

DOMESTIC NATURAL GAS SUPPLY
ACT OF 2005**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Domestic Natural Gas Supply Act of 2005". The purpose of this legislation is to provide adequate funding for the Ultra-deep-water and Unconventional Gas and Other Petroleum Research and Development Program that was established in the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

The rapid escalation of natural gas prices in recent months since the passage of EP Act 2005 is the most tangible evidence that a natural gas supply problem of truly crisis proportions is looming in this country.

The Congress took a major, first step when it enacted this R&D program and the President signed it into law in August. However, the agreement in the conference report cut the funding to the point that the program is barely viable.

This bill restores funding to the level contained in the House-passed version of EP Act 2005. By enacting this bill into law we will ensure that the program will go forward with the funding necessary to develop and deploy the technologies to produce the tremendous volumes of natural gas that lie underneath the Gulf of Mexico and the onshore areas of the continental United States.

I want to reiterate that this funding does not come from General Revenue. It comes from royalties collected from existing oil and natural gas production. In effect, what we are doing is reinvesting proceeds from the government's assets to produce more oil and gas. The royalties generated by this new production will far exceed the investment in this program, according to the University of Texas' Bureau of Economic Geology.

I am pleased to introduce this legislation today, not only because it is good energy policy and good business, but because it will go far towards reducing the dramatic decline in domestic natural gas production that so threatens the economic health and energy security of this country.

SCIENTISTS WHO WILL RECEIVE
STEM CELL RESEARCH GRANTS**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I came to the House floor to announce that New Jersey had just become the first state in the nation to distribute public funds for human embryonic stem cell research.

I wanted to include in the RECORD a list of the scientists who will receive these stem cell research grants. All grants are approximately \$300,000. The scientists, work at a number of different institutions around New Jersey: Rutgers University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, The Coriell Institute for Medical Research, Princeton University, UMDNJ-RWJMS, Amocyte, Inc.

The New Jersey Commission on Science and Technology voted in a public meeting to—

award Stem Cell Research Grants to the following:

T. Arinze, Nanofiber Scaffold for Stem Cell Based Cartilage Repair, To test whether stem cells can be used to repair cartilage defects with the potential for providing new tissue engineering therapies that could help cancer patients who have had tumors removed from bones, osteoporosis and other cartilage and tendon damage.

R. Cohen, Training in Human Embryonic Stem Cell Biology, To provide basic and advanced training in the field of human embryonic stem cell biology and to develop a well-trained pool of scientists in New Jersey proficient in hESC culture techniques with the goal of advancing New Jersey's leadership in stem cell research.

R.Hart, Regulation of microRNA Gene Expression in Differentiating Neural Stem Cells, To understand and control differentiation of neural stem cells with the potential to produce specific cell types for therapeutic transplant in brain trauma, stroke, spinal cord injury, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease.

H. Houbaviy, MicroRNAs MiR-290-295 in Blastocyst-Derived Stem Cells and the Early Mouse Embryo, To understand stem cell development and lineage determination with the goal of expanding and improving knowledge of areas of stem cell biology currently not well understood.

I. Lemischka, Genome-Wide Functional Analysis of ES Cell fate Regulation, To understand human embryonic stem cell decisions such as survival/death, renewal/determination and to understand how to maintain or induce specific cell fate with the goal of applying this knowledge to patient therapies.

R. McKinnon, Gliogenic Potential of Human Placental Stem Cells, to identify mechanisms of glial cell generation from human placental cells with the goal of identifying a potential alternative to embryonic stem cells for clinical trials. In collaboration with Celgene, a New Jersey-based biotech firm ranked sixth largest internationally.

K. Moore, Interactive Mechanisms of Stem Cells and Microenvironments, to further understand the mechanisms of stem cell self-renewal and commitment toward the purpose of developing new therapies or advancing existing therapies for use in drug development and for gene and cell therapy for immunological and other diseases.

R. Nowakowski, Molecular Circuitry of "Stemness" in the Developing CNS, to learn how to reprogram or teach transplanted cells how to generate the right type and number of necessary cells for cell-replacement therapies with the potential for replacing specific brain areas damaged by disease or injury.

R. Preti, Bone Marrow Derived CD34 Cells for Treatment of Acute Myocardial Infarction, to produce a cell therapy product using bone marrow-derived cells for treatment of coronary damage following a heart attack and advance the company's federal Food and Drug Administration-approved clinical trials with the potential for new and more effective therapy for cardiac patients.

L. Qin, PTH-Mediated AGFR Signaling in Stromal Stem Cell Growth and Multidifferentiation, to conduct fundamental research using bone marrow stem cells with the potential to develop more effective treatments for low bone mass and similar disorders.

M. Roth, Selective Gene Delivery to Human Hematopoietic Stem Cells, to apply novel genetic screening approaches to stem cells with the potential of enhancing the ability to use stem cells and gene therapy in many clinical settings, including treating hematopoietic disorders and cancer.

J. Sadoshima, Mechanisms of Mesenchymal Stem Cell Differentiation, to increase the efficiency of stem cell differentiation into cardiac myocytes by manipulating a particular signaling mechanism with the potential for developing an effective method to repair damaged heart tissues.

B. Saitta, Role of Extracellular Matrix in Cord Blood Stem Cell Response to Cardiac Injury, to use stem cells derived from umbilical cord blood to study the molecular mechanisms of stem cells in repairing damaged areas of the heart with the potential to heal damaged tissue and preserve or regain function, offering an alternative to transplants which are possible but limited by the number of donors.

M. Shen, Role of the Nodal signaling pathway in regulation of embryonic pluripotency, to enhance fundamental understanding of basic molecular functions in mice and human stem cells with the potential for improving manipulation of ES cells in culture for use in stem cell-based therapies including possible insights into the genesis and dysregulation of cancer stem cells.

T. Shenk, Isolation and Characterization of Life-Extended Human Cord Blood Cells, to produce populations of stem cells from human cord blood that can be used to study the molecular characteristics of such cells including how to modulate these growth responses in vivo and in culture with the potential to improve the clinical uses of stem cells.

Y. Shi, Immunobiology of Mesenchymal Stem Cells, to investigate the mechanisms underlying stem cell mediated immune tolerance and its use in treatment of autoimmune disorders with the potential to lead to new treatment for many human diseases in which the immune system attacks the body, including MS and asthma.

J. Tischfield, Genetic and Structural Analysis of Mouse ES Cells and their Derivatives, to study cultured ESC and confirm, monitor and regulate phenomena that would be deleterious to tissues derived from stem cells with the potential to prevent problems that could slow development of stem cell therapies.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE
HOUSE THAT SYMBOLS AND
TRADITIONS OF CHRISTMAS
SHOULD BE PROTECTED

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, forgive me if I haven't noticed that Christmas is under attack. Being Jewish, maybe I am simply incapable of judging. Silly me, I thought there were about the same number of Christmas trees, both in private homes and public places—that is, everywhere. Seems like Christmas music is still ubiquitous in elevators, grocery stores, the mall and while on hold on the telephone. No? Having just returned from Eastern Market, I still have the sounds of real live carolers in my ears, and, as a former community choir member, I knew all the words and sang along. (Is it anti-Christmas for a Jew to do that? I should check with Bill O'Reilly.)

Santa was there as usual at Congressmen BARTON's and DINGELL's reception for the Energy and Commerce Committee, and adorable little children of Christian conservatives as well as moderates, and yes, even Democrats, were