

gas off our coast and put it in that pipeline that runs from Mobile, AL, to Tampa, FL. That is what we are doing right now. They built, in 2002, an oil and gas pipeline right off our coast, and shipped it over there. But they do not want oil drilling 150 miles from their coast.

We are working this out now. We are giving them a guaranteed protection of 125 miles. The Governor, Jeb Bush, is on board now and Senators are on board so maybe we are making progress. I think we have more protection than is justified. But it will allow us, probably, to have as much territory available to drill in as we could drill in for the foreseeable future. So maybe that will be acceptable under all the circumstances.

But they object to revenue sharing so States get a little part of it. One of our Senators, Mr. BINGAMAN from New Mexico, has complained about it. We should not have any revenue sharing.

We had 4,000 wells out there, all these deep gulf wells, and the States don't get a dime out of it—not a dime. But a State like New Mexico that has a lot of oil and gas and a great deal of federally owned lands in those States, what do they get? They get 50 percent of that. This will be just a little over a third; 37 percent would be shared with the coastal States and would be earmarked for coastal funds—12 percent for the Land and Water Conservation Fund nationwide, and 50 percent to the Federal Government. These are moneys, new moneys coming into the Treasury of the United States that do not exist today. Until we get this approval and this moratorium lifted, we are not going to have any money. You know, until we reach accord here and lift this moratorium and allow the drilling to occur, we are not going to have any money.

So it is not a taking from the Treasury of the United States. It is an increase to the Treasury of the United States, and we should see it in that fashion.

The gulf coast has environmental problems of quite a large degree. We had severe hurricane damages on our coast. The whole area—whole areas in Louisiana are sinking, and we will have to spend large amounts of money to deal with that. So there are a lot of things that this money could be used for that benefit, not just the people of those States but all the many hundreds and thousands—millions, really—of visitors that come to the gulf coast areas every year. We will set up estuaries, wetlands, and things that will just make the area better. We would like to do that for the Nation and not just Alabama.

I think the objections are not substantial. I believe it is time for us to complete this step. We are at record prices for oil. How do we get our oil? Sixty percent of it we obtain from foreign sources. So we pay this world price, transferring \$200 billion in American wealth out of our country to those

countries when we could keep it at home by producing large amounts off our gulf coast.

Just to mention those amounts, they are quite huge. It is 1.3 billion barrels of oil that are projected to be in the Gulf of Mexico. That exceeds the proven reserves of Oklahoma and Wyoming combined, two of our largest oil-producing States. There are almost 6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, enough to heat and cool 6 million homes for 15 years, for example. These supplies are significant enough that they will impact prices. I can't say what the prices will be a few years from now when this oil and gas comes on line, but whatever it is, it will be less if this oil and gas is coming on line than if it is not.

That will redound to the benefit of the American consumers that we represent—the ones who have sent us here and asked us to do something about energy prices. All of us have told them we are going to do something about it. This is one vote about which you can have no doubt. If you vote to produce oil and gas off the coast of America, you will help reduce the price of oil and gas in America. Not only that, you will keep at home billions of dollars that might otherwise be sent to foreign nations, some of which are hostile to us. It is the right thing to do. We need to follow through on it.

I am optimistic more than I have been in quite a number of years. It is particularly thrilling to see Senator MARTINEZ of Florida, who has worked so hard on this issue, and Senator BILL NELSON from Florida, who earlier today said he would support the Senate bill.

So we are moving to make this a reality. It will be a positive step for this country. The only thing we have to fear is there will be some on the other side for what reason I can only imagine who will want to filibuster this legislation. Hopefully that won't happen. I hope not. We need to move it forward and pass it this year.

I thank the Presiding Officer and I yield the floor.

#### RECESS UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until Friday, 10 a.m., July 28, 2006.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:26 p.m., recessed until Friday, July 28, 2006, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate July 27, 2006:

##### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DEBORAH JEAN JOHNSON RHODES, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE DAVID PRESTON YORK, RESIGNED.

RODGER A. HEATON, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JAN PAUL MILLER, RESIGNED.

##### PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES FOR PERSONNEL ACTION IN THE REGULAR COMPONENT OF THE PUBLIC

HEALTH SERVICE SUBJECT TO QUALIFICATIONS THEREFORE AS PROVIDED BY LAW AND REGULATIONS:

##### To be senior surgeon

JUDITH LOUISE BADER  
VICTOR M. CACERES  
MICHAEL A. CAROME  
DAVID K. ESPEY  
WALTER G. HLADY  
ROLAND HOWARD LAMKIN  
ANTHONY W. MOUNTS  
BRENT PENNINGTON  
DOUGLAS B. TROUT

##### To be surgeon

TECORA DENEICE BALLOM  
STEPHANIE ROSE BIALEK  
MARIA VICTORIA CANO  
SCOTT K. FRIDKIN  
DAVID M. FRUCHT  
DAVID PHILIP GOLDMAN  
JAMES P. HENDRICKS  
JOHN K. ISKANDER  
CHARLES EDWARD LEE  
MICHAEL TIMOTHY MARTIN  
CATHERINE ANNA MCLEAN  
JONATHAN H. MERMIN  
LORI MARIE NEWMAN  
NANCY E. ROSENSTEIN  
TARAZ SAMANDARI  
BRUCE COLLIER TIERNEY  
WEIGONG ZHOU

##### To be senior assistant surgeon

DANIEL SETH BUDBITZ  
SOJU CHANG  
CATHERINE CHIA-SHINE CHOW  
NANCY WATSON KNIGHT  
DIANNA L. MAHONEY  
JAY KUMAR VARMA

##### To be senior dental surgeon

WILLIAM F. CAPELLI II  
ELMER J. GUERRERO  
SUZANNE KAY SAVILLE

##### To be dental surgeon

ANITA FARUQI ARNOLD  
MOHAMED K. AWAD  
MICHAEL J. MCLAUGHLIN  
AARON R. MEANS, SR.  
ROSS W. SILVER  
RICHARD DEAN STRICKLIN

##### To be senior assistant dental surgeon

SCOTT WILLIAM BROWN  
STEPHANIE M. BURRELL  
WILLIAM J. ESPOSITO  
LAURA REGINA FUENTES  
PAMELA F. HAMILTON  
CRAIG S. KLUGER  
ANTHONY LAWRENCE LIKES  
MICHAEL JEFFREY OVERBECK  
ANGIE J. ROACH  
JAMES W. SULLIVAN  
BRIDGET R. SWANBERG-AUSTIN  
LEIRA A. VARGA-DEL TORO  
MELISSA JEAN WAGES  
RANDLE LEE WELLS  
STELLA YUK KWAN LAU WISNER

##### To be senior nurse officer

JEFFRY L. BRINKLEY  
SHELLA D. CARNES  
MARY HARDING  
ROSA F. MYERS  
LAURA E. SHAY  
JEANETTE P. STUBBERUD

##### To be nurse officer

LARRY ALONSO  
LYDIA ALVAREZ  
YVONNE L. ANTHONY  
LINDA JO BELSITO  
PAULA ANITA BRIDGES  
ANNETTE ROSEMARY DEBISSETTE  
DAVID J. DINTELMAN  
ALEX GARZA  
WANDA W. GONZALEZ  
TIMOTHY G. GRUBER  
BLONDELL W. JOHNSON  
RUTH KAWANO  
KATHLEEN L. KNECHT  
DOROTHEA E. LEVENHAGEN  
SUZANNE V. LIPKE  
DONNA M. RIBBONS  
LINDA M. SCOTT  
BEVERLY ANN SMITH  
MICHAEL M. STEELE

##### To be senior assistant nurse officer

DAWN ANN-MARIE ANDERSON-GARY  
VALENE NANCY BARTMESS  
MARIE A. CASEY  
WANDA D. CHESTNUT  
SUSANNA NANSHIM CHOI  
PAMELA M. COOK  
SEAN TYLER CREIGHTON  
EILEEN MARY FALZINI  
SUZANNE S. M. FILLIPPI  
REBECCA ANNE FOX  
DION ERIC FRANKLUND  
EDDIE L. FRAZIER  
ANDREA M. GRIEF