

At the same time, the contracts held by traditional oil users have fallen to less than 30 percent from more than 60 percent. So while this piece of legislation talks about gouging at the pump, there is gouging going on Wall Street; and if you don't want to recognize it, that's your problem. The American people want answers.

In these tough economic times, price gouging is a very real problem for Americans struggling to get to work. How about that for openers. As prices climb, so does the potential for consumers to be gouged at the pump. Now, it's \$4.07 a gallon; when the President took office in January of 2001, \$1.36. That's a 270 percent increase. The food becomes more expensive, millions of Americans lose their jobs.

It is shameful that unscrupulous vendors try to make a quick buck by artificially inflating the price. Just last week, officials in my home State of New Jersey issued 350 citations for price gouging-related offenses after surveying 1,000 gas stations. 350 citations. Where is the urgency? If you don't understand the urgency, then we ought to go back to 101.

H.R. 6346 will ensure that those who engage in this practice are not only investigated and found guilty, thoroughly punished, just like what we should do to those on Wall Street who gouge those prices who have speculated and speculated and got us to believe at a time when consumption and supply is just about the same as last year. That's ridiculous.

This bill directs penalties from price gougers to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program to help families with their heating and their air-conditioning bills. Twenty-eight States, Mr. Speaker, have anti-price gouging laws on the books. And it's time for the Federal Government to do exactly the same thing.

I urge my colleagues to support Mr. STUPAK in his efforts and to support the Federal Price Gouging Prevention Act.

And I don't sit until I say, Mr. STUPAK, the American people say thank you to you.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I continue to reserve.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I think we have the right to close on this side. So I would ask for their last speaker, and we will close on this side.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Well, Mr. Speaker, let me just simply say in closing that with regards to the last speaker's comment about the futures market, I tend to agree there may be something that we need to look at. That's why I'm on a bill with Mr. STUPAK and Mr. DINGELL to look at the futures market. But on page 3 of this bill, there is a line that specifically excludes the futures market from the jurisdiction of the bill that's before us.

We have a Federal price gouging bill on the floor right now that deals with retail and wholesale price gouging when there is absolutely no evidence of

States' attorneys general conducting prosecutions of price gouging anywhere in this country. And as I pointed out in my opening statement, the average retail price for gasoline is up while retail margins are down, refineries margins are down.

Retail prices are up because the wholesale price of crude oil is up over \$130 a barrel. We're not doing anything in this bill to address that fundamental supply problem. We are a treasure house of energy resources here in the United States. We could produce more American energy for America's families and factories.

You know, a price gouging bill when you don't have any real evidence of price gouging and where the States that think there's price gouging going on in their States have legislation to deal with that seems to me to be superfluous and symbolic.

So I would ask for a "no" vote on this legislation, and let's work together on issues that would fundamentally address the supply and balance and bring prices down.

With that, I yield back.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me just once again reiterate today every Member of the House has a choice. He can side with the big oil companies and the record profits, or you can side with the American consumer. A vote against my bill is a vote against consumers and a vote for Big Oil.

I am pleased so many of my Democratic Members came and joined me. This legislation is necessary. As I said, this is the third time I have had legislation on price gouging. As I pointed out earlier, this winter we experienced price gouging for energy needs, it was a dollar more than the rest of the region in Michigan and the area was being charged. The attorney general in Michigan, because we don't have a price gouging law, had nowhere to go.

Here's the bill that the Michigan legislature—House bill 6249—just introduced 2 weeks ago, tried new price gouging because we see it going on and on and on; and it's going to continue as we see these record prices and further chances to manipulate the market and to charge excessive prices to support these excessive profits of the oil companies.

Underneath the Democratic House, and I feel I have to say this, we have done a number of things in the last 18 months: Renewable Energy and Jobs Creation Act, which extends tax incentives for renewable energy. We had the Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act, which combats record gas prices. We have the energy price gouging bill we're doing today. We put forth the first new vehicle fuel efficiency standards in 32 years. We have a commitment to affordable American-grown biofuels which are keeping gas prices down. They are lower now than what they would have been if we did not pass this legislation. Action for lower gas prices by suspending oil purchases for

the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Later, hopefully the next month or two, we will see the bill on speculation that Mr. BARTON has mentioned. That is a piece of legislation we're looking at for excessive speculation which is driving up record profits for the price of oil.

