

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

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INDEPENDENCE DAY  
DISTRICT WORK PERIOD KIT



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HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

# INDEPENDENCE DAY RECESS KIT

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# INTRODUCTORY LETTER

June 19, 2008

Dear Republican Colleague,

In two weeks time, our nation will commemorate 232 years of independence. That day will bring with it an opportunity to reflect on the enduring nature of the freedoms our forefathers sought for America – the same freedoms that the brave men and women of our Armed Forces have put themselves in harm's way to protect.

Today, we find ourselves in the midst of a different kind of battle for a different kind of independence.

You may remember that when Democrats took control of Congress, they declared July 4, 2007 Energy Independence Day. That was one of several pronouncements made by the new majority that clearly did not pan out.

House Republicans have taken every opportunity to remind Democrats of their broken energy promises and to talk to the American people about real solutions that will lower prices and increase the supply of American-made energy. During yesterday's drive-time radio row, for instance, 29 members participated in roughly 60 interviews on 14 national and regional radio shows from the U.S. Capitol. The radio row was part of an impressive one-week stretch during which:

- At least 13 different Members participated in at least 24 national radio and cable television appearances. This does not include the many dozens of Members who have picked up a seemingly endless stream of TV, radio, print and blog clips in their districts. We dominated one-minutes on energy (delivering 54 out of 60 on gas prices) and placed at least 20 energy op-eds in national and local papers.

With less than two weeks remaining until the Independence Day district work period begins, **now is the time to be planning your events on high gas prices and real energy solutions**. This recess packet is designed to arm you with the right tools for the job.

In addition to the latest energy talking points, sample messaging materials, and responses to Democrat claims, you will find in this recess packet:

- **Earned Media That Works:** A step-by-step guide to putting together a successful event linking rising food prices and the pain at the pump (one your colleagues successfully executed this week.)
- **Energy Polling Update:** A summary of the latest national polls showing the American people's support for Republican energy solutions.
- **Energy Facts of the Day:** All of the energy facts of the day you've been receiving each morning on one page.

Finding themselves on the wrong side of a critical issue and with gas approaching \$5, Democrats are lashing out. When we fought to stop Democrats from raising energy taxes on hardworking Americans, they trotted out the tired rhetoric of being in the "pockets of big oil." They said we simply needed to browbeat OPEC into producing more oil, but at the same time they opposed producing more energy here at home, claiming that we cannot "drill our way to lower gas prices." What happened?

They lost. New polling shows that 57 percent of the American people support exploring for American-made energy in new areas, and that 67 percent support deep-ocean American energy production. So what now? The Democrat majority points fingers at the markets and proposes redundant legislation, demanding that energy producers "use-or-lose" the leases they hold all the while ignoring the fact that this idea is already the law of the land.

Of course, there are other priorities House Republicans are fighting for right now – whether it's an emergency troop funding bill, reform of our terrorist surveillance laws, or a sensible response to the housing crunch. We will be addressing those in a supplemental recess pack to be released next week.

**Before you leave town, be sure to sign Rep. Lynn Westmoreland's petition calling on all 435 members of the House to vote to increase U.S. oil production to lower gas prices.** Again, thanks for all you do.

Sincerely,



Adam Putnam

Chairman, House Republican Conference

# ENERGY HEADLINES

**The New York Times:** “Republicans ... are trying to put pressure on Democrats to open up more domestic areas to oil drilling while putting the blame on Democrats for the rise in fuel prices. House Republicans engaged in a coordinated effort over the weekend to paint Democrats as failing to respond to the rise in gas prices.” (6/9/08)

**Rush Limbaugh:** “[T]he problem exists primarily because of leftists the last thirty years who’ve done their best to shut down the domestic oil industry. Now the Republicans are not sitting back.” (6/10/08)

**The Weekly Standard:** “Where Republicans have succeeded is in selling their solution to soaring gas prices: drilling for oil offshore and on federal lands, areas now off limits. ... This is indeed a do-nothing Congress. The stance by Republicans on gas prices gives them the credibility to make that point.” (6/16/08 issue)

**The Hill:** “House Republicans filed a discharge petition Tuesday that would force a floor vote on legislation on oil drilling in Alaska. The move continues the GOP offensive on soaring gas prices, which have reached a national average of over \$4 a gallon.” (6/10/08)

**National Journal:** “In the House this week, Republicans stepped up criticism of the Democrats' failure to bring energy legislation to the floor... Republicans cite Pelosi's promise in April 2006 to offer ‘a commonsense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices.’ They contend that the Democrats' failure to act since they took control in January 2007--when a gallon of gas cost about \$2.33--has yielded the ‘Pelosi premium.’” (6/14/08 issue)

**Hampton Roads (VA) Daily Press:** “With the national average price of gasoline topping \$4 a gallon, House Republicans vowed Wednesday to redouble their efforts to drill off the nation's coastlines for oil and natural gas.” (6/13/08)

