

Throughout February, we take the opportunity to recognize the pivotal role that career and technical education plays in shaping our Nation's workforce and helping great American companies prosper.

Career and technical education empowers students to explore various career options, discover their passions, and develop real-world skills that are in high demand.

Collaboration between educators and industry professionals ensures that our students graduate not only with academic knowledge but also with the practical expertise needed to excel in their chosen fields.

As we celebrate Career and Technical Education Month, let us commit to supporting programs that provide students with the opportunities to build a strong foundation for their future careers.

Together, we can create a workforce that is not only highly skilled but also adaptable to the ever-changing demands of our economy.

EXPORTING LNG

(Mrs. BICE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, since the breakthroughs of the shale revolution, the United States has become a growing producer of natural gas and a significant exporter of liquefied natural gas.

This past year, LNG exports hit record highs, and we became the world's leading exporter. These exports are critical for our European allies who are still dealing with the fallout of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

This is why Biden's decision to stop issuing new LNG permits is deeply concerning. Sadly, this is just the latest attack on domestic energy production.

The President's decision will create tremendous regulatory uncertainty and eliminate American jobs. He has weaponized the permitting process and caved to environmental groups that seek to end fossil fuels.

We have seen what can happen when there is an insufficient supply of LNG globally. Energy prices rise, and the coal-fired power plants turn back on. I urge the President to reverse this reckless decision.

NEW INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR RULES

(Mr. KILEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Wage and Hour Division Administrator Jessica Looman testified before the House Subcommittee on Workforce Protections and could not answer the most basic questions about how the administration's new independent contractor rule will apply to millions of Americans.

Will Realtors be considered employees or independent contractors? She could not say. Will truckers be considered employees or independent contractors? She could not say. Will writers be considered independent contractors or employees? She could not say.

She could not say who will be allowed to work and who will have their careers taken away from them. The reason for her evasiveness is that we already know the answer.

We have seen the devastating consequences of the law in California, AB5, that was the model for the Biden administration's rule.

Take the story of Barbara. Barbara says:

I am a proofreader. Nearly all proofreading is done online on a freelance basis.

Competition is fierce, and it is hard to get clients, but I did it. I was thrilled at being able to choose what editing jobs I was best suited for and to work as much or as little as I wanted.

Californians need not apply for any of these jobs, thanks to AB5. Not only can I not work in my chosen career, but all the time and money I spent is wasted.

In order to prevent millions of Americans from suffering Barbara's fate, I am encouraging this House to pass my resolution under the Congressional Review Act to reverse the Biden administration's new rule.

UNLOCKING OUR DOMESTIC LNG POTENTIAL ACT OF 2024

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1009, I call up the bill (H.R. 7176) to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1009, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7176

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. ADVANCING UNITED STATES GLOBAL LEADERSHIP.

Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) through (c);

(2) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively;

(3) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c), and moving such subsection after subsection (b), as so redesignated;

(4) in subsection (a), as so redesignated, by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (in this subsection referred to as the ‘Commission’) shall have the exclusive authority to approve or deny an application for authorization for the siting, construction, expansion, or operation of a facility to export natural gas from the United States to a foreign country or import natural gas from a foreign country, including an LNG terminal. In determining whether to approve or deny an application under this paragraph, the Commission shall deem the exportation or

importation of natural gas to be consistent with the public interest. Except as specifically provided in this Act, nothing in this Act is intended to affect otherwise applicable law related to any Federal agency's authorities or responsibilities related to facilities to import or export natural gas, including LNG terminals.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d)(1) Nothing in this Act limits the authority of the President under the Constitution, the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), part B of title II of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6271 et seq.), the Trading With the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.), or any other provision of law that imposes sanctions on a foreign person or foreign government (including any provision of law that prohibits or restricts United States persons from engaging in a transaction with a sanctioned person or government), including a country that is designated as a state sponsor of terrorism, to prohibit imports or exports.

“(2) In this subsection, the term ‘state sponsor of terrorism’ means a country the government of which the Secretary of State determines has repeatedly provided support for international terrorism pursuant to—

“(A) section 1754(c)(1)(A) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4318(c)(1)(A));

“(B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

“(C) section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780); or

“(D) any other provision of law.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 7176.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7176, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024. I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation, which my friend and colleague from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER), has introduced.

Since day one, President Biden has issued executive orders and given direction to the Federal agencies across the government to shut down American energy production, even at the expense of jobs, economic development, national security, and the climate. President Biden's decision to ban LNG exports in an election year is putting politics over people.

Let's be clear. The Biden administration does not appear to be against all

oil and gas production—just American energy.

They begged OPEC to increase production, and they are turning a blind eye to Russia. Russia is exporting 40 percent more LNG to Europe today than it was before the invasion of Ukraine. Russia's energy exports are funding its war against Ukraine, padding the pockets of Vladimir Putin.

The reality is that global demand for natural gas is expected to increase 46 percent by 2050, and our European and Asian allies who want to do business with the United States of America now have to look to Qatar or to Russia or even to Iran to meet their growing energy needs.

LNG exports strengthen America's energy security, create jobs, and decrease energy prices here at home through American production.

U.S. LNG exports could support up to 452,000 additional American jobs and add up to \$73 billion in the U.S. economy by 2040.

This bill will help deliver affordable, reliable, and cleaner burning American energy to Americans, create jobs, and strengthen our global leadership.

Let's vote to unlock our domestic LNG potential.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 7176. This bill is nothing more than a handout to Big Oil and Gas that will enrich our adversaries, including China, and force American families to pay the price with higher energy bills.

It removes a requirement that the Department of Energy first determine liquefied natural gas exports should be in the public interest before approving export applications.

This defies logic. The Republican bill assumes that all LNG exports are automatically in the public interest. This is utterly absurd considering there is widespread consensus among researchers and economists that increasing LNG exports directly leads to higher natural gas prices here at home.

Americans know this reality all too well because they have felt it firsthand. Our LNG exports quadrupled over the last 5 years. During that same time, in 2022, natural gas prices more than tripled.

Make no mistake: If this bill ever becomes law, Americans will pay more for the gas that heats their homes and keeps their lights on.

It is an affront to middle-class families who can't afford to deal with more fossil fuel price volatility. They are tired of our energy prices being manipulated by our adversaries simply because Republicans are in a mad rush to send it all abroad.

Now Republicans also claim to be tough on China. I hear this every day in the Energy and Commerce Committee. We have to be tough on China.

This bill is a gift to China. In 2021, China was the second-largest recipient of American LNG, and Chinese LNG purchasers have continued to snap up any long-term deal they can from American exporters.

By removing the requirement that our exports be in America's best interests, this bill would allow China and other adversaries to purchase even more of our energy to use against us.

Thankfully, the Biden administration is taking a different approach, one that prioritizes the needs of the American people rather than Big Oil and Gas.

