

**REPUBLICAN LEADERS OPPOSE
OUR EFFORTS TO LOWER
RECORD HIGH GAS PRICES AT
THE PUMP**

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday gas prices hit an average of \$4.04 a gallon, a new historic high. While Democrats are taking action to lessen our dependence on foreign oil and lower prices, Republicans continue to repeat the same old rhetoric, continue drilling in ANWR, even though the President's own Energy Department has concluded that opening up the Arctic for drilling would not reduce the price of gasoline for another 20 years, and then it would only go down by about 1 penny per gallon. That's not an energy plan to be proud of.

From day one this Democratic Congress has been fighting to reduce our independence on foreign oil, bring down record gas prices and launch a cleaner and smarter energy future. We passed bills holding OPEC and oil companies accountable for price fixing, investing in renewable energy for green jobs and cracking down on price gouging by oil companies.

The only problem is that we are not getting enough support from either House Republicans or from President Bush. How high are prices going to actually have to get before Republicans support these important bills?

AMERICAN-MADE ENERGY

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, it's a curious debate that we have in these 1-minutes. Democrats are bringing to the floor unemployment insurance and they will bring to the floor helping people with heating costs and cooling costs.

The real job creation engine would be American-made energy with a couple of provisions. Since 1994 on votes on the floor of this House, on ANWR exploration, Republicans have supported 91 percent of the time, House Democrats have opposed ANWR exploration 86 percent of the time.

On coal-to-liquid technologies, House Republicans have supported that 97 percent of the time. House Democrats have opposed taking American coal, American energy, turning it into liquid fuel. They have opposed it 78 percent of the time.

On oil-shale exploration, House Republicans have supported it 90 percent of the time. Democrats have opposed 86 percent. OCS, Outer Continental Shelf, House Republicans have supported it 81 percent of the time since 1984. House Democrats have opposed it 83 percent of the time. On refineries, building new refineries, House Republicans have supported 97 percent of the time, House

Democrats have opposed 96 percent of the time.

□ 1045

AMERICAN-PRODUCED ENERGY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of using American-produced energy.

A new survey of 1,000 Americans nationwide conducted by American Solutions reveals that 81 percent of Americans support using American-produced energy, including the oil and coal already here, to combat the rising cost of energy and reduce dependence on foreign energy sources.

It also shows that 69 percent of Americans support using domestic energy sources, including the oil located off our coast and in Alaska. With gasoline prices averaging \$4 a gallon nationwide, now is the time to increase American-produced energy.

Clear majorities of Americans of every political and ideological stripe advocate that the U.S. tap into its voluminous energy resources.

Despite the commonsense logic of increasing production of American-produced energy and the strong support of the American people for tapping into those resources, 86 percent of House Democrats have historically voted against increasing the production of American-made oil and gas.

It is time for our friends across the aisle to join with us, the 90 percent of House Republicans who have always voted to increase energy, to join with us to do this.

DRILLING IN ANWR

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, Democrats like foreign energy. I don't know why they like foreign energy because if we are dependent on foreign energy, since we import 60 percent of it now, it is a national security risk.

You have to ask what area of land have the Democrats agreed to explore. You have to ask that question. When 62 percent of our domestic onshore energy supplies are locked up because of Democrat regulation, and 85 percent of our offshore energy supplies are locked up because of Democrat regulation, you have to ask yourself what can we do.

You know, if you started drilling in ANWR, and remember, President Clinton vetoed that 10 years ago. That would have reduced your gas prices now probably 10 to 15 cents; nobody actually knows. But what would ANWR be. Put it this way, if ANWR was a basketball court, because it is the size of South Carolina, but just to give a word picture, if it were the size of a basket-

ball court, the drilling area would be a business card. Fanatical extremists have locked that up.

If you announced right now that we are going to start drilling in ANWR, you could get oil out of there within 3 years, according to Don Young, but the announcement alone would send a message to the foreign markets that America wants to wean itself from foreign gasoline. And, therefore, the price of energy would go down because that is how business works. When there is a little competition, your price comes down.

ANWR is the size of a business card on a basketball court.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 6003, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PALLONE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

**PASSENGER RAIL INVESTMENT
AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1253 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 6003.

□ 1049

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 6003) to reauthorize Amtrak, and for other purposes, with Mr. MORAN of Virginia in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, we stand on the threshold of a transformational moment in the history of intercity passenger rail service in America.

There was an earlier such moment. That was Amtrak, the creation of the Passenger Rail Corporation in 1970 when the freight rail interests of America gradually had been abandoning passenger service, discontinuing lines, discontinuing less-than-carload service, discontinuing the overnight railway Post Office service aboard intercity passenger rail. And as the RPO was discontinued, the passenger portion of the