

September 5, 2006, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the concurrent resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ENERGY COOPERATION ACT

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2730) to establish a grant program to fund eligible joint ventures between United States and Israeli businesses and academic persons, to establish the International Energy Advisory Board, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2730

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United States-Israel Energy Cooperation Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) it is in the highest national security interests of the United States to ensure secure access to reliable energy sources;

(2) the United States relies heavily on the foreign supply of crude oil to meet the energy needs of the United States, currently importing 58 percent of the total oil requirements of the United States, of which 45 percent comes from member states of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC);

(3) revenues from the sale of oil by some of these countries directly or indirectly provide funding for terrorism and propaganda hostile to the values of the United States and the West;

(4) in the past, these countries have manipulated the dependence of the United States on the oil supplies of these countries to exert undue influence on United States policy, as during the embargo of OPEC during 1973 on the sale of oil to the United States, which became a major factor in the ensuing recession;

(5) research by the Energy Information Administration of the Department of Energy has shown that the dependence of the United States on foreign oil will increase by 33 percent over the next 20 years;

(6) a rise in the price of imported oil sufficient to increase gasoline prices by 10 cents

per gallon at the pump would result in an additional outflow of \$18,000,000,000 from the United States to oil-exporting nations;

(7) for economic and national security reasons, the United States should reduce, as soon as practicable, the dependence of the United States on nations that do not share the interests and values of the United States;

(8) the State of Israel has been a steadfast ally and a close friend of the United States since the creation of Israel in 1948;

(9) like the United States, Israel is a democracy that holds civil rights and liberties in the highest regard and is a proponent of the democratic values of peace, freedom, and justice;

(10) cooperation between the United States and Israel on such projects as the development of the Arrow Missile has resulted in mutual benefits to United States and Israeli security;

(11) the special relationship between Israel and the United States has been and continues to be manifested in a variety of jointly-funded cooperative programs in the field of scientific research and development, such as—

(A) the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF);

(B) the Israel-United States Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund (BARD); and

(C) the Israel-United States Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) Foundation;

(12) these programs, supported by the matching contributions from the Government of Israel and the Government of the United States and directed by key scientists and academics from both countries, have made possible many scientific breakthroughs in the fields of life sciences, medicine, bioengineering, agriculture, biotechnology, communications, and others;

(13) on February 1, 1996, United States Secretary of Energy Hazel R. O'Leary and Israeli Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Gonen Segev signed the Agreement Between the Department of Energy of the United States of America and the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure of Israel Concerning Energy Cooperation, to establish a framework for collaboration between the United States and Israel in energy research and development activities;

(14) Israeli scientists and researchers have long been at the forefront of research and development in the field of alternative renewable energy sources;

(15) many of the top corporations of the world have recognized the technological and scientific expertise of Israel by locating important research and development facilities in Israel;

(16) among the technological breakthroughs made by Israeli scientists and researchers in the field of alternative, renewable energy sources are—

(A) the development of a cathode that uses hexavalent iron salts that accept 3 electrons per ion and enable rechargeable batteries to provide 3 times as much electricity as existing rechargeable batteries;

(B) the development of a technique that vastly increases the efficiency of using solar energy to generate hydrogen for use in energy cells; and

(C) the development of a novel membrane used in new and powerful direct-oxidant fuel cells that is capable of competing favorably with hydrogen fuel cells and traditional internal combustion engines; and

(17) cooperation between the United States and Israel in the field of research and development of alternative renewable energy sources would be in the interests of both

countries, and both countries stand to gain much from such cooperation.

SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Pursuant to the responsibilities described in section 102(10), (14), and (17) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7112(10), (14), and (17)) and section 103(9) of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5813(9)), the Secretary, in consultation with the BIRD or BSF, shall award grants to eligible entities.

(b) APPLICATION.—

(1) SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS.—To receive a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an application to the Secretary containing such information and assurances as the Secretary, in consultation with the BIRD or BSF, may require.

(2) SELECTION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Directors of the BIRD and BSF, may review any application submitted by any eligible entity and select any eligible entity meeting criteria established by the Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory Board, for a grant under this section.

(c) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of each grant awarded for a fiscal year under this section shall be determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the BIRD or BSF.

(d) RECOUPMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish procedures and criteria for recoupment in connection with any eligible project carried out by an eligible entity that receives a grant under this section, which has led to the development of a product or process which is marketed or used.