Last month, the administration announced a temporary pause on new LNG export authorizations while the Department of Energy confirms that they are in Americans' interests.

This is just common sense. Before we send our energy resources abroad, it is only right that we first confirm that doing so will benefit Americans.

Anyone who says this pause is a ban on LNG exports is also peddling in blatant disinformation. The temporary pause does not affect current exports and does not affect exports from facilities that are under construction. It doesn't even affect exports from facilities that haven't begun construction but are fully permitted.

If the Department of Energy never approved another permit, our LNG exports are still on track to triple from now until the end of the decade, more than enough to ensure Europe gets all the gas that it needs.

I note how ridiculous it is to have the same Republicans who refuse to support aid for Ukraine lecture us on being good allies.

House Democrats are demanding that the House vote on legislation that has now passed the Senate that would provide funding to ensure Ukraine can continue to protect its democracy from Russia's unprovoked war of aggression.

In stark contrast, House Speaker JOHNSON is shamefully blocking this urgent national security funding, siding with pro-Putin extreme Republicans.

If House Republicans want to be good allies, they should join us in demanding a vote on that critical national security funding.

Mr. Speaker, ensuring that LNG exports are in the American people's best interest is something we should all want. Instead, we are here considering a bill that does the opposite for a third time because Republicans are fresh out of ideas and resorting to bringing up old, tired bills that stand no chance of ever becoming law.

□ 1230

Time and again they have proven completely dysfunctional and incapable of governing, and, in fact, they are making us vote on this same bill for a third time. Certainly, that is a testament to their inability to get things done. With nothing else to bring to the floor, they want to distract from re-

ality that they have achieved nothing to improve the lives of the American people.

This is just another Republican bill that puts polluters over people, and I, therefore, encourage my colleagues to oppose it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the third time is the charm. Let's get it done.

House Republicans on the Energy and Commerce Committee have focused on four main components: produce, deliver, utilize, and export.

Produce the abundant resources we have in this country.

Deliver those resources through pipelines, the need for pipeline permitting reform and buildout infrastructure.

Utilize resources to provide reliable, affordable, and clean energy for Americans.

Export to help our friends and allies around the globe to lower their carbon emissions and meet their energy needs, especially in Europe where they faced the invasion from Vladimir Putin into Ukraine.

They had a reality check on energy. They looked west to the United States to export more. We can do it, and we need to do it through LNG exports.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), the chairwoman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support today of H.R. 7176, the Unlocking Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024, introduced by my friend Representative AUGUST PFLUGER.

President Biden's decision to impose a ban on issuing permits to export natural gas is just the latest example of his administration caving to environmental activists and putting politics over the American people.

This ban will harm the American economy, jeopardize good-paying jobs, weaken our energy security, and it threatens the security of our friends and allies.

America has become the number one producer and exporter of liquefied natural gas in the world. It has strengthened our economy, reduced costs for the American people, and enabled the United States to lead in reducing emissions more than any other nation, both here at home and abroad.

American LNG has been a lifeline, especially to our friends and European allies since Russia invaded Ukraine.

Since the invasion, American LNG has helped them reduce their natural gas prices by over 83 percent and reduce their dependence on Russia.

President Biden's ban sends a signal to our allies that we are no longer a dependable energy partner. This is unacceptable.

H.R. 7176 will immediately reverse the President's decision allowing the U.S. to export more and encouraging domestic production here at home, which will then reduce American energy supply vulnerabilities.

This will reduce American energy supply vulnerabilities and encourage investments in other industries, like manufacturing.

Some estimate that LNG exports could add as much as \$73 billion to our economy and more than 450,000 American jobs by 2040.

LNG is vital to America's energy leadership, our security, and our future. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN).

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. If we had truth in labeling, this bill would be called the methane pollution and higher energy prices act.

I am simply amazed that this MAGA Republican majority in this Congress, which really makes the 1948 do-nothing Congress look like a paragon of productivity. This Congress can't find time to bring critical national security funding bills to the floor for a vote. They won't even bring a bipartisan border solution bill to the floor for a vote. But there is always time for another sop to the fossil fuel industry.

So here we are with a bill that is transparently dishonest. It is an effort to fast-track dirty energy projects, throw environmental justice communities under the bus, completely ignore the climate crisis, and expedite permitting for LNG facilities so that Big Oil can ramp up unnecessary exports of this harmful fossil gas.

Let's do some fact-checking. The United States is already the world's largest LNG exporter. We are on track to double that with existing projects that have already been permitted. So we do not need more of these methane bombs.

Second, experts have crunched the numbers, and new LNG export facilities are going to increase the cost of energy prices here at home. That is a fact.

Third, our allies are not asking for this. They are on record asking for clean energy, not more LNG. So let's stop putting words in their mouths. They don't want to go from being dependent on Vladimir Putin to being dependent on the United States fossil fuel industry. They want clean energy.

LNG is a climate bomb. This is well documented. I sent a letter several weeks ago to the Biden administration asking them to develop meaningful tests to ensure that they are truly protecting the public interest here, not the interests of greedy corporations when they approve these projects.

I am thankful that they have just announced that they will do exactly that with new LNG permitting decisions.

This pause is the first step in overhauling how we permit these projects, but it is an important one, and we shouldn't be wasting time sacrificing communities at the altar of Big Oil in this attempt by Republicans to reverse a sensible, smart decision that puts people over politics.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER), the author of this bill.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, President Biden imposed an immediate and indefinite ban on the issuance of LNG export permits to non-FTA countries while DOE conducts a review to consider the climate impacts of natural gas.

Well, the DOE has already commissioned five studies to examine the effects of U.S. LNG exports, and the results unanimously demonstrate the benefits to the U.S. economy and to domestic prices. In fact, the two prior Presidential administrations conducted these studies without blocking export permits.

President Biden's ban on LNG is radically shortsighted when it comes to the environmental risks. Clean natural gas is a major reason why the U.S. has reduced emissions more than any other Nation. According to DOE, U.S. LNG exports are also 41 percent cleaner than Russian natural gas delivered to Europe.

Current law requires that natural gas exports to countries with non-FTA countries are deemed in the public interest, unless DOE finds exports will not be consistent with public interest. There is a very clear statutory presumption already that exports are in the public interest, and each administration has held opposition to a very high bar. I think what the administration is saying right now is the political interest, that the statutory presumption has been held to a very high bar up until now.

This is the same President who promised Europe that we would meet their needs in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Who stepped up to the plate? It was American energy producers who sent more than 87 percent of LNG exports to the EU, U.K., and Asia in December—all markets which will now be forced to turn to nefarious actors for their needs.

I am proud of this bipartisan bill, and one of the reasons is because of the steps that the industry has taken to help the climate, to help emissions, to reduce emissions.