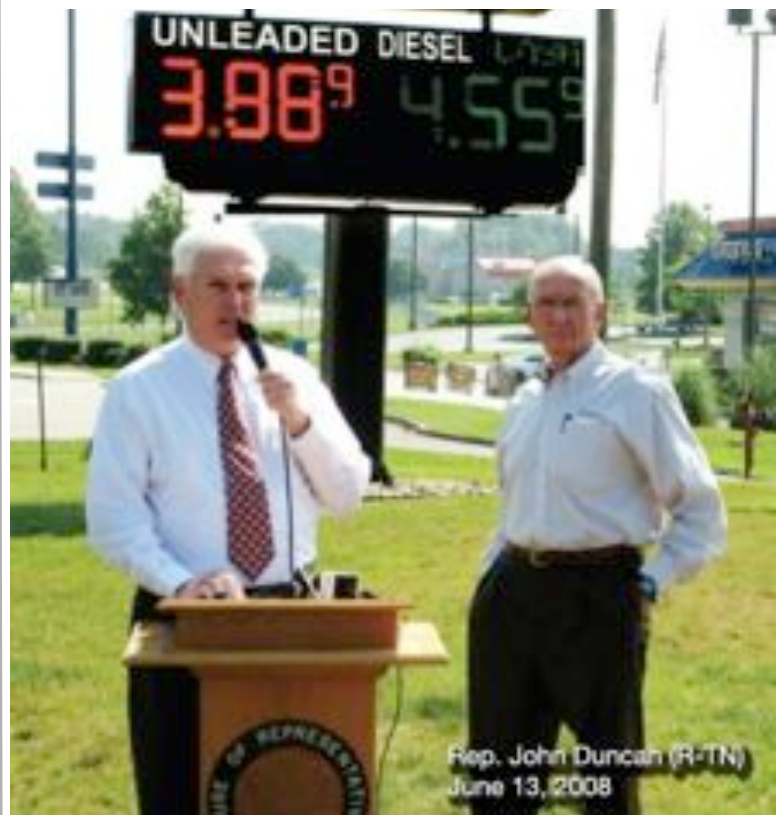
**CNN:** “Republicans are standing their ground. They say ... that the Democrats aren't doing anything about lowering the cost of gasoline immediately and they refuse to open more domestic areas to oil production. House Republicans also reminded voters that the Democrats have been in charge of Congress for the past year and a half as gas prices have soared.” (6/11/08)

**Power Line blog:** “Most Americans, however, don't share the Democrats' indifference to economic decline and would turn out in droves to vote for a party that pledges to get the economy going again, and relieve the pain at the pump, by drilling for oil. House Republicans are doing a great job of getting this message out.” (6/11/08)

**Reuters:** “Congressional Republicans vowed on Thursday to make a major push for more U.S. oil and gas drilling and in the process force Democrats to cast difficult votes at a time of skyrocketing gasoline prices.” (6/11/08)

**Investor's Business Daily editorial:** “This is pretty much what congressional Republicans and President Bush have been saying all along. We need to develop all of our domestic energy resources, none to the exclusion of any other source — nuclear, clean coal, oil, natural gas, wind, solar, heck, maybe even switch grass.” (6/11/08)

**The New York Times:** “In the House, Republicans have undertaken a coordinated effort to remind the public that it is Democrats who have run Congress during the last 17 months as gasoline costs have jumped.” (6/11/08)



# EARNED MEDIA

The following is an excerpt from a memo sent to Members on Monday, June 9 detailing ideas for earned media events on gas prices and energy solutions.

**Venue:** Grocery store

**Hook:** Rising food costs

**Logistics:** Identify a friendly grocery store, preferably a locally owned one. The cost of food has risen as skyrocketing fuel costs have made shipping the foods we eat more expensive. Not only does it cost more to drive to the grocery store, it now costs more to buy the food once you get there. Invite a local family to join you to discuss how much harder it is to buy the food they need.

**Venue:** Police or Fire Department

**Hook:** Strained first-responder budgets, patrol cutbacks due to record fuel prices

**Logistics:** Local budgets are tight. Law enforcement officials are moving to bike patrols, and in some cases, even cutting back on patrols altogether, because of record high gas prices. Pull some local police or fire chiefs together for a meeting and press conference at the police station or fire department.

**Venue:** Local soup kitchen, food bank or Meals on Wheels program

**Hook:** Fewer volunteers, services available due to rising gas prices

**Logistics:** Tour a local volunteer center, such as Meals on Wheels or a food bank, and hold a press availability with the charities director highlighting the decline in services and volunteers because of record gas prices.

**Venue:** Local AAA chapter

**Hook:** Increased demands on services due to rising energy costs

**Logistics:** Have your local AAA director, and local families that cannot afford summer travel, join you in calling for action from Washington to lower gas prices.

**Venue:** Roundtable with small business owners

**Hook:** Tightening budgets, need to raise prices on consumers due to record fuel prices

**Logistics:** Bring together business owners who are struggling to cope with record gas prices. Open the forum to the press, and have the owners speak firsthand on how gas prices are negatively affecting balance sheets in your region.

**Venue:** Meeting with area agencies

**Hook:** Cutbacks to essential services due to rising energy costs

**Logistics:** Some local government agencies are being forced to cut back essential services, as their budgets cannot keep up with the spike in gas prices. Identify several officials, if possible, and hold an event at an ambulance headquarters/garage, for example.

**Venue:** Rail or bus station

**Hook:** Increased demands on mass transit due to higher energy costs

**Logistics:** Spend rush hour visiting with commuters, some of whom are most likely newly converted to mass transit because of higher energy costs. Hold a press conference afterward.