But in this Democratic-led Congress, we will continue to invest in clean American renewable energy. We will boost energy technologies. We will help Americans struggling with the high energy prices. We will reward conservation. We will promote efficient vehicles, we will reduce mass transit fares and build infrastructure. We will further close the Enron loophole and speculators in dark petroleum markets which is driving up prices. We will encourage safe domestic drilling by forcing Big Oil to use it or lose it on Federal drilling permits.

I am perplexed that there's 68 million acres that we are not even drilling on because the oil companies have them tied up in leases. And what we are saying is if you're not going to drill to help the American people, then give up your lease. Let's give it to oil companies that at least drill. Democrats aren't against drilling. Let's at least go in these leases, which have been approved, environmentally sound, let's drill, let's bring that energy to the surface. If you're not going to use it, then we're going to pass legislation to say you lose it.

And last but not least, Democrats are leading the way to transition America to a more affordable energy future. But right now, as we go fill up this 4th of July weekend as we travel our parades in our districts and enjoy the summer months, can't we at least make sure that the price we're paying at the pump is based on a reasonable basis, reasonable factor, reasonable cost for taking that oil out of the ground, for shipping it, for refining it, for distributing it and putting it in your gas pump? We should not have to worry about being gouged tomorrow. We should not wake up on July 3 and find that gas went up 40 cents overnight for no reason other than someone needs a few more pennies to pay for their 4th of July. I don't want to pay for the big oil companies' 4th of July. I want the American people to enjoy this 4th of July and to know when they fill up at the pump, it's based on a fair, reasonable price.

Let's finally pass, after some 3 years of arguments on this floor, a Federal price gouging legislation that the other body will take up and we can present to the President. Let's have a reasonable basis for our pricing, and let's try to give the American people some relief from these high excessive energy prices we are experiencing.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6346, The Federal Energy Price Gouging Prevention Act.

Today, my constituents in Central New Jersey are paying on average \$3.98 at the pump, over a dollar more than they were paying at

the beginning of the year. Increases in gas prices have affected every sector of the economy. We are paying \$2 more whenever we get a pizza delivered, \$10 more for lawn mowing services, \$1.70 for shipping packages, an extra penny for every letter that we send, and these are just a few examples of the effects of gas price increases on the economy at large. As American families suffer, oil companies continue to rake in record profits. It is essential that we prevent price gouging, speculation, and profiteering by those who would take advantage of our energy predicament and guard against harm to commuters and struggling families.

Current law does not have a mechanism for allowing the investigation and punishment of individuals and corporations that are artificially inflating the price of energy. H.R. 6346 would grant the Federal Trade Commission the authority to investigate and punish those who engage in price gouging. H.R. 6346 would finally provide a clear definition of price gouging so that the FTC can prosecute the worst offenders, specifically those companies with more than \$500,000,000 in sales per year. It would strengthen the criminal penalties for price gouging to up to \$150 million for corporations, and fines of up to \$2 million plus jail sentences of up to 10 years for individuals. Finally, it would redirect the fines assessed to help fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Unfortunately, we are seeing examples across the country of unscrupulous individuals taking advantage of consumers during this energy emergency. Last week, New Jersey's Attorney General Anne Milgram released the results of an investigation that uncovered over 350 ticket worthy instances of gasoline price manipulation after a survey of 1,000 gas stations in the state. Among the citations issued were: 62 violations for the pump not accurately measuring fuel, 46 violations for per-gallon prices being different on each side of the pump, 37 violations for fuel grades not posted, 26 violations for inaccurate octane ratings, 19 violations for inaccurate total sale price calculation and 14 violations for multiple price changes in a 24-hour period. States like New Jersey are already taking action to prosecute gas price manipulation on a small scale; however, they do not have the means necessary to prosecute large-scale offenders. It is past time that Congress gives the FTC the tools it needs to protect American consumers from these egregious violations at the pump and the legislation before us today takes an important first step towards achieving this goal.