Let's consider that two-thirds of the world's recoverable natural gas is in four countries: Iran, Qatar, Russia, and the United States. Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues who they recommend they turn to? If not the U.S., then who?

Not only is President Biden cutting off our allies at the knees, but this move will also raise global and domestic prices. Domestic natural gas prices are lower and more stable with free, fair, and open markets, and U.S. LNG is the price ballast in a global market. The decision to ban exports creates uncertainty and discourages investments that would otherwise create jobs and expand the supply of natural gas.

Out of all of President Biden's poor energy policies, the ban on LNG ex-

ports is the most egregious, short-sighted, and impactful on the credit of U.S. commitments around the world. I am proud to lead H.R. 7176 to immediately reverse the ban and to take politics out of LNG exports by giving FERC sole authority for LNG exports and repealing all restrictions.

I would say to the President that the world needs U.S. LNG. This catastrophic, politically based, and legally dubious ban must be reversed immediately. I appreciate the bipartisan support that we are receiving, but I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 7176.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN), my wonderful colleague.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this handout for Big Oil and Gas producers.

This bill removes a requirement that DOE first determine LNG exports are to be in the public interest before approving export applications to non-free trade agreement countries. It is basically saying all LNG exports are in the public interest. This is simply not true.

Study after study has found that increased LNG exports directly lead to higher natural gas prices here at home.

According to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, LNG exports cost American consumers more than \$100 billion over a 16-month period. After doubling our LNG exports in the last 5 years, natural gas prices in 2022 more than tripled.

If enacted, this bill will only compound those burdens on middle-class families trying to make ends meet while enriching big corporations. This doesn't sound like legislating in the public interest.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee.

If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill. My amendment would prevent the bill from taking effect until the Secretary of Energy can certify that the bill will not increase domestic natural gas prices.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YAKYM). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE), who chairs the Health Subcommittee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from South Carolina

for yielding me time. I rise in support of the Unlocking Our Domestic LNG Potential Act.

Last month, the Biden administration doubled down on its war against American energy production by effectively banning American LNG exports. This decision disincentivizes American LNG production, eliminates American jobs, and undermines our national security.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, in the aftermath of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, we instituted an embargo on Russian oil and gas, defunding Russia's war machine. Our European allies joined us in this effort. However, with few domestic alternatives, they rely on our LNG exports. In fact, 87 percent of U.S. LNG exports went to the European Union, the United Kingdom, or Asian markets.

I often hear from our NATO allies about the importance of American energy production to global security. Without American energy independence, we and our allies become reliant on our adversaries for our energy needs and economic security. It is paramount to our national security at home and around the world that we continue to make energy in America.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), the ranking member of our Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. PALLONE for yielding me time.

I rise today to oppose the GOP's latest love letter to Big Oil and Gas here the day after Valentine's Day.

This Republican bill is a giant hand-out to Big Oil and Gas that will enrich our adversaries, including the Chinese Communist Party, and force middle-class families to pay more on their home electric bills.

Gas companies and CEOs want the unfettered ability to send American gas to China and other countries, so I thank the Biden administration for stepping in to analyze the cost to American consumers of doing so.

Folks back home in Florida are paying exorbitant electric bills because we are tied to gas.

□ 1245

The Biden administration is right to study how unfettered gas and methane pollution costs my neighbors more. They are right to understand how that threatens our way of life as the atmosphere is overheating and is causing extreme heat waves, droughts, drying up our lakes and rivers and water supply, wildfires, and deadly hurricanes that are so costly. They are right to consider the national security concerns, as well.

While we are talking about national security, there is a larger context that brought me to the floor today. That is the complete failure of Republicans to

govern and accomplish anything for the American people.

They announced last night that we are leaving early for the rest of the month.

Are we going to do a tough, bipartisan border security bill? No.

Are we going to do anything to address mass shootings? No. They just ignore the fact that the leading cause of death among American children and teens is death by gun. I am angry like the Kansas City police chief said she is angry.

How about working on national security? No. The GOP has checked out. They can't govern. It is outrageous that extreme MAGA Republicans are siding with Putin and blocking a national security bill.

How about the basic responsibility of passing appropriations bills? The fiscal year started on October 1, but Republicans have cowed down to the MAGA extremists in their party, who thought a costly shutdown was the way to go.

This is the least productive Congress in modern times, and it shows. If the GOP cannot govern and they want to leave, I have an idea: Let Democrats tackle these problems. We are good at finding solutions. We are good at lowering costs for American families. We put people over politics, while the GOP put politics over the people. They put Putin over the people. They side with polluters every day that we are here.

Vote "no" on this bill, and tell the folks here in Washington, especially the GOP, to get to work.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON).

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleagues that the Democrats control the White House and the Senate.

I rise today to discuss once again the Biden administration's foolish rush-to-green agenda over U.S. energy dominance. I support an all-of-the-above energy strategy.

Actually, our allies are requesting U.S. LNG. I was just in Japan and Europe, so my colleague's previous statement otherwise is false.

The decision to freeze the approval process for new plants to export liquefied natural gas will stifle the U.S. economy, signal weakness to our key allies, embolden our adversaries, and likely increase worldwide CO₂ emissions.

This ban sends a clear message that the Biden administration would rather appease radical environmental groups than unleash American energy. This is about election-year politics, not pragmatism.

I join my colleagues today in calling for the House to pass H.R. 7176, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024, reversing the Biden administration's de facto ban.

The bill is also paramount to global energy security, including, as I previously mentioned, the Asia-Pacific and European areas of the world. Stud-

ies show also that LNG exports could add upward of \$73 billion to the U.S. economy.

Mr. Speaker, to ensure American energy leadership and security, Congress must pass H.R. 7176.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN).

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, there is a really simple question before us today: Is it in the U.S. national interest to look out for U.S. energy consumers or for U.S. energy producers?

Let's look at the facts. According to the most recent DOE data over the last decade, U.S. gas consumption is up by about 26 percent; U.S. gas production is up by about 50 percent; and U.S. gas exports are up 326 percent.

Ten years ago, just 6 percent of all gas produced in the U.S. was for export. Today, more than 20 percent is for export. That is not because the industry is succeeding. They can't compete against cheaper renewable energy, so they are trying to export overseas, and y'all are helping them out.

Those export volumes are going to triple again just based on the stuff that is already permitted in the pipeline—nothing to do with what is going on today.

I remind my Republican colleagues, because sometimes we need to remind on this, even in this body where we write the laws, you cannot change the laws of supply and demand. When U.S. natural gas is exported overseas, it reduces domestic supply and increases the price. We know this from recent experience because when the Freeport LNG terminal had that explosion, according to the Department of Energy, domestic prices for natural gas fell by nearly a third. Exporters were very sad that they lost money. Do you know who had more money in their pocket? American consumers. Gas was cheaper.