**Venue:** Truck stop

**Hook:** Truckers struggling to break even due to record diesel prices

**Logistics:** Reach out to the American Trucking Association, or your state's affiliate, and the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association to help identify local truck drivers. Hold an event at a gas station often frequented by local truckers.

**Venue:** Family farms and local manufacturers

**Hook:** Jobs threatened by higher energy costs

**Logistics:** Take a tour, talk to the business owners about the challenges they face as a result of higher energy costs, and visit with the workers. Hold a press conference.



<u>Democrat Plan to Lower Gas Prices</u>	<u>Savings</u>	<u>Republican Plan to Lower Gas Prices</u>	<u>Savings</u>
Sue OPEC	\$0.00	Bring onshore oil online (ANWR, Shale)	\$0.70 - \$1.60
Launch 7 <sup>th</sup> investigation into "Price Gougers"	\$0.00	Bring deepwater oil online (OCS)	\$0.90 - \$2.50
Launch 4 <sup>th</sup> investigation into "Speculators"	\$0.00	Bring new refineries online (none since '76)	\$0.15 - \$0.45
\$20 billion in new taxes on oil producers	(debit)	Cut earmarks to fund gas tax holiday	\$0.18
Halt oil shipments to SPR	\$0.05	Halt oil shipments to SPR	\$0.05

Savings (at most): \$0.05

Savings (at least): \$1.98



Office of the House Republican Whip \*\*\* Price estimates based on various sources

# REAL ENERGY SOLUTIONS

## Fighting to lower prices, promote energy independence

- We will **increase the production of American-made energy** in an environmentally-safe way.
- We will **promote new, clean, and reliable sources of energy** like advanced nuclear and next generation coal, while promoting clean power from renewable energy such as wind and hydroelectric power.
- We will **cut red tape and increase the supply of American-made fuel and energy**.
- We will **encourage greater energy efficiency by offering conservation tax incentives** to Americans who make their home, car, and business more energy efficient.

### Increase Production:

House Republicans will increase the production of American-made energy in an environmentally-safe way. This includes the exploration of next generation oil, natural gas, and coal and the production of advanced alternative fuels like cellulosic and clean coal-to-liquids – all while protecting our natural resources for future generations. House Republicans will also:

- Support actions that reduce America's dependence on energy from unstable foreign governments and dictatorships by increasing environmentally-safe production of oil and natural gas in areas such as the arctic coastal plain and in deep ocean energy resources; and
- Promote unconventional fuels such as coal-to-liquids technology and recovering our vast oil shale reserves by:
  - Increasing access for environmentally responsible development of conventional and unconventional domestic oil and natural gas production;
  - Providing coal-to-liquids financing and tax incentives; and
  - Advancing the commercialization of the nation's two trillion barrel shale oil resource, 80 percent of which occurs on government-owned land in the West. This is enough to supply all of America's needs for over two centuries.

### Clean & Reliable Energy

House Republicans will promote new, clean, and reliable sources of energy like advanced nuclear and next generation coal, while promoting clean power from renewable energy such as wind and hydroelectric. Nuclear energy has proven itself as a safe, carbon-free and environmentally friendly alternative, with France relying on it for nearly 80 percent of its electricity needs, compared to just 19 percent in America. House Republicans will also:

- Support actions that reduce America's dependence on energy from unstable foreign governments and dictatorships by increasing environmentally-safe production of oil and natural gas in areas such as the arctic coastal plain and in deep ocean energy resources; and
- Encourage more production of environmentally-safe energy to increase the use of our vast domestic supply, reduce emissions, and keep coal-dependent communities strong; and
- Expand emissions-free nuclear power, including long-term nuclear waste storage solutions and recycling spent fuel by:
  - Providing production and investment tax credits for all new base-load electricity projects such as advanced nuclear power and clean coal; and
  - Allowing immediate expensing for new renewable or zero emission power.

### Increase Supply:

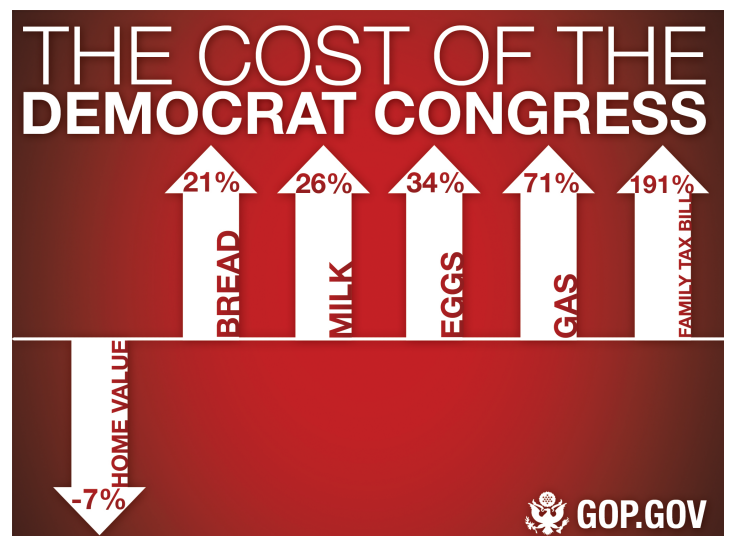
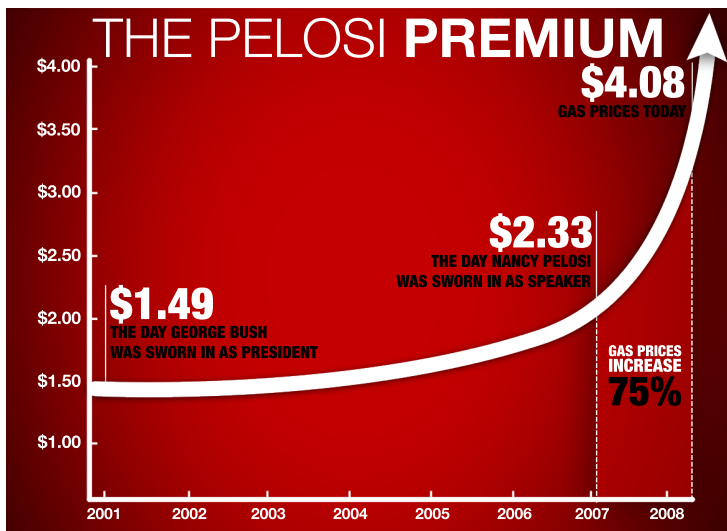
House Republicans are committed to cutting red tape and increasing the supply of American-made fuel and energy. Limiting the construction of new oil refineries and bureaucratic regulations mandating the use of exotic fuels have decreased supply and increased the pain at the pump. House Republicans will also:

- Expedite permitting for enhanced oil recovery projects, including CO<sub>2</sub> delivery and injection, as well as permitting for new refining capacity;
- Improve environmental review and permitting to encourage the deployment of technologies which increase the efficiency of existing power plants; and
- End ill-advised policies that have led to the proliferation of unique gasoline and diesel fuel formulations known as “boutique fuels,” which have fragmented our motor fuels distribution system, choked off supply, and exacerbated the pain at the pump.

### Encourage Efficiency:

House Republicans will encourage greater energy efficiency by offering conservation tax incentives to Americans who make their home, car, and business more energy efficient. House Republicans will also:

- Support technologies to help increase energy efficiency in all sectors of the American economy, including removing bureaucratic regulatory barriers that prevent businesses from upgrading their facilities with newer, more efficient energy technologies, by:
- Making home energy efficiency upgrades tax deductible;
- Providing incentives for home builders and homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient;
- Offering investment expensing for industrial and commercial building efficiency upgrades;
- Extending the residential and business solar and fuel cell investment tax credits, with enhancements to the residential solar credit (\$2,000 per ½ kw installed);
- Extending the fiber-optic distributed sunlight investment tax credit; and
- Increasing the energy efficiency of government-owned buildings.



# EARNED MEDIA THAT WORKS: Linking Food and Fuel Prices

COURTESY OF REP. JOE BARTON (R-TX)

- We operate in a large, fragmented media market so we started by getting several other members involved (Rep. **Kay Granger**, Rep. **Michael Burgess**, Rep. **Pete Sessions**) so we would increase our chances of coverage.
- We decided to hold our event at a grocery store with an attached gas station. This allowed us to hit both major issues – rising fuel and food prices. It also made it one-stop shopping for the media: they could talk to us and to customers.
- Next we identified a local grocery chain and a store within the chain that fit our needs. The biggest challenge was the store's concern about being associated with high prices. We overcame this issue by allowing them to talk about the money-saving programs they have set up for shoppers. We were working with Tom Thumb, so they talked about their double and triple coupons, their rewards card and discounts on gas for frequent shoppers.
- We also scouted the site before the event to check out the distance between the store and the gas station. This also allowed us to pick the place where we wanted to place the podium.
- Our actual event consisted of two parts. We started with a short tour of the store. A manager took the Members up and down the aisles pointing out good deals and areas where prices had gone up. This guaranteed that the Members were in any B-roll being shot and it gave the store its chance to point out their positive programs. Members also had a chance to ask a few basic questions. If the store is willing and time permits, this would also be a chance for customer interaction.
- Then we moved outside to the gas pumps, which is where the actual press conference took place. After each Member gave a 3 minute statement, we had a short Q and A session.
- The whole thing took about 45 minutes. The store helped out by providing refreshments for the media. We sent out several media releases in the days leading up to the event to generate coverage and followed those up with phone calls and personal emails.
- Since this was one-stop shopping for the media we had great turnout. All four local network affiliates, three of the local news/talk radio stations and the print press all attended.

"Members Of Congress Call For New Energy Policy. Four Republican members of Congress use an Arlington grocery store as the backdrop for a call for a new energy policy." (KRLD 1080 AM)

"North Texas Republicans Talk Gas. ... Joe Barton, Michael Burgess, Kay Granger and Pete Sessions say there are common sense ways to bring the cost of gas back down to two bucks a gallon." (WBAP 820 AM)

"Congress Members Offer Gas Price Solutions. In a press tour of an Arlington grocery store Tuesday, four local Republican members of Congress proposed solutions to the gas price problem, NBC 5 reported. The lawmakers highlighted the relationship between high gas prices and the high cost of groceries and said that with developing technology gas prices can be cut in half." (6/18/08)





# SAMPLE RADIO ACTUALITY

Hello – this is Congressman [FIRST][LAST], and I'd like to take a minute to talk to you about five-dollar gasoline.

You heard me right – five-dollar gasoline. That's the number the experts are saying we're going to hit by summer's end.

