

EXTENDING DEADLINE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PRICE DAM HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2938) to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2938

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the time period specified in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project numbered 12187, the Commission may, at the request of the licensee for the project, and after reasonable notice, in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of that section and the Commission's procedures under that section, extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence the construction of the project for up to 3 consecutive 2-year periods from the date of the expiration of the extension originally issued by the Commission.

(b) REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSE.—If the period required for commencement of construction of the project described in subsection (a) has expired prior to the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission may reinstate the license effective as of the date of its expiration and the first extension authorized under subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of such expiration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2938 would allow the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the construction deadline for a hydroelectric power plant at the Melvin Price Locks and Dam in Alton, Illinois. Over the past 20 years, there has been great interest in building a hydroelectric plant at this site on the Mississippi River; however, construction of the hydroelectric plant has not happened on this site as of this date.

Last October, Brookfield Power acquired the license to proceed with the construction of the site. When Brookfield applied for an extension of the construction deadline, the company was informed that because of the administrative extensions granted to the previous licensee, congressional action is needed to grant an extension.

Brookfield will lose this license at the end of this month, July 2009. For

that reason, Brookfield and the City of Alton, Illinois, requested legislation to extend the deadline for 6 years.

Passing this legislation is necessary to ensure that Brookfield can bring renewable energy to Illinois and create green jobs. The hydroelectric project will create 404,000 megawatt hours of electricity, the equivalent of 283 barrels of oil. Further, Brookfield will hire 125 workers over a 3-year period and invest over \$400 million to construct the plan.

This bill is cosponsored by my friend and colleague from Illinois, Congressman JOHN SHIMKUS. Both the majority and minority staff of the Energy and Commerce Committee have reviewed and accepted the legislation. FERC has also reviewed the legislation and does not oppose it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2938.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2938, a bill that extends the timeline to bring this hydroelectric power plant project in Illinois on line. It gives them another up to 6 years, and ultimately, this would be the decision of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. But as they're going through the process right now of permitting and approval, this provides them an additional 6 years to make sure that the project has enough time to get approved and completed and bring this new power source on line.

I would like to yield 3 minutes to my friend from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

Mr. WALDEN. I thank my colleague from Louisiana.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today also in support of this legislation. I think it's a good bill because I think hydroelectric power is a good thing for our country, and when we're concerned about getting renewable energy online, there's probably nothing better than hydropower for that.

Unfortunately, in the cap-and-tax bill that was passed by this House over my objection and over the objection of the gentleman from Illinois, there is a provision on page 19, line 12, sub 3, that says, The hydroelectric project installed on the dam is operated so that the water surface elevation at any given location and time that would have occurred in the absence of the hydroelectric project is maintained.

Now, I share this language with you because the gentleman from Illinois, my friend, talked about the 404,000 watts or megawatts, whatever it is—I didn't jot down the exact amount—would be produced as hydroelectric power and, therefore, renewable energy and create new jobs. My concern is this: that hydropower is being added after this legislation is moving forward.

Should the cap-and-tax bill become law, that hydropower, according to this language, would not be considered as renewable energy for purposes of Illinois meeting the new Federal standard on renewable energy. Because in con-

sultation with two civil engineers I've spoken with who operate hydro projects—many of them and large-scale hydro projects—when I shared this language with them about maintaining the surface elevation at any location in time, they laughed. They said you can't operate a hydro system and not affect the water behind the dam in some way at some point.

And so to disqualify the new hydro—like the gentleman from Illinois is trying to get here—makes no sense to me. Either hydropower is renewable or it's not.

Now, there is another provision in this bill, the cap-and-tax bill, that said hydro that came online after 1988 is renewable but hydro before 1988 is not. Now, you have got water flowing down a river. You've got multiple dams along the way with hydro generation facilities. It's the same water. It just depends on what year the dam was built whether or not that hydropower is considered renewable or not. That doesn't make a lot of sense.

Nor do the provisions in the cap-and-tax bill that said, if woody biomass off a Federal forest comes off of a late successional stand, you can't count the burning of that to produce green energy as renewable energy, but if it came off of a severely damaged tree, it is, although there is no definition for that. And if any woody biomass comes off private, county, State lands, it's all considered renewable energy when it produces electricity when it's burned, but yet there is this restriction on Federal land.