Y'all hate inflation, right? That was wonderful. Thank you for doing that. Who are you rooting for, though?

Mr. Speaker, there was a reason why the Natural Gas Act does not require us to determine whether domestic production of energy for domestic use is in the national interest, because we rightly assume that domestic energy security is in our national interest. That is not the question posed by this bill. This bill would insist that exports are always in the national interest, and that is, as a technical term, total poppycock.

Should we drill on public lands? Should we use eminent domain to seize private property? Should we increase the price of energy in the United States? Should we increase global warming?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, should we increase global warming? Should we do all of that just so that the natural gas

industry can make more money selling U.S. resources to Asia—not to Europe, because that is where the margin is going. Or should we maintain the current law that simply asks us to determine whether that is in the public interest before permitting a new facility?

To paraphrase a great political scientist by the name of Jeff Foxworthy: If you think that is a hard question, you might be a Republican.

It is not a hard question. This is a bad bill for the climate. It is a bad bill for the economy. It is a bad bill for the U.S. consumer. Vote “no.” If you can’t, at least be honest about who you are working for.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, thank goodness for the policies of the last administration. This administration seems to be touting that it has increased production. That came about because of policies of the Trump administration, when, on day one, the Biden administration shut down oil and gas leases, stopped American energy production, shut down pipeline projects, and thwarted the American energy sector.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank my subcommittee chairman for his truth-talking.

I rise today in support of Representative PFLUGER’s bipartisan H.R. 7176, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act.

Last month, President Biden announced an indefinite ban on new exports of good, clean, American LNG. Our national security and that of our allies demand that the United States continue to export LNG to Europe and other nations that have been dependent on dirty gas from Russia and Iran.

Our communities and families along the Gulf Coast that depend on these jobs demand that we continue to export LNG.

We have long accepted that President Biden would relinquish our energy leadership in favor of environmental activists and special interests. Today, it was reported that one of the plan’s main architects, soon-to-be-climate envoy John Podesta, might have other reasons to dampen America’s LNG future. His brother is a longtime lobbyist for foreign LNG companies, including one founded by a Russian energy oligarch.

This important legislation would immediately reverse the President’s de facto ban and take the power to approve LNG exports away from the political whims of the White House and the DOE, placing it with the bipartisan Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

LNG exports help us to reduce global emissions, lower prices through more supply, and grow our economy and industrial base.

President Biden and his cabal are putting foreign adversaries and clean climate protesters ahead of the Amer-

ican people. That has to stop. Support this legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I am so confused. President Biden took action to ensure that future LNG exports are actually in the interest of Americans. His action had no impact on current production of LNG.

Let me say that again. The projects that President Biden’s order impacts are future projects. We are going to see if, in the future, those projects are in America’s best interest.

What this bill does is not just overturns this pause on future actions; it goes so much further. It says all LNG exports must be in the public interest, and it prohibits the Department of Energy from finding otherwise.

Let’s say, for example, these increased exports lead to higher rates for ratepayers, which may happen. The Republican bill says to forget about any kind of public interest review. It must be approved even if ratepayers’ rates are higher.

If the increased exports all went to China, that would be in the public interest, too. If the exports lead to an exorbitant release of pollution, that would be in the public interest, too.

That simply defies logic and sense. It is a fundamentally unserious policy proposal. In fact, I would call it not really a policy proposal at all but a campaign-year idea to try to somehow make people think we are trying to stop LNG exports. Nothing could be further from the truth.

We have already permitted enough LNG exports to triple our export capacity by the 2030s. That is under current law. That is not something that President Biden’s order is going to impact. That is more than enough LNG to assist our European and Asian allies.

The U.S. is already the world’s top LNG exporter and will be for years to come, not to mention that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle know the Senate is never even going to take up this bill. Even if the Senate somehow did pass this, they know the President would never sign this bill into law. Also, this bill has already come up on two other occasions.

Like I said, we need to be clear about why the Republicans are bringing this bill to the floor. They think this will be some good campaign ads or something else. Like so much of what else we have done on the floor, this is not going anywhere.

I came here on behalf of my constituents to legislate. I came here to make the lives of the American people better. This bill doesn’t do that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no.”

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the fear-mongering from the Democrats is ludicrous. Spot prices for natural gas in December 2023 were only 53 cents high-

er than they were in 2016. We can export American natural gas, produce more natural gas in this country, and help Americans and help our allies and friends around the world with their energy security, with their quality of life, and with their standard of living.

Dr. JOYCE from Pennsylvania knows it well because he represents the Marcellus shale.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

It is deeply troubling to see the Biden administration put party ahead of the country, to put radical views ahead of the common good, to put left-wing fear-mongering ahead of the American people.

Sadly, that is exactly what happened when President Biden halted the permitting of additional liquefied natural gas export facilities.

□ 1300

Let’s be clear. This is not a pause. It is the first step of a process to ban outright any future export of LNG—LNG—a form of energy that is under the feet of my constituents.

This was a political decision to pander to the far left that will lead to increased energy prices for American households. It will abandon our allies in their time of need. It will harm family sustaining jobs and relinquish American global energy leadership.

It is time to put a stop to the Biden administration’s policies that increase prices for the sake of pandering to the President’s political base.

It is critical that we pass the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act and ensure that liquefied natural gas can continue to support American energy dominance.

Why are we turning our back on American energy?

How can we turn away from American family sustaining jobs?

For what reasons are we turning our allies into the hands of Putin?

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing this legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN), who is a member of our committee.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member PALLONE for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, do we want to talk about gifts to Putin?

Which party is preventing any aid going to Ukraine to fight Putin and Russia?

Mr. Speaker, don’t come up here and talk about the hypocrisy of who is giving a gift to Putin because it is your party, the Republican Party, that is doing that.

Today, I rise in opposition to H.R. 7176 which would strip away the Department of Energy’s ability to examine the full impacts of liquefied natural

gas export projects on our climate, consumer energy costs, and communities.

LNG exports are an environmental injustice and a climate disaster. They pollute minority and low-income communities along the Gulf Coast.

We have heard directly from communities in these regions that they do not want any LNG facilities to be built in their backyards.

Roishetta Ozane, a mother of six in Sulphur, Louisiana, is surrounded by oil and gas infrastructure, including three LNG export facilities. She has said: "Our air smells like rotten eggs. There is constant flaring. . . . It sounds like trains are coming back and forth. I have two children who suffer with asthma. I have children who suffer with other respiratory and skin conditions. . . . There are several families dealing with the same thing."

For far too long, her community's voice has been ignored as these LNG export facilities were built.

I commend the Biden administration for taking an important step to pause the consideration of new permits for LNG export terminals. It gives us a chance to make sure that people like Roishetta have a voice.