(2) AMOUNT REQUIRED.—

(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), such recoupment shall be required as a condition for award and be proportional to the Federal share of the costs of such project, and shall be derived from the proceeds of royalties or licensing fees received in connection with such product or process.

(B) In the case where a product or process is used by the recipient of a grant under this section for the production and sale of its own products or processes, the recoupment shall consist of a payment equivalent to the payment which would be made under subparagraph (A).

(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may at any time waive or defer all or some of the recoupment requirements of this subsection as necessary, depending on—

(A) the commercial competitiveness of the entity or entities developing or using the product or process;

(B) the profitability of the project; and

(C) the commercial viability of the product or process utilized.

(e) PRIVATE FUNDS.—The Secretary may accept contributions of funds from private sources to carry out this Act.

(f) OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY.—The Secretary shall carry out this section through the existing programs at the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

(g) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after receiving a grant under this section, each recipient shall submit a report to the Secretary—

(1) documenting how the recipient used the grant funds; and

(2) evaluating the level of success of each project funded by the grant.

SEC. 4. INTERNATIONAL ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department of Energy an International Energy Advisory Board.

(b) DUTIES.—The Advisory Board shall advise the Secretary on—

(1) criteria for the recipients of grants awarded under section 3(a);

(2) the total amount of grant money to be awarded to all grantees selected by the Secretary, in consultation with the BIRD; and

(3) the total amount of grant money to be awarded to all grantees selected by the Secretary, in consultation with the BSF, for each fiscal year.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—The Advisory Board shall be composed of—

(A) 1 member appointed by the Secretary of Commerce;

(B) 1 member appointed by the Secretary of Energy; and

(C) 2 members who shall be Israeli citizens, appointed by the Secretary of Energy after consultation with appropriate officials in the Israeli Government.

(2) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENTS.—The initial appointments under paragraph (1) shall be made not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) TERM.—Each member of the Advisory Board shall be appointed for a term of 4 years.

(4) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Advisory Board shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(5) BASIC PAY.—

(A) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Advisory Board shall serve without pay.

(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Advisory Board shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions of subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(6) QUORUM.—Three members of the Advisory Board shall constitute a quorum.

(7) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Advisory Board shall be designated by the Secretary of Energy at the time of the appointment.

(8) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Board shall meet at least once annually at the call of the Chairperson.

(d) TERMINATION.—Section 14(a)(2)(B) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Advisory Board.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADVISORY BOARD.—The term “Advisory Board” means the International Energy Advisory Board established by section 4(a).

(2) BIRD.—The term “BIRD” means the Israel-United States Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation.

(3) BSF.—The term “BSF” means the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation.

(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means a joint venture comprised of both Israeli and United States private business entities or a joint venture comprised of both Israeli academic persons (who reside and work in Israel) and United States academic persons, that—

(A) carries out an eligible project; and

(B) is selected by the Secretary, in consultation with the BIRD or BSF, using the criteria established by the Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory Board.

(5) ELIGIBLE PROJECT.—The term “eligible project” means a project to encourage cooperation between the United States and Israel on research, development, or commercialization of alternative energy, improved energy efficiency, or renewable energy sources.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

SEC. 6. TERMINATION.

The grant program authorized under section 3 and the Advisory Board shall termi-

nate upon the expiration of the 7-year period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The Secretary is authorized to expend not more than \$20,000,000 to carry out this Act for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2012 from funds previously authorized to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

SEC. 8. CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.

The Constitutional authority on which this Act rests is the power of Congress to regulate commerce with foreign nations as enumerated in Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

□ 1330

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2730, the United States-Israel Energy Cooperation Act and urge my colleagues to support its passage. The U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation Act will help curb America's reliance on foreign oil and increase our use of new energy technologies.

As the gentleman knows, the price of gasoline has risen to well above \$3 a gallon across America. Indeed, it is drastically affecting the pocketbooks of all Americans and all American businesses. It affects every aspect of our economy; and, indeed, the rising cost of energy threatens the American economy. That is at least one of the reasons why the United States and Israel need to work together in partnership to look for ways that we can reduce our reliance on foreign sources of energy and particularly on foreign oil.

This bill utilizes the critical and close relationship between the United States and Israel on a common area of interest, that is, energy and energy independence by creating a vehicle for innovation and security.

Mr. Speaker, every American is aware that the United States is too dependent on foreign sources of energy. Every American should realize the danger this creates for us as a Nation. The United States Government predicts that by 2025 America will import almost 68 percent of its oil; and, increasingly, this oil comes from dangerous parts of the world. It comes from unstable areas, including the increasingly unstable Middle East.

