

that would lessen the dependence we have on these foreign sources of energy, the solution proposed by some of our colleagues—at least some of our Democratic colleagues—is to have Secretary of State Hillary Clinton go to the Saudis, hat in hand, and beg them to increase daily production by 2.5 million barrels, ironically at the very time they are blocking policies that would help generate that same 2.5 million barrels a day right here in the United States and stabilize world markets.

In fact, if we look at many of these areas that are off limits to production today—the North Slope of Alaska, the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf, the eastern Gulf of Mexico, the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf, the Keystone XL Pipeline—if we add up the amount of production that will bring to our country, it adds up to 4.5 million barrels a day, 4.5 million barrels per day of additional energy production that we could be benefiting from and enjoying at a time when we are seeing gas prices literally double.

Of course, in accordance with the President's promise when he was running for office that prices were going to skyrocket, it should not come as any surprise. But these energy policies implemented by this administration have literally created a situation where we are now having to go and ask the Saudis: Please, would you please give us an additional 2.5 million barrels of oil a day instead of opening the areas that could generate up to 4.5 million barrels per day if we would simply develop the resources we have in this country and quit blocking the access to these important energy resources.

This is a fairly straightforward issue for the American people, No. 1, because it hits very squarely in their daily lives. The pocketbook issues, the bread-and-butter issues, the issues people discuss around their tables every day are the issues that I think are most important to America right now, particularly with a down economy and high unemployment rates. Certainly, what we are seeing in terms of energy costs makes that situation worse for American families. In fact, the payroll tax holiday which was extended a couple of weeks ago will actually be eaten up, any savings that might be achieved to the American family's pocketbook will literally be eaten up simply by paying the higher costs of gasoline that are going to be imposed on every American family as a result of these higher prices, again, that simply are the result of us not having enough supply.

This is a market situation. Gasoline is a global commodity. When we have more supply, it brings the price down. When we have more domestic production, it means two things: it means lower prices at the pump for American consumers, and it means more jobs for American workers. Blocking access to American sources of energy production means higher prices at the pump for American consumers and fewer jobs for

American workers. It is that straightforward. It is that simple.

The American people understand that. That is why the policies this administration is pursuing—and, clearly, from the statements that are being made by these members of the President's administration, from Secretary Chu to Secretary Salazar to the President himself—suggest, if you can believe this—unfathomable, I am sure, to many Americans—that it is intentional to actually push those prices higher.

That is what Secretary Chu said back in 2008: We need to boost our prices to the level they are seeing in places such as Europe.

I think the American people believe differently about that. I believe they deserve better. They want policies that lower the cost of energy and make America less dependent upon dangerous foreign regimes. I know many of us—Republicans in the Senate—are ready to go to work putting those policies in place if the President and his allies in the Senate will give us that opportunity.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

ENERGY POLICY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I want to associate myself with the remarks of the Senator from South Dakota and follow up in that regard.

Yesterday I came to the Senate floor and explained how the President's ideological outlook and the policies that have grown out of it will only continue to drive up the cost of gasoline at the pump. After I spoke, the President's Energy Secretary seemed to confirm it when he told a congressional panel that the Department of Energy isn't working to drive down the price of gas. They are working to wean us off of it altogether, and high gas prices add urgency to those efforts.

In other words, high gas prices actually help the administration achieve what it is trying to achieve. What I suggested yesterday and what I am suggesting again this morning is that we look at statements such as this and many others from the President and some of his top advisers in the past, along with the President's actual policies when it comes to assessing the current situation at the pump—not the speeches he gives when he starts feeling the political heat for it because he can't have it both ways.

Once again, here are the facts. The President continues to limit off-shore areas to energy production and is granting fewer leases on public land for oil drilling. At the same time, he has encouraged other countries such as Brazil to move forward with their off-shore drilling projects. The Obama ad-

ministration continues to impose burdensome regulations on the domestic energy sector that will further drive up the cost of gasoline for the consumer. He is proposing raising taxes on the energy sector, a move that the Congressional Research Service has said would drive up costs.

As we all know, he flatly rejected the Keystone XL Pipeline, a potentially game-changing domestic energy project that promises not only greater independence from Middle Eastern oil but tens of thousands of private sector jobs.

All of these policies help drive up the cost of gasoline and increase our dependence on foreign sources of oil, but perhaps none is as emblematic of the President's simplistic and punitive approach to energy policy as the last one. The President simply cannot claim to support a comprehensive approach to energy while at the same time standing in the way of the Keystone Pipeline. It doesn't make any sense. It is either one or the other.

Most Americans understand that. That is why many of us were pleased when the company that is responsible for building Keystone said it plans to move forward with the southern portion of the pipeline, despite the administration's decision to block the northern portion to alleviate a bottleneck in Cushing, OK. They are just not going to let this administration punish them or the rest of those who want to build this pipeline.

Asked about the impact of delays, the company's President and CEO said they were partly to blame for the recent spike in gas prices, which is presumably why the White House came out in support of the move. But the hypocrisy is quite stunning.

How could a White House that is single-handedly blocking one-half of the pipeline to appease an extreme segment of its political base now claim to support the southern half of the same pipeline? Well, the short answer is they don't have the authority to block the southern half, so they think that by claiming to support it, then they can get credit from people for being on both sides of the issue. But if Keystone is good for America and good for jobs, the President should just come out and support the whole pipeline. With gas prices literally skyrocketing and growing turmoil in the Middle East, we can't afford another year of foot-dragging. It is time for the President to move quickly to approve the entire Keystone XL Pipeline. This is literally a no-brainer.

An overwhelming majority of Americans support the Keystone XL Pipeline in its entirety. The President should listen to them. Instead of lecturing the American people about his idea of fairness, he should spend a little more time thinking about what most Americans think is fair. Most Americans don't think it is particularly fair that the President of the United States is blocking them from tapping into our