The Republican bill in front of us is an attempt to silence communities overwhelmed by pollution. It forces the Federal Government to ignore what is in the public interest and instead blindly approve LNG export projects to create profits for the fossil fuel industry.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Democratic colleagues to oppose this bill and stand up for our consumers, our climate, and the health of our communities.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Vladimir Putin is selling 40 percent more natural gas to Europe now than he did before the Ukraine war. By not selling Europe American LNG, the administration is putting money in Vladimir Putin's pockets for him to fund the war.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Texas knows about energy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. I thank the chairman for his leadership on this important issue along with Representative PFLUGER's.

This is extremely important in my district on Texas' Gulf Coast. Every time American energy is on the upswing, this administration seems dead set on knocking it down, all in the name of climate change, and now they are banning LNG export permits.

In my district, Freeport LNG, the second largest LNG exporter in the United States, has seen this impact on our community. They had been creating jobs, investing back into the local economy, and improving U.S. foreign trade.

This reckless decision by the Biden administration doesn't just impact Freeport LNG, it also directly impacts

the two other LNG plants in my district, Golden Pass LNG and Port Arthur LNG. They have followed the rigorous and, might I add, burdensome permitting process and were close to turning their lights on and producing and exporting LNG, and now those projects are in limbo killing thousands of jobs and hurting local, State, and our Nation's economy.

The U.S. produces energy cleaner and more reliable than any other Nation.

As TED CRUZ said: What the President did is a giant middle finger to the State of Texas. I would add it is a giant middle finger to my district in southeast Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to passing the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act to reverse this heinous ban and block this crazy administration from playing politics with our energy security and our district.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FROST).

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my frustration with the Republican obsession with LNG and fossil fuels. I commend the Biden administration on this decisive and very important step to fighting the climate crisis.

Republicans have been making the same argument since the nineties even as the realities of the argument have been changing. Green energies like wind, solar, and hydro are no longer the future. They are the present, and they are now cost competitive with fossil fuels and continue to become even cheaper, not to mention that they don't leave lasting damage and impact to our planet that we will have to clean up later.

LNG is dangerous, it is dirty, and it leaves lasting environmental and health damage to the community where it is produced.

I want to be even clearer. According to the Department of Energy, the more LNG that we export, the more expensive prices will be for gas at the pump, and our electricity bills will be even higher.

Additionally, LNG, which is 90 percent methane, heats the atmosphere at 80 times the rate of carbon dioxide, and for my fellow Floridians, we are having hotter and hotter summers and record heat. This means even hotter summers, even deadlier summers and faster sea levels rising.

LNG is a loser for our pockets. It is a loser for humanity. It is a loser for our communities, and it is killing us.

To hear my colleagues say that: Oh, the President is pandering to the climate movement. Two things: Number one, I can only hope, pray, and fight to make sure that we build off of this victory to get to a green, clean future. Number two, the climate activists, advocates, and organizers are heroes for fighting to protect all of us, even your constituents.

So Republicans have been fighting on behalf of their friends in Big Oil for longer than I have been alive, and I am

asking for the sake of humanity, for God's sake, please find better friends.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), who is the new chair of the Energy and Commerce Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials Subcommittee.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill to unleash American energy. There is little doubt that President Biden's LNG export pause is a blatant political decision to appease his radical base at the expense of American energy security and the security of our allies.

What is being called a pause now will last indefinitely, and it is a de facto ban.

This will cede our energy independence to countries like Iran and Russia and also force manufacturing and business abroad, as well. Sadly, the Biden administration is bowing to its radical Green New Deal factions by imposing a policy that will, in fact, not reduce emissions.

If we are concerned about emissions, then the Iranian and Russian gas that will replace us in the market is much dirtier and will lead to more emissions. The world will no longer look to the U.S. as an energy leader, which is especially worrisome for our European allies whom we promised reliable energy.

This decision doesn't take a single step towards competing with our adversaries, reducing emissions, or bringing jobs to America. It just doesn't make sense. That is why I am very excited to vote in support of the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the amount of time that remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 9½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from South Carolina has 12½ minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE). We are glad the majority leader of the House is back in Congress.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from South Carolina for yielding. I know my friend is not leaving any time soon, but we have appreciated both our friendship and leadership along the way, and we will miss him when he is gone. There is a lot of work left to be done in these next few months.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of work left to be done today if you think about the importance of this bill.

It really focuses on the importance of smart energy policy, something that has been lacking—devastatingly lacking—in this country for the last 3

years, and it is a costly, costly consequence that American families are paying. Having bad energy policy has resulted in higher energy costs for families.

Mr. Speaker, especially low-income families are hit the hardest. When you see gas prices go higher, it hits lower-income families the hardest. When you see the home heating costs because of that LNG policy, it affects everybody. It affects prices and commodities, things that you buy at the grocery store, because all of that is built in when you have higher energy costs. It especially affects low-income families when they have to decide can they even pay their home heating costs in a cold winter.

All these decisions are being made because Joe Biden has gone after American energy. Joe Biden is not against all forms of energy.

Let's be clear about this.

What has this President done in his entire Presidency over the last 3 years?

Time and time again, Joe Biden goes after American energy. When he says it is harder to drill for oil in America, it is because he attacks the fossil fuel industry. He doesn't ban all oil. He just makes it harder to get permits in America. So what that does is it emboldens countries like Russia, Venezuela, and Iran, who are selling their oil on world markets and making billions and billions of dollars doing it. In fact, it helps them fund terrorist activities.

When you think of Iran having more power because the President lifts sanctions on them, and then the President goes after domestic American oil and gas, then he emboldens countries like Iran which then makes billions of dollars that they use to fund terrorism; there is a direct link. We all know that.

Yet, here the other side goes with the President, once again, going after not all forms of energy and not all forms of LNG, just American-made LNG by banning LNG exports in America.

So think about this, Mr. Speaker, there used to be a day when we encouraged companies to make their products in America. We heard a lot of people making speeches about buy American and make it in America. Nevertheless, if you say make it in America, but you can make it anywhere in the world—these are global commodities we are talking about—but if you make it in America, we are going to ban you from selling it anywhere in the world.

So, Mr. Speaker, if you make it somewhere else, if you make it in Iran, you can sell it anywhere on world markets. If you make it in America, then they are going to ban you from selling your product.

So what it does is it has a stifling effect on production and exploration of energy in America—not anywhere else in the world—just in America.

For all my friends who love talking about the climate, nobody in the world makes energy cleaner and more effi-

cient than the United States of America.

I am sick and tired of these people who wake up every day and love bashing America, bashing American companies, and bashing American products or American fossil fuels, as if we got rid of them then they just don't exist.

All that happens is that if we get rid of American energy, then we have to get it from other countries and we have to bring it here on tankers, which, by the way, have a much higher rate of failure than if we put it in a pipeline, which is much safer, or other means.

