraulic fracturing under the Safe Drinking Water Act, SDWA, a law that was never intended for this purpose. This legislation would have far-reaching negative impacts on energy, energy producers and consumers alike. For years this process has been safely and effectively regulated by individual States; and of the more than 1 million wells fractured, not a single case of drinking water contamination has ever been recorded.

In my State of Louisiana, three different agencies have oversight related to this process. So you see, it's not an unregulated process to begin with. First is the Office of Conservation of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, then the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and, finally, the Department of Health and Hospitals, which tests potable water. Additionally, these agencies already work closely in association with existing Federal regulations under the EPA. As illustrated in these graphics, current industry practices ensure multiple levels of protection between any sources of drinking water and the production zone of an oil and gas well.

Fresh water aquifers are located relatively close to the surface. In the Haynesville shale, for instance, the Wilcox aquifer is found at depths between 200 and 600 feet.

The practice of hydrofracking takes place at a depth of over 10,000 feet or roughly 2 miles.

To put this into perspective, the distance between the aquifer and the hydrofracking equals about 33 football fields or 8 Empire State Buildings stacked on top of each other.

To ensure that neither the fluid pumped through the well, nor the oil or gas collected, enters the water supply, steel casings are inserted into the well to depths of between 1,000 and 4,000 feet.

Oil and gas companies are required to set protective surface casing well beyond the water table. For example, in the Haynesville Shale, surface casing must be set at a minimum of 1,800 feet.

The space between this first casing string and drilled hole is filled with cement.

The casing, cement specifications and cementing process are governed by state and federal regulations as well as industry standards. In every case this process is supervised by state agency officials.

Federal regulation of "hydrofracking" under the EPA would result in a sharp increase in costs to small and independent producers, as

well as a dramatic decrease in output and job creation.

Production in large shale plays such as the Haynesville Shale in Louisiana, the Barnett in Texas and the Marcellus Shale in the Northeast U.S. would essentially grind to a halt and billions of dollars in federal and state tax revenue would be lost.

It is crucial that Congress recognize what resources, such as the Haynesville Shale, will play in this country's long-term economic and national security.

#### THE TRIPLE PLAY ALTERNATIVE TO CAP-AND-TRADE

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

Mr. INGLIS. Last night in Spartanburg, South Carolina, we had a town meeting; and folks were joining in this debate we will be having here this week in Washington about climate legislation. There were folks who spoke passionately about the need to take action, and I'm in agreement with them. There is a need to take action and to discharge a stewardship obligation. Then there were others who really didn't buy the science of climate change. And so there was a good discussion, a good debate. There's going to be a debate here on this House floor, perhaps by the end of the week.

Madam Speaker, what I'd like to say tonight is that there is a need to act. There is a need to act in a way that wins a triple play for this century in America. If we play this right, it really is an opportunity to do three things simultaneously. One, improve the national security of the United States; two, create jobs; and three, clean up the air.

So let's hear about the triple play. It starts by stopping the current cap-and-trade proposal. The problem with cap-and-trade is: It's a massive tax increase in the midst of a recession; it's a Wall Street trading scheme that would make traders on Wall Street blush; and it punishes American manufacturing because the tax—the cap-and-trade, which is essentially a tax—is applied only to domestically produced goods and not to imported goods. So if that's the case, if it's really not going to accomplish what we want to accomplish, what would be better? I think it's important that those of us who are opposed to cap-and-trade come with something better. The "better" that I would propose is this: It's a revenue-neutral tax swap. Basically what we would do is we would reduce FICA taxes. That's the payroll taxes on your paycheck. You reduce those; and in an equal amount, you impose a tax on carbon dioxide. There's no additional take to the government, so it's revenue-neutral. You apply this transparent tax—it is admittedly a tax—to imported goods as well as domestically produced goods. The result is, there is one less reason to export productive capacity from the United States; and we achieve this triple play. We can simultaneously create

jobs by propelling these new technologies with the alternative energies and fuels of the future. We can improve the national security of the United States by breaking the addiction to oil. That will only come when the economics work out for the competing technologies. Currently the incumbent technology—gasoline, in the case of transportation fuel—has these negative externalities that aren't recognized. If they were recognized, if they were attached to the price of that product, the national security risks we are running, the environmental problems that it causes, the small particulates—even if you don't buy the climate change argument, the small particulates are quantifiable and real—if you attach all those negative externalities to that product, suddenly the marketplace could deliver competing technologies; and the fuels of the future could take off and could lead us to these jobs of the future and to clean up the air.

Madam Speaker, this is a fabulous opportunity. It starts with stopping the current cap-and-trade proposal. And then we come together, Republicans and Democrats, to find a better solution. I think we can find it in a revenue-neutral tax swap that makes free enterprise able to lead us into the fuels of the future.

#### HONORING FIRST SERGEANT JOHN BLAIR

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor an American hero and a patriot who gave his life in defense of our Nation while serving with the Georgia National Guard in Afghanistan.