Global fuel and consumption, however, is projected to increase by 100 to 150 percent over the next 20 years, driven largely by the rapidly growing Chinese and Indian economies; and this growth and this increase in demand will force prices even higher.

If the United States is to protect itself from the economic and the political threats created by this excessive dependence, we must reduce our reliance on foreign energy sources and on foreign oil as quickly and as efficiently as possible.

But there is a common interest between the United States and Israel in this work. Israel, too, is too dependent on foreign sources of energy; and this legislation takes care of that issue. It allows the United States Department of Energy to invest up to \$20 million annually in joint energy projects between American and Israeli businesses, scientists and academics. Eligible products include research, development and commercialization of alternative energy sources, improved energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.

It is important, Mr. Speaker, to understand that legislation is not a hand-out, unlike other similar programs. Every single recipient of funds under this legislation is required, by the terms of the legislation, to pay back the American taxpayers in proportion to the overall investment in the project. What that means is that if a successful project is developed as a result of these funds and if an energy source is found, according to rules provided by the Secretary of Energy, the Treasury of the United States will be repaid in proportion to the Federal Government's investment in the research involved or in the project which created this new energy.

H.R. 2730 has wide bipartisan support, including more than 100 Members of this House. It passed the Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously. I believe it is a critically important piece of legislation, and that that view is shared not only by those of us in this Congress but also by the people of Israel.

Not long ago, Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, addressed a joint session of the United States Congress here in this Chamber. In his speech to the United States Congress just a few weeks ago, he expressed his support for this legislation, stating that “through the United States-Israel Energy Cooperation Act, in collaboration with our U.S. counterparts, Israel will increase its efforts to find advanced scientific and technological solutions designed to develop new energy sources and encourage conservation.”

I would suggest it is not common for the Prime Minister of another nation to call on the United States to join them in the passage of a specific piece of legislation which will benefit both nations.

The United States and Israel are both at the cutting edge of research in energy technologies, but we must do

more to end our dependence on foreign energy, and we have every reason to cooperate. For example, in my own State of Arizona, an Israeli scientist is working with an Arizona company on a demonstration project involving a very fast-growing algae which can be used to power a biomass energy plan.

By passing this legislation, the United States and Israel are fostering a partnership dedicated to scientific breakthroughs and improvements in energy innovation. This modest investment in scientific research will help both the United States and Israel in our efforts to develop new energy technologies, and it will help both of our countries reduce our reliance on foreign sources of energy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I want to commend my friend from Arizona for his remarks. I certainly concur with everything he said.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the United States-Israel Energy Cooperation Act. As an original cosponsor of this legislation, I am pleased that Congress is moving it forward today. I would like to thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) for their great leadership in introducing this bill, as well as Chairman BARTON and Ranking Member DINGELL for supporting it in our committee.

As the gentleman from Arizona pointed out, the bill did pass the Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously, which shows the strong bipartisan support that it has. We will all benefit from our mutual commitment to this legislation; and, more importantly, our country will benefit.

Today, the United States consumes nearly 21 million barrels of oil per day, demands 25 percent of global oil production and holds only 3 percent of the global oil supply. This has made our Nation dangerously dependent on unstable and hostile nations for fuel and illustrates just how important it is for the United States to continue to build upon partnerships with other nations for developing alternative energy sources. Simply put, initiatives like this will help strengthen United States national security.

Israel has always been a close friend and ally of the United States, and this legislation simply builds upon both nations' history of innovation and cooperation on scientific research. We have already worked together on the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation and the United States-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation.

As some of you may remember, during consideration of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, I had a provision successfully adopted into the law, section 986, which requires the Secretary of Energy

to report regularly on energy collaboration between the United States and Israel. We received the first report in November of 2005, and today's legislation will certainly expand opportunities for us to work together on achieving energy independence through the development and deployment of environmentally friendly energy technologies.

As a result of H.R. 2730, the Secretary of Energy will establish a grant program for joint ventures composed of Israeli and U.S. businesses and academics devoted to improving and expanding research on alternative energy, improved the energy efficiency, or renewable energy sources.

Our Nation is long overdue for a national energy policy that provides reliable, secure, affordable and environmentally responsible supplies of energy for our growing economy. While the small grants authorized in this program certainly cannot alone wean us off our addiction on oil in the short term, working with the highly advanced scientific sector in Israel, we can move in the right direction and affirm our hopes for what can be discovered and created through the mutual cooperation of our two great nations.

