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Sheila Wier

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE, OF TEXAS

H.R.6082,

**“CONGRESSIONAL REPLACEMENT OF PRESIDENT
OBAMA’S ENERGY DRILLING PLAN”**



FLOOR STATEMENT

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2012

RULES AMENDMENT 3

**STUDY ON EFFICACY OF A SINGLE ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)**

I want to thank Chairman Drier and Members of the House Rules Committee for this opportunity to explain my amendment #3 to H.R. 6082, the “Congressional Replacement of Pres. Obama’s Energy Restricting and Job Limiting Drilling Plan.” My amendments would require a study on the efficacy of utilizing a single Environmental Impact Statement for diverse environmental drilling areas.

As the Representative of the 18th Congressional District of Houston, Texas, I can attest to the importance of a healthy energy industry. My District is the energy hub of the United States and is recognized worldwide for its energy industry, particularly for oil and gas.

Indeed Texas serves as proof that the energy industry offers tremendous potential to provide jobs and foster economic growth.

As a matter of fact, in 2008, Texas was one of the few states that saw its economy grow; grossing the second highest revenue of all states at \$1.2 trillion.

The energy industry and its supporting businesses provide my fellow Texans with tens of thousands of jobs, **this prosperity can and has expanded well beyond Texas, provided the federal and state governments continue to act decisively and responsibly to expand domestic energy productions in an environmentally conscious manner, and keep billions of dollars and countless jobs here at home.**

I must place emphasis on the need to act both decisively and responsibly. As I have stated previously it remains to be seen whether this bill truly accomplishes these goals.

My amendment is designed to address the potential concerns that utilizing a singled EIS would have. Again, I wish to make clear that the energy industry is an important one, but so are all the industries that have flourished along our nation's shore lines, from fishing to tourism.

We have learned many lessons from the BP oil disaster, one of our clearest lessons should be that taking into account the environment.

The energy industry has improved their safety standards and I have been a strong advocate for additional protections. **My amendment simply calls for a study to determine whether or not a single Environmental Impact Statement is enough, especially for the Atlantic, Pacific, and Bristol Bay.**

I understand the environmental concerns in the Gulf of Mexico and so does the Department of Interior (DOI) it has been reviewing and approving lease sales in the Gulf for decades, the same cannot be said for all areas addressed by this bill, which is why caution is necessary.

As this bill calls for new areas of exploration more should be done to ensure there is careful study of these new environments.

Thank you Mr. Chair, I yield back the remainder of my time.