

Paulsen	Ruppersberger	Thompson (MS)
Payne	Rush	Thompson (PA)
Pearce	Ryan (OH)	Thornberry
Pelosi	Ryan (WI)	Tiberi
Perlmutter	Salmon	Tierney
Perry	Sánchez, Linda	Tipton
Peters (CA)	T.	Titus
Peters (MI)	Sanchez, Loretta	Tonko
Peterson	Sanford	Tsongas
Petri	Sarbanes	Turner
Pingree (ME)	Scalise	Upton
Pittenger	Schakowsky	Valadao
Pitts	Schiff	Van Hollen
Pocan	Schneider	Vargas
Poe (TX)	Schock	Veasey
Polis	Schrader	Vela
Pompeo	Schwartz	Velázquez
Posey	Schweikert	Viscosky
Price (GA)	Scott (VA)	Wagner
Price (NC)	Scott, Austin	Walberg
Quigley	Scott, David	Walden
Radel	Sensenbrenner	Walorski
Rahall	Serrano	Walz
Rangel	Sessions	Wasserman
Reed	Sewell (AL)	Schultz
Reichert	Shea-Porter	Waters
Renacci	Sherman	Watt
Ribble	Shimkus	Waxman
Rice (SC)	Shuster	Weber (TX)
Richmond	Simpson	Webster (FL)
Rigell	Sinema	Welch
Roby	Sires	Wenstrup
Roe (TN)	Slaughter	Westmoreland
Rogers (AL)	Smith (MO)	Whitfield
Rogers (KY)	Smith (NE)	Williams
Rogers (MI)	Smith (NJ)	Wilson (FL)
Rohrabacher	Smith (TX)	Wilson (SC)
Rokita	Southerland	Wittman
Rooney	Speier	Wolf
Ros-Lehtinen	Stewart	Womack
Roskam	Stivers	Woodall
Ross	Stockman	Yarmuth
Rothfus	Stutzman	Yoder
Roybal-Allard	Swalwell (CA)	Yoho
Royce	Takano	Young (AK)
Ruiz	Terry	Young (IN)
Runyan	Thompson (CA)	

NOT VOTING—11

Broun (GA)	Fincher	McMorris
Campbell	Lamborn	Rodgers
Connolly	McCarthy (NY)	Smith (WA)
Conyers	McCaul	Young (FL)

□ 1515

Mr. CUMMINGS changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

OFFSHORE ENERGY AND JOBS ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 2231.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 274 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. 2231.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1518

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. 2231) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to increase energy exploration and production on the Outer Continental Shelf, provide for equitable revenue sharing for all coastal States, implement the reorganization of the functions of the former Minerals Management Service into distinct and separate agencies, and for other purposes, with Mr. GARDNER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2231, the Offshore Energy and Jobs Act.

Unlike the President's plan that we heard from this week, which is to impose new energy taxes and Federal red tape that will increase energy prices and cost American jobs, this Republican plan will expand access to our own U.S. energy resources in order to lower energy prices and increase American jobs.

□ 1520

Gas prices have nearly doubled since President Obama took office. The national average today remains above \$3.50 per gallon compared to the \$1.89 it was when he took office. We shouldn't have to accept potentially \$4-a-gallon gas prices, especially when we have the resources right here at home. Higher gas prices mean we are making tough budget choices. For small businesses, it may mean the difference between hiring more workers or having to let some go. For families, it may be the difference between replacing the worn-out household appliance or making due with makeshift repairs. This is why access to affordable energy is so vital.

For decades, most of our Nation's offshore areas were under a moratorium, preventing any offshore development. All of that, Mr. Chairman, changed in the summer of 2008 when outrageously high gas prices made our Nation's energy struggles a regular topic of conversation around the dinner table for American families. Later that year, Congress and then-President Bush lifted those moratoria with the hopes of fostering an era of increased energy production.

President Obama then came into office with a tremendous opportunity.

For the first time in more than a generation, he had the ability to open new offshore areas to oil and natural gas production. Sadly, instead, he went out of his way to shut down this opportunity by putting forth a new 5-year offshore leasing plan that locks up 85 percent of our offshore areas. The plan includes no new drilling, which results in no new American jobs. In fact, it includes the lowest number of lease sales ever offered in an offshore lease plan. Mr. Chairman, that's the worst record since President Jimmy Carter's.

We must do better. That's why we are here today to consider the Offshore Energy and Jobs Act. This legislation puts us back on the right path: one that will open new areas to drilling, one that will create 1.2 million American jobs, one that will lower energy prices, and one that will generate \$1.5 billion in new revenue to the Federal Government. But it's not only energy jobs that will be created; it's associated industries like manufacturing, boating, transportation, and service industries like hotels and restaurants. They, too, will also benefit.

This legislation requires the administration to implement a new 5-year leasing plan that includes areas with the most oil and natural gas, such as the mid-Atlantic and Alaska and off southern California. It's not a “drill everywhere” plan but, rather, a “drill smart” plan that focuses on those areas where the greatest potential lies. It would also require specific lease sales to be held off the coasts of South Carolina and Virginia, the latter of which was originally scheduled to take place in 2011 but was cancelled by the Obama administration. There is bipartisan support in favor of the Virginia lease sale, but, again, this administration canceled it and punted any future sales until after 2017.

The bill also establishes a fair and equitable revenue sharing program with all coastal States that have drilling off their coasts, much like what the Gulf States currently enjoy. Revenue sharing will create new incentives for opening offshore areas to drilling. Again, more American energy production equates to more jobs and a stronger economy.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the bill includes reforms to further enhance the accountability, efficiency, safety, and ethical standards of offshore energy operations. These reforms will allow for the robust production of our Nation's offshore energy resources while ensuring that all activity is conducted with proper oversight.

Offshore energy production has steadily declined under this administration, and, frankly, Mr. Chairman, it's time to reverse that trend. H.R. 2231 will remove government barriers that are currently blocking access to our American energy resources. It will safely and responsibly unlock our energy and allow us to create over a million new American jobs. I urge my colleagues to support the Offshore Energy and Jobs Act.