Again, I want to say that it is imperative that the United States take steps to wean itself off of its dependence on oil, and Middle Eastern oil in particular. Our national security and our energy needs are intertwined, and this bill will go a great step in moving in that direction.

So, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation Act and urge its adoption today.

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

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

I rise today in strong support of this bill introduced by my distinguished colleague and friend, Mr. SHADEGG of Arizona.

This measure establishes a grant program to fund joint ventures between American and Israeli businesses and scholars and calls for the creation of an International Energy Advisory Board comprised of U.S. and Israeli representatives working in tandem toward the diversification of our sources of energy.

Today, due to our reliance on the foreign supply of oil, the United States is in a troubling position that is quickly escalating. As reported by the Department of Energy, U.S. dependence on foreign oil will increase by 33 percent in the next 20 years.

What makes the situation even worse is that frequently the money invested in foreign oil to meet our energy needs is then manipulated to fund terrorists who aim to attack us and our closest allies.

Part of the solution to this problem is simple: eliminating our dependency

on Middle Eastern sources of energy and developing alternative energy sources to meet our needs.

Although developing alternative energy sources, that is, forms of energy, is far from easy, it is necessary for our continued security. Working together with Israel on developing such alternatives and on improving energy efficiency makes perfect sense.

Israel is a close and much valued friend of the United States, one with whom we share a deep bond based on mutual values of freedom, justice and democracy and one with whom we stand side by side in our struggle against terror.

Israeli scientists have developed some of the world's most advanced technology, contributing greatly to breakthroughs in vital fields. One of Israel's many technological breakthroughs in the field of renewable energy sources includes a technique that significantly increases the efficiency of using solar energy to generate hydrogen for use in energy cells.

Mutual collaboration would yield great benefits for both the United States and Israel in an effort to develop technological solutions to our energy dependency problem.

Mr. Speaker, by supporting this bill, the United States Congress will enhance the cooperation between our two countries and will jump-start the creative process for the development of innovative approaches to a critical issue with domestic and national security implications.

And I thank the gentleman, the sponsor, for his time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), my friend who worked hard on this legislation.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, there is no greater problem in this world than our dependence on petroleum. There is no greater problem for our Nation.

There is no greater problem for our economy than the fact that we have to import so much oil, sending billions of dollars every year to other countries, thereby impacting our balance of payments.

There is no greater problem for families than paying for gasoline and paying to cool or heat their homes.

There is no greater problem for the environment than the pollution caused when we burn petroleum, and there is no greater problem for the environment than global warming and the production of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

There is no greater problem for our national security than our reliance on foreign petroleum, first, the physical security of that petroleum and, second, the fact that the rest of the world, if not the United States, finds it necessary in order to acquire petroleum to give money to such countries as Iran and others who use that money for nefarious purposes.

Therefore, there is nothing that we can do that is more important than

weaning the United States and the world off its dependence of petroleum. And the first step is research, and an important part of that research is cooperative research with other countries similarly dedicated to finding alternative energy.

□ 1345

There is perhaps no better partner than Israel. For the prime minister of Israel just a couple months ago, as the gentleman from Arizona pointed out, stood in this hall and said, "Both Israel and the United States share a desire for energy security and prevention of global warming. Therefore, through the United States-Israel Energy Cooperation Act, in collaboration with our U.S. counterparts, Israel will increase its efforts to find advanced scientific and technological solutions designed to develop new energy sources and encourage conservation."

As the prime minister pointed out, Israel and the United States have a strong mutual interest in advanced alternative energy research. Both countries are on the cutting edge of this scientific research. With modest investment, we can help stimulate joint efforts between American and Israeli private sector institutions and academic institutions to work toward the development of technology that reduces the world's dependence on petroleum.

In the 108th Congress, I introduced a very similar bill to the one that is before us today. It has been a pleasure to work with the gentleman from Arizona in introducing this bill last year, an improved version of the bill, and to work with so many, including the gentleman from New York, to see that that bill would reach this floor.

H.R. 2730 would allow the Department of Energy to invest up to \$20 million annually to provide joint ventures between the U.S. and Israeli business and academic researchers both for alternative energy sources and for energy conservation. The Federal Government could recoup some or all of the monies so appropriated since, as the gentleman from Arizona pointed out, under each grant is an obligation for the grantee to pay the money back if the investment is successful and revenues are obtained.