The policies that we are seeing out of this administration to go after American energy is lunacy, and it is costing families who are sick and tired of paying higher energy costs when they know they don't have to.

This is not the 1970s anymore where we had lines at the pump, and we could only get gasoline every other day based on the license plate number because we didn't have the technology to know where more energy was in America.

We have got all that today. We know what that technology is, and we know where the energy reserves of this country are. We could provide all the energy for our country and all of our allies around the world.

By the way, we lowered emissions when we did that.

Interestingly, they don't have any of this apply to countries like China that are building a coal plant every week with emissions through the roof. We do it cleaner and better than anywhere else in the world, and we should have policies that allow us to do even more production of American energy.

That is what this bill does. That is not what the President does. President Biden over and over again has attacked and gone after American energy, and people are sick and tired of it because they know nobody does it better.

They are sick and tired of having to see countries like Russia benefit, Iran's economy benefit, and other countries benefit when it should be our economy that benefits.

□ 1315

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this legislation. Let's pass it on. I commend Representative PFLUGER for bringing this to the floor, and I hope that we actually get the policy right. This bill helps us do that.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I have to correct the record, not only about my colleague, Mr. SCALISE, who I very much respect, but also some of the other comments that have been made.

There was a reference to President Joe Biden. The bottom line is that President Biden, like myself, believes in an all-of-the-above energy policy. In fact, there has been record production of oil during President Biden's administration. More oil has been produced domestically here in the United States during his administration than any other President that we have had.

The point is that we would like to move toward clean energy. Yes, we would like to have cleaner oil production, as well, but it doesn't mean that we are not in favor of more production. In fact, there is more production.

Now, many of my Republican colleagues have referred to President Biden's recent action to pause LNG exports as a ban, and that is simply not true. The Natural Gas Act requires the President to determine whether or not new LNG exports are in the public interest. If the President and his administration feel like they do not have sufficient information to make that determination, then it is their responsibility and duty under the law to take time and gather that information.

Even Politico highlighted the Republican misinformation machine in an article this week. They said:

Other Republicans have settled on a more blunt strategy, falsely portraying the pause on new permits as a ban on exports. Thanks to already issued permits, exports are expected to increase rapidly in the coming years.

Once again, the Republicans are peddling in misinformation to prop up their polluters-over-people agenda.

The Biden administration pause makes sense. It is common sense. The last time the economic impacts of LNG exports were examined was in 2018, when LNG export volumes were one-quarter of what they currently are.

The last time the greenhouse gas impacts of LNG exports were examined was in 2019. We know so much more now about emissions from gas leakage in the transportation, liquefaction, and regasification process.

It would be foolish to review 2024 LNG exports now without looking at 2024 analysis and data, which we do not have. Therefore, frankly, it would have been massively irresponsible for President Biden to approve further exports without reexamining how the Department of Energy was making its determination. I thank the President for taking the action he did, and I look forward to the results of this review.

I want to correct one more thing. Many of my colleagues have referred to radical environmentalists. I don't think it is radical to ask what is going on in people's ability to breathe.

When the Clean Air Act was passed, it basically was passed because we wanted to make sure that people would be able to breathe clean air. It is not radical for me to try to correct air quality and, if there is pollution out there, to try to correct it so people can breathe when the list of all the health impacts of not being able to breathe clean air is so long.

Again, all we are asking—all that this administration has asked and all the Democrats have asked—is that we continue to clean up our air so that we can breathe. That is it. That is all we are asking for here today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I love to hear the Democrats talk about increased production and the levels of

production now. These projects don't happen overnight. They started during the Trump administration with their policies.

Go back to the Obama administration, where oil and gas production increased on State and private land, not Federal land, because the Obama administration was against that. Then, President Trump opened up more Federal land.

However, on day one, President Biden signed executive orders to stop oil and gas leasing on Federal land. He shut down the Keystone pipeline.

My Democratic colleagues have thwarted energy projects over and over. This is another attempt to stop LNG export, and it hurts our friends and allies across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON).

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Now more than ever, there is an urgent need for American energy leadership. Yet, with the President's most recent announcement banning new American LNG exports, he will singlehandedly undermine our energy sector and endanger our allies overseas. Rather than holding countries like China and Russia accountable, President Biden would rather play politics and appease the radical climate activists.

Here are the facts. Increasing LNG exports would add over \$70 billion to the U.S. economy and create over 400,000 American jobs by 2040. American LNG is more than 40 percent cleaner than Russian LNG. Also, since we have increased our LNG exports, domestic natural gas prices have remained affordable and stable despite record inflation.

I thank AUGUST PFLUGER for his work here, and I also thank our former colleague and my good friend, Bill Johnson, for leading on this legislation and the LNG export issues for many years.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK).

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7176, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024. This bill is a pivotal piece of legislation that would bolster United States energy security, foster economic growth, and promote environmental sustainability.

At its core, this bill would streamline the regulatory process for LNG exports and unleash the full potential of America's abundant natural gas resources. This bill reverses the disastrous Biden administration's extreme liquefied gas export permit ban.

I know how much the left loves that word, "extreme." They are the very definition of it.

This bill also presents a strategic opportunity for the United States to fortify its energy independence. By facilitating the exportation of LNG, we re-

duce our reliance on foreign energy sources, mitigate geopolitical risks, and improve U.S. national security.

The bill creates new jobs, stimulates investment in energy infrastructure, and fosters innovation across related industries. Increasing LNG exports will expand markets, bolster domestic production, and increase economic growth.

This bill would also provide cleaner, more environmentally friendly energy options for our partners and our allies, and it is important that they know where we stand and that they can depend on and trust us during these times.

This bill also supports global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while increasing global energy security.

My home State of Florida plays a pivotal role in the broader landscape of U.S. LNG exports, with JAXPORT serving as a hub for LNG expansion and development. JAXPORT is the only port on the East Coast to offer on-dock and near-dock LNG fueling capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues who care about national security to get on board with this bill.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina, our chairman of the subcommittee, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7176, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act. In fact, it is shocking to me that this bill is even necessary.

Everyone in this Chamber today knows that U.S. liquefied natural gas, or LNG, exports are more than 40 percent cleaner than the Russian natural gas delivered to Europe. Everyone in this Chamber knows that U.S. natural gas has helped us reduce emissions more than any other nation, both domestically and abroad.

As we have heard, everyone in this Chamber also knows that increasing LNG exports could add as much as \$73 billion to the U.S. economy and upward of 453,000 jobs by 2024, yet President Biden and this administration are seeking to destroy all of this potential by indefinitely banning LNG exports simply to appease radical environmentalists.

H.R. 7176 would immediately reverse the President's de facto ban on American LNG exports to restore U.S. leadership, reduce emissions, and increase the energy security of our Nation and our allies.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7176, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act.