Passing H.R. 6346 would help to prevent price gouging and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. However this bill is merely a short term solution to our long term energy needs. There are no easy answers to the fluctuating gas prices. We are paying at the pump today for flawed decisions made years ago. That is why we must work to implement strategies that will lower demand for oil in the long term.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6346, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. STUPAK. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING DANDY-WALKER SYNDROME AND HYDROCEPHALUS

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 163) expressing the sense of Congress in support of further research and activities to increase public awareness, professional education, diagnosis, and treatment of Dandy-Walker syndrome and hydrocephalus, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 163

Whereas Dandy-Walker syndrome is the most common congenital malformation of the cerebellum and its causes are largely unknown;

Whereas between 10,000 and 40,000 people have Dandy-Walker syndrome in the United States;

Whereas the incidence of Dandy-Walker syndrome is at least 1 case per every 25,000 to 35,000 live births, however this is likely a significant underestimate because of difficulties diagnosing the syndrome;

Whereas the Metropolitan Atlanta Congenital Defects Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that Dandy-Walker syndrome may affect as many as 1 in 5000 live born infants;

Whereas approximately 70 to 90 percent of patients with Dandy-Walker syndrome have hydrocephalus;

Whereas Dandy-Walker syndrome accounts for approximately 1 to 4 percent of hydrocephalus cases;

Whereas patients with Dandy-Walker syndrome present with developmental delay, enlarged head circumference, or signs and symptoms of hydrocephalus;

Whereas Dandy-Walker syndrome affects males and females approximately equally;

Whereas seizures occur in 15 to 30 percent of patients with Dandy-Walker syndrome;

Whereas subnormal intelligence is manifested in 41 to 71 percent of patients with Dandy-Walker syndrome;

Whereas failure to diagnose Dandy-Walker syndrome with hydrocephalus in a neonate or a child can cause serious neurologic complications;

Whereas Dandy-Walker syndrome is named after former University of New Mexico neurosurgeon and professor Arthur E. Walker (1907-1995) and Walter E. Dandy (1883-1941), who first described the disorder in 1914; and

Whereas there are 2 known researchers dedicated to Dandy-Walker Syndrome in the United States and additional investigators are needed; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) Congress commends the Director of the National Institutes of Health for working with leading scientists and researchers to organize the first National Institutes of Health

conference on hydrocephalus in September 2005 and the Inaugural "Cerebellar Development: Bench to Bedside International Conference" in November 2006; and

(2) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the Director of the National Institutes of Health should continue the current collaboration, with respect to Dandy-Walker syndrome, among the National Human Genome Research Institute, the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and the Office of Rare Diseases;

(B) further research into the epidemiology, diagnosis, pathophysiology, disease burden, and improved treatment of Dandy-Walker syndrome and hydrocephalus should be conducted and supported; and

(C) public awareness and professional education regarding Dandy-Walker research should increase through partnerships between the Federal Government and patient advocacy organizations, such as the Dandy-Walker Alliance and the Hydrocephalus Association.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 163 which supports continued research to increase public awareness, professional education, diagnosis, and treatment of Dandy-Walker Syndrome and hydrocephalus.

Dandy-Walker Syndrome is a congenital brain malformation that affects the cerebellum and the fluid spaces around it. Symptoms often develop early in infancy robbing children of their future potential just as their lives are beginning. Its causes are largely unknown, but what is known is that it can have a devastating impact on a child. A baby with Dandy-Walker Syndrome may experience developmental delays, enlarged head size, and severely reduced intellectual capabilities.

Dandy-Walker Syndrome was discovered almost 100 years ago in 1914 by former University of New Mexico neurosurgeon and professor Arthur E. Walker and Dr. Walter E. Dandy. A cure for the disease remains elusive.

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The resolution before us supports the continuing research collaboration into Dandy-Walker syndrome. It recognizes the work of the National Institutes of Health with the National Human Genome Institute, the National Institute