Now, this legislation builds on existing cooperative efforts, including the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation and the United States-Israel Binational Research and Development Foundation. These two entities have already made scientific breakthroughs in a variety of fields, including the life sciences, medicine, bioengineering, agriculture, and communications. Now it is time to redouble these efforts and to focus on energy. As the gentleman from New York pointed out, we have already had cooperative efforts with Israel on energy and he had added language in a bill passed last year to redouble those efforts. It is now time to pass the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation Act so that we would have a

vehicle to move forward and work with Israel to use its cutting-edge scientific knowledge, and ours, to wean the world one step at a time off the need for consumption of petroleum.

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY).

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

I want to support this bill, H.R. 2730, for four reasons. One, it strengthens our ties between our Nation and Israel. These are mutually beneficial ties, and it is important that we continue to strengthen those ties on every level.

I will also support this legislation because it promotes research across three very broad areas: One, alternative sources of energy, increases or improvements to energy efficiency, and then renewable sources of energy. Breakthroughs in any of these three can have a dramatic impact on the way we use fuel.

The third reason I am going to support this is that while it does authorize \$20 million a year over a 7-year period, there are payback or buyback provisions in the bill that allow for companies who benefit from seed money if they develop commercial applications of this research, they will pay this money back.

And the fourth reason is that the authors have included a sunset provision in the bill that after 7 years it goes away.

So for these important reasons, I am going to support this bill and encourage my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY).

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York, Mr. ELIOT ENGEL, not only for yielding but for being a leader on this issue and so many others.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2730, the United States-Israel Energy Cooperation Act. We need only glance at today's headlines about conflict in the Middle East and soaring oil prices to know why this legislation is so important to the future of the United States and Israel, so important to the future of the entire world.

This bill will provide the resources to enable top scientists, academic institutions, and entrepreneurs in the field of renewable energy to develop breakthrough technologies both in the United States and in Israel. These two allies, through this legislation, are making a major commitment to break our addiction to oil through the development of abundant, secure, clean, and renewable sources of energy. I believe the United States-Israel Energy Cooperation Act will be recognized in the coming years as a major step towards energy independence and it will serve as a model for international cooperation we so desperately need if the world is to move beyond our dangerous dependence on oil.

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michi-

gan, my colleague from the Commerce Committee, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet (Mr. UPTON).

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

I rise in strong support of this legislation. I would note that it passed without dissent in the Energy and Commerce Committee some time ago. But I also refer back to the Energy Policy Act of 2005, section 986, the one we remember so well. It did call for a report to Congress on U.S.-Israel cooperative energy research and projects, and this bill takes that one step further, and it funds cooperative joint ventures to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and alternative energy sources.

We have an energy crunch, a crisis. We should be working together. That is what this bill does. It expands the opportunities for companies and universities and different bodies in both countries to work together to develop new technologies, whether it be solar or other different projects, where consumers, citizens from both countries, will benefit. It is good bipartisan legislation. I would like to think that we can pass it without dissent this afternoon, move it to the Senate.

And, again, it was part of the energy bill that the President signed last year. This is a step in the right direction. It is good policy. That is why the Energy and Commerce Committee passed it out on such a strong bipartisan vote, and I would like to think that we will pass it without further ado this afternoon.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to again commend the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG) for his leadership on this bill.

I think that all the points that have been made on both sides of the aisle have been very important and very relevant, and that is why this bill is really a no-brainer. It is good for the United States, first and foremost. It is good for our relationship with the beleaguered State of Israel. And we know that to move forward, we need to find alternatives to oil, and this bill goes a long, long way. I am convinced that the technology is out there.

I am convinced that we can be free of our addiction to oil, that we can take care of our energy needs without oil. I am doing other legislation with the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) in that regard. And I believe that in the next decade, our attention is really going to have to be focused on finding alternative ways of energy for this country.

This bill is an absolute win for everybody, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

At this point, I will insert in the RECORD an exchange of letters between the chairman of the Commerce and Energy Committee and the chairman of the Science Committee on the issue of jurisdiction over this legislation.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
Washington, DC, June 29, 2006.

Hon. JOE BARTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Science Committee in H.R. 2730, the United States-Israel Energy Cooperation Act. The Science Committee acknowledges the importance of H.R. 2730 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over the bill, I agree not to request a sequential referral. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forgo a sequential referral waives, reduces or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Science Committee, and that a copy of this letter and of your response will be included in the Committee report and in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD when the bill is considered on the House Floor.

The Science Committee also expects that you will support our request to be conferees on any provisions over which we have jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

SHERWOOD BOEHLERT,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, June 29, 2006.