□ 1645

I share that with you because America's Federal forests are terrifically overstocked and subject to catastrophic fire.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SCALISE. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. WALDEN. We could create more real jobs cleaning up the forest in very depressed communities. I was just out in four counties in my district. I think two, maybe three, are now at over 20 percent unemployment. They have 70, 50 and 80 percent Federal land. This is the great forests of our country that are left to burn up. The woody biomass could be put into clean energy. There are firms willing to invest if they could get supply. Again, the cap-and-trade, cap-and-tax bill harms that effort.

So I share the gentleman's support of this legislation to create and move forward on the hydro project. It's unfortunate if the cap-and-tax bill that passed the House becomes law that hydro will not be considered renewal. That doesn't make sense. And I hope that the Senate can correct this problem.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my colleague for supporting this legislation. I share the same concern that you have with the section that you quoted in the energy bill, and we hope that our friends in the other body

will address that issue so that it is not a concern for the future.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCALISE. I would like to yield 3 minutes to a cosponsor of this bill, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Melvin Price Locks and Dam is named after an historic member of this Chamber, Mel Price, who gave me my nomination to West Point. So it is with great affinity that I just mentioned that. But now that district is ably represented by my friend and colleague, JERRY COSTELLO, and I thank him for including me on this reauthorization bill.

The Republicans have already talked about an all-of-the-above energy strategy which talks about nuclear, wind, solar and hydroelectric. And no one is really more knowledgeable on the hydroelectric issue than the colleague who preceded me, GREG WALDEN. There is a concern about if we want these programs, these licenses, to actually become real projects in the whole credit issue, then this has to qualify for renewable, and that will help bring some dollars to help effect this instead of just worrying about relicensing, then we can actually get it built. But if we don't do this process, then we have to go through the whole paperwork procedure.

I'm very happy to be here with my friend who, again, worked hard and diligently for southern Illinois. And this is all part of that all-of-the-above energy strategy that will help us decrease our reliance on imported crude oil. Thank you for letting me join you in this resolution.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I would yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise really in amazement today to hear our colleagues on the other side talk about hydroelectric power being a renewable energy source, because we have seen multiple venues here in the House where Democrats have denied that.

Mr. Speaker, we have a tremendous need in this country for alternative sources of energy, renewable sources of energy. Nuclear energy is one of those renewable sources of energy, or a source of energy that is one that makes the most sense from an environmental perspective as well as a cost perspective.

We have many members of the opposition on the other side that want to deny us going into a nuclear age. France gets over 80 percent of its electric power from nuclear sources. The United States should do the same thing. In my home State of Georgia, the Georgia Power Company for a long

period of time now has been trying to get permitting for two new nuclear reactors at their plant in Vogel just south of my district, just south of Augusta, Georgia. They already have two. They want two more. But, Mr. Speaker, they have had a great deal of difficulty because the regulatory commission and various environmental groups have made it extremely difficult.

They are not alone. All over this country, there are electric power companies that want to put in electric power plants that are nuclear-fueled. Mr. Speaker, they have great difficulty doing so. We need to use our renewable resources, not only for hydroelectric power, but for nuclear power. We need to look to wind and solar. We need to look to biomass. We need to stop this idiocy of a corn-based ethanol source of energy. Mr. Speaker, I'm from Georgia, and I love my cornbread and grits. It makes no sense to me to drive down the road burning up my food. But we've done that. And it has driven up the cost of corn for the chicken producers that produce most of the chicken for the world, all over the world in my district, and in my friend NATHAN DEAL'S district from Gainesville in the Ninth and Tenth Congressional Districts of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, we have an energy policy that is broken. Republicans have presented bill after bill that would solve the energy crisis. The American Energy Act is one. It is an all-of-the-above energy plan that would stimulate hydroelectric power. It would stimulate nuclear power. It would look to alternative sources of power.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SCALISE. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. But our plans are not being heard on the floor of this House. Why is that? Why are the American people's representatives not being heard?