Soaring prices at the pump affect all of us – it's why municipalities have been forced to make cutbacks to essential services, it's why police patrols are downsizing on busy summer nights, it's why truckers are making runs across the Mexican border for cheaper diesel. It's the reason you're paying more at the grocery store.

In the not-too-distant past, Democrats in Washington had spoken of a 'commonsense plan' to lower gas prices that has yet to materialize. Instead, Congressional Democrats have pursued a misguided energy strategy that not only creates no new energy, but allows for just three potential outcomes: higher taxes, higher gas prices, or both. Any which way you cut it, it's consumers like us who take the hit.

House Republicans are committed to advancing responsible, American-energy based policies that will alleviate pain at the pump for consumers, create jobs, spur economic growth and – most importantly – reduce our dependence on foreign sources of oil. Here's what we'll do:

- We will increase production of American-made energy – including next-generation oil, natural gas, clean coal, alternative and renewable energies – while protecting America's precious natural resources;

- We will untangle the red tape that has made it impossible to construct a new refinery for more than 30 years;
- We will allow the market – not government mandates – to dictate the use of exotic fuels. Our current, government-mandated glut of exotic fuels limits supply and increases the pain at the pump;
- We will address our electricity crisis by spurring construction of new nuclear power plants, as many European nations are doing. Believe it or not: while France generates nearly 80 percent of its electricity through nuclear power, in America, we do not even reach 20 percent;
- And we will make America more energy efficient by offering significant conservation tax breaks to Americans who invest in green technologies for their home, car or business.

So while Democrats in Washington continue to hold fast to the foolish, short-sighted notion that we can tax our way back to lower gas prices, Republicans are committed to a balanced set of real energy solutions that will increase supply, lower prices and put our nation on a path to energy independence once and for all.



# SAMPLE OP-ED

In politics, especially at the national level, nearly every elected official and candidate running for office – regardless of party – believes national security is the federal government’s chief responsibility. Defining security, and advancing policies to ensure that it’s achieved, is where Democrats and Republicans hold incredibly different views. These differences are no more apparent than in our ideas for making America more energy independent, and therefore more secure.

Two years back, the American people were assured that Democrats had a ‘common sense plan to bring down gas prices.’ That plan has yet to materialize, and today America is a nation of \$4 gasoline.

Democrat policies have made us more dependent on foreign nations – many who don’t care much for us – for energy, the lifeblood of the American economy. And because of the Democrat majority’s choice to keep America’s vast natural resources under lock and key, we are less secure, and American families are paying for it at the pump.

With gas prices up more than 75 percent since Democrats took control of Congress, the pain at the pump is being felt in every corner of America. Kids aren’t going to summer camps. Meals on Wheels and home care providers are drawing back services. Car manufacturers, which provide some of the best paying, family-supporting jobs, are shutting their doors. High schools are canceling sporting events. Truckers are working as hard as ever, and can barely remain profitable. State and local governments, including law enforcement agencies, are cutting back services. And the American economy lost nearly 50,000 jobs in May. Why? Because of record high gas prices that Democrats refuse to address.

With congressional approval ratings bottoming out, the jury is in that Washington’s broken. The public’s dissatisfaction with the Democrat Congress, namely for doing nothing to address record gas prices, is justified.

Offering the American people real solutions – not hollow campaign promises – House Republicans recently laid out a comprehensive, energy agenda. Republicans – who’ve voted 91 percent of the time to increase American energy production, compared to the Democrats 14 percent – will work to advance the following principles should we earn back the trust of the American people to lead Congress:

- We will increase production of American-made energy – including next-generation oil, natural gas, clean coal, alternative and renewable energies – while protecting America’s precious natural resources;
- We will cut red tape and increase the supply at the pump



- by encouraging the construction of new refineries;
- We will allow the market – not government mandates – to dictate the use of exotic fuels. Our current, government-mandated glut of exotic fuels limits supply and increases the Pelosi premium;
- We will address our electricity crisis by spurring construction of new nuclear power plants, as many European nations are doing. While France generates nearly 80 percent of its electricity through nuclear power, in America, we do not even reach 20 percent;
- And we will make America more energy efficient by offering significant conservation tax breaks to Americans who invest in green technologies for their home, car or business.

While Democrats have offered massive tax hikes on domestic energy producers – accomplishing nothing but more job loss, less security – and no new energy, House Republicans are committed to advancing responsible American energy-based policies that will alleviate pain at the pump for consumers, create jobs, spur economic growth and make us more independent from foreign sources of oil.

The Democrats’ failed energy policies will continue to take us on a path toward economic uncertainty, jeopardize our place in the global economy, and will not make us a more secure nation. The America that House Republicans believe in, and are committed to, is one that is energy independent.



# GOP ENERGY DISCHARGE PETITIONS

COURTESY OF REPUBLICAN WHIP ROY BLUNT

**Earlier this month, House Republicans announced a plan to introduce discharge petitions on the following bills:**

## **Week of June 9**

H.R. 3089, No More Excuses Energy Act of 2007  
Sponsor: Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-TX)  
Discharge Petition Filer: Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI)

Reduces the price of gasoline by opening new American oil refineries; investing in clean energy sources such as wind, and nuclear, and captured carbon dioxide; and making available homegrown energy through environmentally sensitive exploration of the Arctic Energy Slope and America's Deep-Sea Energy Reserves.