First Sergeant John Blair from Calhoun, Georgia, in my 11th Congressional District, was killed in action on June 20, 2009, just this past Saturday, when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his vehicle during an hour-and-a-half-long firefight with enemy forces after the convoy, which he was leading, was ambushed. Eyewitness accounts from soldiers serving alongside Sergeant Blair credit his actions with saving the lives of many of his fellow soldiers during the ambush. And as a credit to his leadership, his men kept their cool and they did their jobs, even after their commanding officer fell.

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Blair has been described as a true leader, Madam Speaker, both for the American troops who served with him, as well as the 1st Brigade of the Afghan National Army's 203rd Corps who he was in charge of mentoring.

I want to quote a couple of lines that were written about Sergeant Blair in the military publication, "Stars and Stripes": "Blair was their leader. He was tough, unrelenting. He cursed and reprimanded and gained not just their

respect, but their fondness during the months of training for their deployment in Afghanistan. He could be harsh, but was fair and imparted to his men a sense of their potential."

Other soldiers have echoed these comments, describing how Blair pushed them beyond their comfort levels to be their best and was even like a father figure for many of them.

Madam Speaker, Sergeant Blair carried these same characteristics to his service as a Gordon County sheriff's deputy and a Drug Task Force officer for many years in Calhoun, Georgia. In addition to his great service to our Nation and his community, John Blair was also a dedicated family man who was looking forward to spending quality time with his grandson when he returned home. What an amazing example of courage, selflessness and a love of country that Sergeant Blair provided, not only for his young grandson but, Madam Speaker, for all of us.

My prayers go out to his family. My deepest gratitude goes out to First Sergeant Blair for his selfless sacrifice for our Nation. I ask all Members to join me in honoring the distinguished memory of First Sergeant John Blair.

#### CAP AND TRADE ALL OUR JOBS TO CHINA

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

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I come tonight a little stunned. Quite frankly, I didn't think the energy bill, the cap-and-trade bill, would actually ever reach a point where it would come before the House and for that matter the Senate. When we are in the unemployment state that we are in right now in America, it seems rather ridiculous to be bringing bills that would put so many hardworking people out of work.

The cap-and-trade bill, or as many of us call it, the cap-and-tax bill, are what a manufacturing district like mine would call a "cap and trade our jobs to China bill." We are just reeling right now. Honestly, to talk about my district for a second, I have eight counties. The mean of unemployment in those counties is 15 percent. Two of the counties, Elkhart and LaGrange, are at 19 percent. Let me tell you about my best county. My best county, Allen County, my home, anchored by Fort Wayne with a little under 300,000 people, has an unemployment rate of approaching 11 percent. We have one of the biggest pick-up plants in the world that produces the Silverado and the Sierra. So I have been fighting hard to make sure that they are not knocked out of business. Our largest property tax payer, the GM plant is the second largest, is a mall that is part General Growth Properties. That is in chapter 11.

One of our large employers is a financial company that has 1,900 jobs, and

they have applied for TARP funds. We are struggling with auto parts. The Fort Wayne Foundry, over 100 years in business, has just closed three plants because they are a major GM and Chrysler supplier and couldn't make it through the shut-downs after 100 years.

Now we are being asked to tax them through their energy. Now let me talk a little bit about how we get our energy in Indiana. We are 85 percent coal. We are 15 percent nuclear. The Heritage study showing impact by congressional district says that my congressional district is the number one damaged district.

The new figures from the National Association of Manufacturers this week show that my district is the number one manufacturing district. It is unusual. If you came to northeast Indiana, and I represent basically Fort Wayne up to South Bend going along the Michigan line and the Ohio line, if you came to my district, you would drive through an area where you would see lots of water, rivers, 100 lakes in Kosciusko County, 100 lakes in Steuben County. And in between that water is beautiful, green farmland. We aren't dry and parched like much of America. We have a very green area that gives us water, which is essential to most manufacturing. You can't build major manufacturing facilities where there isn't adequate water. And people still farm. We don't have the great big corporate farms. We have many small farms. Because one person from each family, sometimes even multi-families on a small farm, will be working at different auto parts plants, plastic parts plants and RV plants scattered throughout my district, thousands and thousands and thousands. They are at a direct threat.

Let me talk a little bit more about our energy. I have been to the alternative energy labs in Colorado, at Sandia Labs in New Mexico, and at the major places where we look at alternative energy. Indiana cannot get wind power. We don't have a way to get to 20 percent or such high figures in the traditional alternative energy. Some of my friends I have known for many years are putting in one of the biggest wind farms. It is the second most windy area in the State of Indiana. It is going to be miles and miles. We will be lucky to get to four percent if we build every windmill you can build in the State of Indiana. In solar, we don't get as much sun as Arizona and Nevada. We are pushing solar energy as hard as we can. One of my good friends has a new solar company working with the Germans that can get better solar power at homes.

But let's get this straight. I have two Steel Dynamics plants, the most efficient steel process in the United States, five Nucor plants and Valbruna Steel. SDI, in one of their plants, takes as much energy as the City of Fort Wayne with nearly 250,000 to 300,000 people in it and everything therein. You cannot power a steel plant with