It is because the leadership on the Democratic side wants to stifle debate, wants to shut off any alternative ideas. They call the Republican Party the "Party of No," but the Democratic Party has been the Party of No, whereas the Republican Party is the Party of k-n-o-w Know because we know how to solve the energy crisis. We know how to solve the health care financing crisis. We know how to solve the economic crisis. But those ideas are not being heard. Mr. Speaker, it is time for the American people to wake up and demand that the Republicans are heard.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I would ask my friend from Louisiana if he has other speakers?

Mr. SCALISE. I'm prepared to close.

Mr. COSTELLO. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I again rise in support of the legislation dealing with hydroelectric power. I think it is important, as we are talking about energy, that we really talk about the

need to get a comprehensive national energy policy in our country. It is not just enough to promote hydroelectric power. It is not just enough to look at any one significant source of power. We need to look at all of the resources in our land. In fact, the inscription by Daniel Webster right above the Speaker's rostrum talks about the need to explore the resources of our land. Unfortunately, there are many Federal laws and barriers in place that prevent us from doing just that. This cap-and-trade national energy tax imposes even more barriers. In addition to imposing significant taxes on to the backs of American people in the form of higher utility rates and bureaucratic regulations, it will run millions of jobs out of this country.

That's not the right approach. What we need is a comprehensive energy policy. I'm proud to be a cosponsor, with many other of my colleagues, of the American Energy Act, a bill that we filed earlier this year to take that comprehensive approach to a national energy policy, one that looks at all of the alternatives. We explore more technologies for wind, for solar, for hydroelectric and for nuclear power. We use our natural resources, like oil and natural gas, to get to that bridge to fund those other alternatives. We use the things that we have here today to get us to those technologies that aren't yet readily available to power our homes or to run our cars. But hopefully one day, through the use of these technologies, we will advance the utilization of the natural resources we have in our country to create jobs.

Our bill would actually create jobs and generate billions of dollars to the Federal Government, not by raising taxes, but by actually creating more economic opportunities by creating jobs and getting people back to work so that they can contribute and pay into and pay down this debt as opposed to raising the debt and running off jobs.

So I would hope that we would support and get to a place where we can actually get agreement in a bipartisan way to pass a bipartisan bill like the American Energy Act that actually takes a comprehensive approach to solving our national energy needs and reducing our dependence on Middle Eastern oil—rather than this tax approach, this cap-and-trade energy tax that actually would make countries in Europe, the Middle East and China more powerful and put America further at risk—so we can get our strengthened energy policy and we can get energy independence. But we need to have a bipartisan approach, not this cap-and-trade energy tax that literally would run millions of jobs out of our country.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my friend from Louisiana and the minority for supporting this legislation. In particular I would like to thank my colleague from Illinois, Congressman SHIMKUS, not only for his

kind words, but for cosponsoring this legislation.

I urge passage of H.R. 2938, and with that I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2938.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING LATINO DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 69) recognizing the need to continue research into the causes, treatment, education, and an eventual cure for diabetes, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 69

Whereas diabetes mellitus is a chronic disease caused by the inability of the pancreas to produce insulin or to use the insulin produced in the proper way;

Whereas in the case of Type I diabetes or insulin-dependent diabetes, formerly called juvenile-onset diabetes because it tends to affect persons before the age of 20, the pancreas makes almost no insulin;

Whereas in the case of Type II diabetes or non-insulin-dependent diabetes, which comprises about 90 percent of all cases of diabetes, the pancreas produces a reduced amount of insulin or the cells do not respond to the insulin;

Whereas this year 23.6 million Americans suffer from one form or another of this disease, and 5.7 million people go undiagnosed, commonly known as pre-diabetes;

Whereas 2.0 million or 8.2 percent of all Latino Americans aged twenty years or older have diabetes, and Latino Americans are 1.5 times more likely to have diabetes than non-Latino whites of similar age;

Whereas Mexican-Americans, the largest Latino subgroup in the United States, are more than twice as likely to have diabetes as non-Latino whites of similar age;

Whereas residents of Puerto Rico are 1.8 times more likely to have diagnosed diabetes than United States non-Latino whites;