## **Week of June 16**

H.R. 2279, Expand American Refining Capacity on Closed Military Installations  
Sponsor: Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA)  
Discharge Petition Filer: Rep. Phil English (R-PA)

Reduces the price of gasoline by streamlining the refinery application process and by requiring the President to open at least three closed military installations for the purpose of sitting new and reliable American refineries.

## **Week of June 23**

H.R. 5656, To Repeal the Ban on Acquiring Alternative Fuels  
Sponsors: Rep. Mike Conaway (R-TX) and Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX)

Reduces the prices of gasoline by allowing the federal government to procure advanced alternative fuels derived from diverse sources like oil shale, tar sands, and coal-to-liquid technology.

## **Week of July 7**

H.R. 2208, Coal-to-Liquid Fuel Act  
Sponsor: Rep. Rick Boucher (D-VA)

Reduces the price of gasoline by encouraging the use of clean coal-to-liquid technology and authorizing the Secretary of Energy to enter into loan agreements with coal-to-liquid projects that produce innovative transportation fuel.

## **Week of July 14**

H.R. 2493, Fuel Mandate Reduction Act  
Sponsor: Rep. Roy Blunt (R-MO)

Reduces the price of gasoline by removing fuel blend requirements and onerous government mandates if they contribute to unaffordable gas prices.

## **Week of July 21**

H.R. 6107, American Energy Independence and Price Reduction Act  
Sponsor: Rep. Don Young (R-AK)

Reduces the price of gasoline by opening the Arctic Energy Slope to environmentally sensitive American energy exploration. Exploration would be limited to 0.01% of the Refuge, and revenue received from the new leases would be invested in a long-term alternative energy trust fund.

## **Week of July 28**

H.R. 6108, Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act of 2008  
Sponsor: Rep. Sue Myrick (R-NC)

Reduces the price of gasoline by enabling the United States to responsibly explore its own deep ocean to produce American energy. The bill would grant coastal states the authority to keep exploration 100 miles from their coastlines and it would also allow states to share in the revenues received.

## ENERGY VOTING RECORDS: 1994 - Present

### ANWR EXPLORATION

House Republicans: 91% Supported  
House Democrats: 86% Opposed

### COAL-TO-LIQUID

House Republicans: 97% Supported  
House Democrats: 78% Opposed

### OIL SHALE EXPLORATION

House Republicans: 90% Supported  
House Democrats: 86% Opposed

### OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF (OCS) EXPLORATION

House Republicans: 81% Supported  
House Democrats: 83% Opposed

### REFINERY INCREASED CAPACITY

House Republicans: 97% Supported  
House Democrats: 96% Opposed

# ENERGY FACTS OF THE DAY

COURTESY OF CONFERENCE VICE-CHAIR KAY GRANGER

**June 5.** United States expanded its dependence on foreign members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) by a full seven percent in 2007 alone.  
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

**June 6.** Total American Energy Resources Off-Limits (Leasing Prohibited):  
Natural Gas: 175.28 Trillion Cubic Feet; Oil: 1.127 Trillion Barrels  
Federal Revenue Generated if Congress Unlocked Off-limits Energy Resources: \$60 TRILLION  
Source: Department of Energy/Department of Interior

**June 9.** The mean estimate of technically recoverable oil in ANWR is 10.4 billion barrels – all of which is now economically recoverable.  
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

**June 10.** One million barrels of oil produce 27 million gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel.  
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

**June 11.** Renewable energy sources – water (hydroelectric), geothermal, wind, sun (solar), and biomass – only met about 7% of America’s total energy needs in 2006.  
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

**June 12.** Of the more than 7 billion barrels of oil pumped offshore in the past 25 years, 0.001 percent – that is one-thousandth of 1 percent – has been spilled.  
Source: The Washington Post, 6/5/08

**June 13.** Wind-generated electricity increased by 45% between 2005 and 2006 and by 21% between 2006 and 2007, more than any other renewable source of generation in both years.  
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

**June 16.** 69 percent of Americans support lowering energy prices for U.S. consumers by using U.S. domestic energy sources, such as clean coal and oil, even if it means drilling off our coasts and in Alaska, as well as offering tax credits for American businesses that develop new energy solutions.  
Source: American Solutions, nationwide survey of 1,000 adults, 5/29-6/1/08

**June 17.** Drilling of oil and natural gas exploratory wells increased by 98% from 2000 to 2007. Yet, crude oil production decreased 12.4%.  
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

**June 18.** Only 3% of the United States’ 1.76 billion acre outer continental shelf (OCS) is leased for oil and gas exploration and development.  
Source: Mineral Management Resources.

**June 19.** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers the 700 million acres of federally owned sub-surface mineral estate, only 6% of which has been leased for oil & gas exploration and development.  
Source: The Bureau of Land Management

## VOTES TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF AMERICAN ENERGY

Energy Scorecard:  
Pro-production Votes  
(102<sup>nd</sup> – 110<sup>th</sup> Congresses)

Boehner: 46 vs. Pelosi: 2

## LET THE RECORD SHOW

91%

of House Republicans have historically voted to increase the production of American-made oil and gas.

86%

of House Democrats have historically voted against increasing the production of American-made oil and gas.