America's domestic energy revolution has not just benefited Americans

with affordable and reliable access to energy or with countless good-paying jobs. It has also benefited our allies around the world. Thanks to exports of American LNG, we are helping our allies in Europe keep the lights and heat on this winter. Without American LNG, our allies would have to depend on Vladimir Putin and others for their natural gas.

Here in the United States, we produce energy, including natural gas, with the strictest environmental and labor standards anywhere in the world. In fact, global greenhouse gas emissions have dropped in recent years not because of government regulations but because of increased use of ever-cleaner natural gas.

When we export American LNG, we are exporting the cleanest natural gas found anywhere in the world. We are exporting the incredible environmental progress the United States has made.

Rather than supporting Ukraine and other allies, the Biden administration is focused on making campaign promises to their extreme radical left. Cutting off American LNG exports will only threaten our allies' security and line the pockets of Vladimir Putin.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to record my reading and understanding of H.R. 7176, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act.

This bill removes the jurisdiction of the Department of Energy (DOE) to issue export licenses for facilities, including offshore facilities, exporting LNG to countries the U.S. does not have a free trade agreement with, while confirming that these projects are in the public interest. Since the public interest determination is in the bill, we do not anticipate the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will add new terms to their public interest review, including extensions or expansions of projects that have been already approved.

I also wish to confirm that applications from LNG export project sponsors, for extensions in the export commencement date for previously issued DOE export licenses, are not covered by the Biden Administration ban on exports, and that upon enactment of this bill, existing authorized projects for export to non-FTA countries will no longer be within DOE's jurisdiction but will reside with FERC. Furthermore, export commencement extensions for previously authorized DOE exports are presumed to be granted by FERC.

Finally, should a project need an export commencement extension before this bill is enacted, DOE, as stated by Deputy Secretary Turk on the record, must accept applications for such an extension and process it in a timely manner.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

I thank Congressman PFLUGER for introducing this important legislation that I am proud to cosponsor.

I rise in support of H.R. 7176, which will streamline LNG export authorizations and put our Nation back on track toward energy dominance.

This bill would put downward pressure on global natural gas markets and expand economic opportunities across the country. We are blessed with abundant natural resources that create jobs, lower costs for Americans, and advance our national security interests abroad.

Unfortunately, since day one, the Biden administration has led our Nation into an energy crisis of their own making. President Biden's latest LNG export ban is nothing more than a political stunt to appease far-left activists.

Hoosiers watching at home won't be fooled by false claims of environmental stewardship. American LNG is the cleanest form of natural gas available and has allowed the U.S. to lead the world in emissions reductions.

Mr. Speaker, it is way past time this administration paid attention to the experts and not the radical environmentalists.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN).

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this debate makes me sad. Energy policy is really important. Energy consumers are really important. The environment is really important. So much of this debate is completely untethered from truth.

There isn't enough time to rebut everything, but I want to clarify two points. One is where LNG exports are going right now, and the second is about the environmental impact.

It is true today that the majority of U.S. LNG exports, the largest volume, is going to Europe. It is also true that that really did help our European allies wean themselves off of Russian gas. Now, that is not because the U.S. gas industry was suddenly imbued with patriotism. It is because they were paying more, which is fine.

However, all the additional exports we are talking about are contracted out. Right now, they are going to Asia. Therefore, this is not a question right now about helping Europe. This is a question of whether they will make more money going to Asia.

Now, why are they going to go to Asia? Well, that brings me to the second point. There is an assertion that LNG is inherently clean because it displaces coal. Let's be clear. No one buys natural gas so that it will be more expensive for them to make energy. It will displace coal if it is cheaper than coal.

My colleagues are to have us believe that the United States is going to export gas to Asia so that countries like China can have cheaper energy and make their businesses more competitive on the global stage and that they are doing that because they are so committed to environmental protection.

Look, natural gas is methane, for the most part. Methane is 80 times as potent a greenhouse gas as CO₂, which

means that if you have more than 2 percent leakage from the wellhead to the burner tip, it is worse than coal.

In the United States, that means that the wellheads, the collection facilities, the distribution pipelines, the combustion facilities, which we all in this body regulate, maybe we can get it down below that level, and maybe in the United States, it is less. However, we are not talking about that. We are talking about exports.

What is the leak rate on the ships? What are the leak rates on the regasification facilities overseas? What are the leak rates on the distribution facilities in those countries? Do we trust Chinese economic data so much that if they say it is not leaking, we will say: That is awesome. I am glad you are so competitive. I am glad you are outcompeting U.S. businesses.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MORAN). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. CASTEN. I am glad we made you more competitive. I trust your data, and we are just going to tell folks at home that because we were so patriotic and environmentally minded.

Like I said in my last remarks, this is a really good bill if you want to make money exporting natural gas. It is not a good bill for anybody else. Let's just be honest with the American people about this.

□ 1330

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, after we lifted the crude oil export ban, Americans know what they were paying at the pump before the Biden administration. They were paying lower gas prices. They are paying much higher gas prices, commodity prices. Everything has gone up due to the Biden inflation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), who understands natural resources. He chairs the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7176. Of all their incoherent energy policies, the Biden administration's de facto ban on all pending approvals for LNG exports is among the very worst ideas in their ongoing attack on American energy.

I challenge anyone in the Biden administration to string together and communicate a cognitive and defensible argument for how the ban benefits the environment, the geopolitical landscape, the U.S. economy, our allies, or our national security.

This ban damages all those things while lining the pockets and strengthening Vladimir Putin and OPEC.

To paraphrase "Billy Madison," at no point has this administration in their rambling, incoherent energy policies been even close to anything that could

be considered a rational thought. Everyone is now dumber for having listened to it.

American natural gas is the cleanest, safest, and most ethically sourced on Earth. American energy, and certainly American natural gas, is not our enemy. If the administration would simply read and comprehend our government's own data, they would realize American energy, and especially American natural gas, is the solution, not the problem.

We should be producing and exporting more while we develop a sound all-of-the-above energy policy that focuses on reliable, affordable, and clean energy.

U.S. Government data shows that since 1990, our economy has grown 791 percent, our vehicle miles traveled have increased 113 percent, our population has grown 47 percent, and our energy consumption has grown 29 percent. Mr. Speaker, thanks in large part to American natural gas, during this time of huge growth, our emissions have decreased 60 percent. A large part of that is due to our innovations in fracking and producing natural gas.

I am proud to support this legislation to repeal the Biden administration's shortsighted restrictions on the export of U.S. natural gas and further U.S. leadership and emissions reduction, strengthen our economy, and bolster energy security for the U.S. and our allies.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina has 2 minutes remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey has 3½ minutes remaining.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, again, this bill is a massive valentine to the Communist Party of China. It would send untold amounts of American LNG to China to help continue to fuel its industrial rise, without ever allowing for a review as to whether these exports are actually in the public interest.