Whereas diabetes affects individuals in different ways, and as a result, treatment programs will vary;

Whereas diabetes in the Latino community can result in a high prevalence of complications, such as foot problems and amputations, kidney failure that may lead to chronic or end stage renal disease, blindness, numbness and loss of sensation in the legs, heart attacks and strokes, and eventually death;

Whereas individuals suffering from diabetes can reduce their risk for complications if

they are educated about their disease; learn and practice the skills necessary to better control their blood glucose, blood pressure, and cholesterol levels; exercise; and receive regular checkups;

Whereas targeted health communications to the public are vital in disseminating information about diabetes and the need to live a healthy lifestyle;

Whereas the Latino Diabetes Association, a nonprofit organization devoted to aggressive diabetes education, has worked tirelessly to raise funds for diabetes education and to find the causes of and cure for diabetes; and

Whereas the month of July of 2009 would be an appropriate month to recognize Latino Diabetes Awareness Month in order to educate Latino communities across the Nation about diabetes and the need for research funding, accurate diagnosis, and effective treatments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the need to continue research into the causes, treatment, education, and an eventual cure for diabetes;

(2) commends those hospitals, community clinics, educational institutes, and other organizations that are—

(A) working to increase awareness of diabetes; and

(B) conducting research for methods to help patients and families in the Latino community suffering from diabetes;

(3) congratulates the work of the Latino Diabetes Association for its great efforts to educate, support, and provide hope for individuals and their families who suffer from diabetes;

(4) supports the designation of an appropriate month to recognize "Latino Diabetes Awareness Month"; and

(5) calls upon the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I would like to thank Majority Leader HOYER, Chairman WAXMAN, Ranking Member BARTON and Health Subcommittee Chair PALLONE and, of course, my colleague from Louisiana, a good baseball player, for their support of this resolution. I also want to take the time to thank all my colleagues in the House of Representatives for their bipartisan support of this resolution.

I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 69, the Latino Diabetes Awareness Resolution. The resolution recognizes the need to continue research into the causes, treatment, education and an eventual cure for diabetes and commends those organizations

that are working to increase awareness of diabetes and conducting research for methods to help patients and families in Latino communities suffering from diabetes.

It also congratulates the work of the Latino Diabetes Association for its great efforts to educate, support and provide hope for individuals and families who suffer from diabetes. The resolution also supports the designation of July 2009 as "Latino Diabetes Awareness Month." It calls upon the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

It is critical for the long-term sustainability of any health care reform plan to make sure that steps for the prevention of diseases, like diabetes, are encouraged by Congress. This prevention of disease would do a great deal in helping keep costs down for current patients, as well as favorably changing the attitudes and behavior of diabetes patients and their families, thereby improving their quality of life.

We can take a good first step in achieving these goals by passing this resolution here today. Diabetes is a chronic disease of the pancreas and adversely affects its ability to produce and use insulin in the proper way.

Diabetes has no cure, treatment varies from patient to patient, and it is quite often very painful. Some side effects of treatment include weight gain, skin rash or itching, various stomach problems, tiredness and dizziness, and swelling in the leg and ankle.

The impact of diabetes is not focused solely on the patient; family members and immediate care takers also suffer greatly from the effects of diabetes on their loved ones. I say this from personal experience.

In the Latino community, diabetes can result in high prevalence of foot problems, kidney failure, renal disease, blindness, heart attacks, strokes and eventually death.

□ 1700

What's scariest is that diabetes patients who need to take one or more insulin shots daily, and for whatever reason do not, greatly increase their risk of stroke and heart attack.

One of the reasons I believe diabetes disproportionately affects the Latino community is the lack of sound health communication that speaks to those Hispanics who are most at risk of coming down with diabetes, or who already suffer from it. This means targeting communications efforts to both English- and Spanish-speaking communities and specifically referencing these efforts towards the area of our culture that puts us at risk the most: our diets.

Over 23.6 million Americans suffer from diabetes, and of these, 2 million are Latinos or of Latino descent; 8.6 of all Latinos over the age of 20 live with this disease. However, Latinos are almost twice as likely to have diabetes as non-Latino whites of similar age.