# RESPONDING TO FALSE AND MISLEADING DEMOCRAT ENERGY CLAIMS

## Democrat Claim:

“In an effort to compel oil and gas companies to produce on the 68 million acres of federal lands, both onshore and offshore, that are leased but sitting idle, House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) today introduced legislation that gives Big Oil one option - either ‘use it or lose it.’” (Release, 6/12/08)

## The Facts: “Use It or Lose It” is already the law of the land.

The Secretary of the Interior can ALREADY “cancel” a lease if the lessee “fails to comply” with the law, regulations or the terms of the lease.

- The Law on Cancelling Leases: According to Title 30, Subsection 188(a) and (b) of the United States Code, “any lease ... may be forfeited and canceled ... whenever the lessee fails to comply with any provisions of this chapter, of the lease, or of the general regulations ... Any lease ... shall be subject to cancellation by the Secretary of the Interior after 30 days notice upon failure of the lessee to comply with any of the provisions of the lease....”
- The Regulations on Cancelling Leases: According to Title 43, Sec. 3108.3 (a) and (b) of the Code of Federal Regulations, “Whenever the lessee fails to comply with any of the provisions of the law, the regulations issued thereunder, or the lease, the lease may be canceled by the Secretary, if the leasehold does not contain a well capable of production of oil or gas in paying quantities .... Whenever the lessee fails to comply with any of the provisions of the law, the regulations issued thereunder, or the lease, and if the leasehold contains a well capable of production of oil or gas in paying quantities ... the lease may be canceled only by judicial proceedings in the manner provided by section 31(a) of the Act.”

Federal energy lease holders ALREADY must produce oil or natural gas within 5-10 years to live up to the terms of the lease and the law. They can only be extended if “actual drilling operations were commenced ... and are being diligently prosecuted” or because of “unusually deep water.”

- The Law on Land Exploration Time Limits: According to Title 30, Subsection 226(e) of the United States Code, “Competitive and noncompetitive leases issued under this section shall be for a primary term of 10 years. ... Any lease issued under this section for land on which, or for which under an approved cooperative or unit plan development or operation, actual drilling operations were commenced prior to the end of its primary term and are being diligently prosecuted at that time shall be extended for two years and so long thereafter as oil or gas is produced in paying quantities.”
- The Law on Deep-Water Exploration Time Limits: According to Title 43, Sec. 1337 (b) of the United States Code, “An oil and gas lease issued pursuant to this section shall (2) be for an initial period of (A) five years; or (B) not to exceed ten years where the Secretary finds that such longer period is necessary to encourage exploration and development in areas because of unusually deep water or other unusually adverse conditions, and as long after such initial period as oil or gas is produced from the area in paying quantities, or drilling or well reworking operations as approved by the Secretary are conducted thereon.”

## Democrat Claim:

Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA): "There are 68 million acres in America where oil and gas companies have bought the right to drill ... They are just sitting on them." (Press Conference, 6/10/08)

## The Facts: Democrat claims that leases are “sitting idle” are FALSE and MISLEADING. Here are the facts:

FACT: Once a lease is secured, a long, comprehensive exploration process begins that “can require years of mapping, testing, drilling and construction” and can cost “millions or even billions of dollars.” Bidding on, paying for and securing a lease is not a license to drill, nor can production occur immediately. After “time delays” associated with initial leasing and drilling of exploratory wells, it has taken nearly a decade to produce energy on leases in the past. Democrats mislead when they say a classification of “not in production” is the same as “sitting idle.”

- Wall Street Journal: “Companies don’t know how much oil is under the lands they lease, so they buy up large swaths in hope that a fraction will work out. Much of the area that isn’t producing, they say, doesn’t have oil or gas in commercially viable quantities. Moreover, bringing a new field into production can require years of mapping, testing, drilling and construction – during which time the land would show up in statistics as being ‘not in production,’ even as companies spend millions or even billions of dollars to bring it on line.” (6/16/08)
- Geological Experts: “‘There’s the misconception that every lease has oil,’ added David Curtiss, director of the [American Association of Petroleum Geologists] Washington office. ‘A lease is a line on a map. It has nothing to do with the geology of where oil is.’” (CQ, 6/16/08)
- Energy Information Administration: Alaska’s “Badami field was discovered in 1990 and went into production in 1998, thereby taking 8 years between the oil discovery and initial production. On the western border of the State lands, near the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, the Alpine field was discovered in 1994 and initial oil production occurred in 2000, thereby taking 6 years from discovery. These Alaska North Slope oil field development time delays do not include the time delays associated with BLM leasing, the collection and interpretation of seismic data, and the drilling of exploratory wells.” (May 2008)

FACT: It can cost billions to secure leases and producers must pay annual rent on the leased acres, regardless whether the lease is producing oil or gas. If they fail to pay the annual rent to the government, the leases are forfeited. (30 USC 188 (b))

- Energy producers submitted \$3.7 billion in high bids in a March 2008 auction for leases in the central Gulf of Mexico. (Release, 3/17/08)

FACT: By law, energy producers must produce oil or natural gas from the lease within 5-to-10 years. If they don’t, they “lose the lease.”