Hon. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT,
Chairman, Committee on Science,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BOEHLERT: Thank you for your letter in regards to H.R. 2730, The United States-Israel Cooperation Act.

I acknowledge and appreciate your willingness not to exercise your jurisdiction over the bill. In doing so, I agree that your decision to forgo further action on the bill will not prejudice the Committee on Science with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this legislation or similar legislation. Further, I recognize your right to request conferees on those provisions within the Committee on the Science's jurisdiction should they be the subject of a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation.

I will include your letter and this response in the Committee Report and I look forward to working with you as the bill moves to the House Floor.

Sincerely,

JOE BARTON,
Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by thanking my colleagues Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. ENGEL for their work on this bill. Mr. SHERMAN was the lead cosponsor of the legislation. He has, as he mentioned, worked very hard on the issue in a prior Congress. I am pleased to have been able to work with him on this legislation in this Congress and now to bring it to fruition. I appreciate his comments that he feels the current bill is an improved version and, in any event, believe it is a very important step forward.

I also want to thank my colleague from New York for his cooperation and his support of this legislation.

I believe it is a strong piece of legislation that will help move America forward and help move Israel forward. It will enable us to partner together and to address a problem which confronts both nations in regard to our excessive dependence on foreign sources of energy.

I think it is also important to note the unique nature of this legislation, as has been discussed in the debate here today, and that is the payback provision. Lots of times, government funds research, that research is phenomenally successful, but the government never sees and the taxpayers never see a payback. I am pleased we were able to negotiate language which calls for, under this legislation, a payback provision so that if any of the work done under the auspices of these funding programs produces a financial success, the taxpayers are repaid proportionally according to their investment.

I think it is critically important legislation. I call on my colleagues to support its passage.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 2730, the United States-Israel Energy Cooperation Act, introduced by my colleagues Congressman SHERMAN and Congressman SHADEGG.

The bill uses two existing cooperative efforts, United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF) and the United States-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) Foundation, to establish a \$20 million/year grant program administered by the Department of Energy. This program is intended to encourage American and Israeli businessmen and academics to pursue projects that would reduce our dependence on current energy resources and explore ways to increase energy efficiency.

Research by the Energy Information Administration of the Department of Energy has shown that the dependence of the United States on foreign oil will increase by 33 percent over the next 20 years. We are familiar with our Nation's "addiction to oil," as President Bush phrased it in the State of the Union, and the need to wean ourselves off of foreign energy dependence and onto more efficient energy resources.

As we watch the Middle East transform before our eyes once again, we must remember that in Israel we not only have a strategic ally. Israel is also a leader in technology innovation and research, a resilient and strong economic partner, and a nation that shares our interest in the development of energy alternatives development. Israel has the highest proportion in the world of scientists and engineers within the working population, as well as the highest proportion of published scientific papers and patents.

The United States and Israel share an unease about depleting energy resources, as well as a concern of the environment, and the importance of conservation initiatives. Although our politics and diplomacy are clearly actively engaged on a different stage of history in the Middle East. We must explore opportunities to increase our energy security, and pursue scientific advancements with the

American and Israeli private and public sectors.

This venture is in our economic interest and our national security interest.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2730, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "To authorize funding for eligible joint ventures between United States and Israeli businesses and academic persons, to establish the International Energy Advisory Board, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FUEL CONSUMPTION EDUCATION ACT

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5611) to provide for the establishment of a partnership between the Secretary of Energy and appropriate industry groups for the creation of a transportation fuel conservation education campaign, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5611

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fuel Consumption Education Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) today's gasoline prices are taking a severe toll on the pocketbooks of all Americans;

(2) a large number of factors contribute to the price of gasoline, including worldwide demand for crude oil, taxes, international conflicts, regional supply chains, environmental regulations, and refining capacity;

(3) individuals can take steps to address rising demand by using a few simple gas saving tips; and

(4) increased driving efficiency will lower the demand for gasoline and thereby lower prices in the short term.

SEC. 3. PARTNERSHIP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy, through the existing programs at the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, shall enter into a partnership with interested industry groups, including groups from the automotive, gasoline refining, and oil industries, to carry out a public education campaign that provides information to United States drivers about immediate measures that may be taken to conserve transportation fuel. This public-private partnership shall include a five member advisory board, to be chaired by the Secretary or his designee, which shall include representatives from the Department of Energy, the oil industry, the automotive industry, and the Congress, to be appointed by the Secretary.