- Federal law states that lease holders must produce oil or natural gas within 10 years for onshore leases; they must produce within 5 years for off-shore leases, but that may be extended to 10 years in the case of “unusually deep water or other unusually adverse conditions.” (30 USC 226(e) and 43 USC 1337(b)). The government can cancel the lease if the producer fails to live up to the terms of the lease, the law or federal regulations. (30 USC 188(a) and (b) and 43 CFR 3108.3 (a) and (b))
- “Under existing law, producers can lease a block for up to 10 years, but a company typically must begin producing oil or gas in that time or lose the lease.” (Houston Chronicle, 6/13/08)

# INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY EDITORIAL

June 18, 2008

## Congress Cannot Deflect The Blame

Energy: First, Democrats dishonestly blamed oil companies for overcharging. Now they falsely accuse them of keeping their high-priced oil off the market. With public support for drilling growing, Congress is panicked.

In this presidential election year, the Democrats really do seem to think they can fool most of the people all of the time. Gasoline prices have reached well over \$4 in much of the country, but instead of fulfilling the duties given to them by the voters in 2006 and allowing access to more domestic sources of oil and gas, Democrats have thrown a new headline-grabbing smear at Big Oil.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi complains that energy firms are "sitting on 68 million acres of federal lands they've already leased," but with which they are not producing oil and gas.

That same Democratic Party talking point was served up by Sen. Russ Feingold. He asked oil executives at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing last month "to explain why their companies are only developing 12 (million) of the 42 million acres of federal lands that they are leasing" and "only developing 8 (million) of the 38 million acres of offshore leased areas."

According to Feingold, "the executives could not come up with a good explanation."

In fact, they did — it's the fault of Feingold, Pelosi, would-be president Barack Obama and every other member of Congress whose environmental extremism has prevented the oil industry from finding and extracting America's own supplies.

When oil companies spend big money leasing land, they are buying access to a great deal of territory, much of which has no oil and gas underfoot. They have to spend still more big money pinpointing the parts of that land where those energy resources are.

All the while, they have to weave their way through a labyrinth of environmental rules that Congress has imposed on them, plus defend themselves against bogus legal attacks from green extremists. Then, even when oil is found, it can take years to prepare to drill.

So when Pelosi and other congressional Democrats claim the oilmen are "sitting" on all that land, under which lies an ocean of crude they are gleefully keeping from consumers, those senators and representatives are lying through their well-sharpened political teeth.

In fact, these companies are spending fortunes surveying, building facilities on, and even drilling on much of this land, though it may officially be classified as nonproducing. The fact of the matter is that 94% of federal onshore lands remain unleased, while 97% of offshore areas are similarly off-limits to oil exploration.

Meanwhile the Communist regimes of China and Cuba collude to exploit the oil and gas resources off our own Gulf Coast. The blame here rests squarely on Congress, which could repeal its quarter-century-old offshore drilling moratorium tomorrow if it so chose.

Since Congress' enviro-driven 1982 moratorium, lease purchases have dwindled to a fraction of their previous level (see chart). Who, after all, wants permission to drill in a dry hole?

This incompetent, irresponsible and thoroughly politicized Democratic Congress is endangering our national security and economic well-being by locking up our own energy resources. It must not be allowed to blame the companies that spend billions supplying our energy needs for its own idiotic policies.

# ENERGY POLLING UPDATE

## RASMUSSEN

Survey of 1,000 Likely Voters  
June 13, 2008

**In order to reduce the price of gas, should drilling be allowed in offshore oil wells off the coasts of California, Florida, and other states?**

67% Yes  
18% No  
15% Not sure

**Should drilling for oil be allowed 50 miles off the U.S. coasts?**

64% Yes  
18% No  
20% Not sure

**If offshore drilling for oil is allowed, how likely is it that the price of gas will go down?**

27% Very likely  
37% Somewhat likely  
21% Not very likely  
6% Not at all likely  
8% Not sure

## ABC NEWS WASHINGTON POST

1,125 adults nationwide.  
June 12-15, 2008.

**Have recent price increases in gasoline caused any financial hardship for you or others in your household, or not?**

77% Have  
23% Have not

**Do you think the government should offer tax breaks for companies to develop alternative energy sources, or should it leave it to the marketplace to develop alternative energy sources, without tax breaks?**

63% Offer tax breaks  
32% Leave it to marketplace

## NBC NEWS/WALL STREET JOURNAL

1,000 registered voters nationwide  
June 6-9, 2008

**When it comes to energy and gas prices, who do you believe should take the lead in addressing this issue: Congress or President Bush?**

59% Congress  
21% President Bush  
16% Both

**Which one of the following actions do you most support as a way of addressing the rise in energy and gas prices?**  
**Encourage the development of wind and solar power. Open up protected areas in Alaska for oil and gas exploration. Encourage American consumers to conserve energy. Encourage off-shore exploration for oil and natural gas. Encourage the construction of nuclear power facilities.**

27% Wind and Solar  
24% Alaska exploration  
19% Conserve energy  
16% Off-shore exploration  
10% Nuclear power  
4% Other/unsure

## GALLUP

1,013 adults nationwide  
May 19-21, 2008

Potential actions to reduce today's high gas prices:

**Allowing drilling in U.S. coastal and wilderness areas now off-limits**

57% Favor  
41% Oppose

**Releasing supplies from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve**

58% Favor  
40% Oppose

**Imposing government price controls**

53% Favor  
45% Oppose

**Halting new shipments of oil to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve**

49% Favor  
43% Oppose

**Federal gas tax holiday for the summer**

46% Favor