Now, what is going on here? Why on Earth are Republicans eager to sell LNG to China when they know that LNG exports increase domestic natural gas prices for Americans? I will tell you why: Because the cost to American families means nothing as long as oil and gas companies profit.

Numerous studies show that LNG exports result in increased costs to Americans. If we pass this bill, already volatile natural gas prices will be shaped by forces completely out of our control.

It doesn't make any sense to me. Republicans are acting against American interests here. I wish my colleagues across the aisle would focus on what is important and not just on stalling tactics that pad the pockets of polluters.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans claim that this bill helps our European allies.

What a joke that is. The reality is that they don't care about our European allies who are currently going to the mat for democracy and facing down Vladimir Putin in Ukraine.

On Tuesday evening in the Rules Committee, we heard over and over again from our Republican colleagues that LNG is crucial for our allies in Europe. Unfortunately, these same Republicans have made it clear they have no interest in actually providing aid to Ukraine. They use the war on Ukraine to argue for LNG exports and push the arguments of their oil and gas friends. But when it comes down to actually helping allies, they are at best silent, and at worst vocally against it.

Last year, 21 radical House Republicans signed on to a letter opposing all supplemental funding requests for Ukraine in its struggle against Russian oppression.

Weeks later, a majority of House Republicans voted against a bill offering a paltry amount of aid to Ukraine. Now, after the Senate has done its part, they totally refuse to bring a bill to the floor that would easily command a majority in the House.

The behavior is unbelievable. I want to be clear: It will lead to the unnecessary deaths of Ukrainian soldiers and civilians.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply ask my Republican colleagues: Which is it? Do they actually care about assisting Europe? Do they think current LNG volumes in Europe are insufficient? Do they think tripling LNG volumes to Europe without issuing another permit is insufficient, or do they really just want to protect the ability of Big Oil and Gas to price gouge Americans here at home?

If they were serious about supporting our European allies, they would be supporting a bill on the floor that would spend money to do just that, not wasting time on this bill for the third time this Congress.

If Republicans were serious about supporting our European allies, they would push back on Donald Trump's dangerous invitation to Russia to "do whatever the hell they want" if Europe doesn't spend more on its own defense.

Is this what helping our democratic allies looks like? Are Republicans unable to see what is wrong here? How their inaction threatens European peace and security, and our own national security?

House Republicans are unwilling to spend a single dollar to defend democracy in Europe but are happy to sit here and argue again and again about a bill that will drive up costs for everyday Americans while lining the pockets of their Big Oil and Gas friends. It is just unbelievable to me, Mr. Speaker, even for Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the United States of America is blessed with abundant nat-

ural resources. Unfortunately, we are cursed with liberal politicians who don't want American companies and American investors and entrepreneurs to go after the resources to help Americans.

When we had a spike in energy prices during the Biden administration, President Biden didn't fly to Midland, Texas; he didn't fly to North Dakota; he didn't fly to Louisiana and beg those producers to produce more. Where did he fly? He flew to Saudi Arabia to beg the OPEC cartel to produce more so that we could import it—political stunt there—to help lower prices for Americans versus using American resources and American companies and American jobs.

This indefinite pause on LNG exports is misguided, but Americans need to know this wasn't an executive order that had no input from the public. It wasn't a piece of legislation that passed. He did it by a press release, directing an agency to pause LNG exports.

Let's talk about Ukraine today. We have heard a lot of that. Vladimir Putin and his energy oligarchs are exporting to Europe 40 percent more than they did before the war in Ukraine. That is more money flowing right into the pocket of Vladimir Putin to fund his war effort in Ukraine.

I would rather that money flow into the pockets of American energy producers and tax bases and to communities all around this country that produce energy by exporting more to help our friends and allies. America has never used the spigot of energy exported to influence policy in any country, but Vladimir Putin has turned the spigot on and off many times to influence policy in Europe.

Let's pass this legislation. Let's continue to export cleaner burning, American-produced natural gas. Let's produce more, deliver more, utilize more, and export more to help our friends and allies around the world improve their quality of life and improve their energy security.

Mr. Speaker, this is right for America. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 7176, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024. This bill would open the floodgates for gas exports that enrich our adversaries, raise consumer energy costs, and accelerate the climate crisis.

Mr. Speaker, why would Republicans want to export our natural resources to foreign adversaries without even considering if those exports will harm everyday Americans? This bill does just that. H.R. 7176 removes the requirement that the Department of Energy (DOE) first determine if liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports are in the public interest before approving export applications to countries with whom the U.S. does not have a free trade agreement. By removing essential safeguards, this bill will allow our adversaries, like China, to purchase even more of our natural resources to use against us.

This bill is nothing more than a giant handout to Republicans' big oil and gas friends, and hardworking Americans will pay the price with higher home energy costs. H.R. 7176 is detrimental to my constituents who already have to deal with volatile fossil fuel costs and gas prices being manipulated by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Big oil and gas corporations don't need another handout from Congressional Republicans. They already enjoy billions in taxpayer-funded subsidies and continue to rake in record-breaking profits.

The U.S. is the number one exporter of LNG worldwide, and U.S. exports are expected to double by the end of this decade. Last November, I joined my colleagues in the House and Senate in sending a letter to DOE urging the agency to update how it determines if new licenses for LNG exports are in the public interest. I was pleased to see the Biden administration's announcement in January that DOE would pause approvals for pending and future applications to export LNG from new projects until the agency can update the public interest analyses for authorizations. President Biden's decision will ensure that impacts on costs to American families and businesses, climate impacts, and environmental justice are factored in when approving LNG exports. I commend President Biden for his commitment to leading the way in ambitious climate action.

This is the third time that I have voted on this bill on the House Floor in the 118th Congress. For the third time, I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 7176 and the Republicans' radical agenda that puts polluters over people.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 7176—the "Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act."

This bill, H.R. 7176, would substantially weaken the federal review and authorization process for natural gas exports.

Specifically, it removes the requirement under section 3(a) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) that the Department of Energy first determine liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports be in the public interest before approving export applications to non-free trade agreement countries.

These determinations currently involve a review of the economic impacts, including potential changes to domestic natural gas and electricity prices on consumers and manufacturers.

They also consider the environmental impacts of the exports.

Finally, they consider potential effects on the security of the U.S. natural gas supply.

Instead of maintaining this time-tested and reliable process, this bill assumes that all LNG exports are automatically in the public interest.

This is reckless and irresponsible.

By removing a crucial safeguard for American consumers, this bill allows our adversaries, like China, to purchase even more of our energy to use against us.

Multiple analyses have found that increased LNG exports directly lead to higher natural gas prices here at home.

According to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, LNG exports cost American consumers over \$100 billion over a 16-month period.

Over the last five years, doubling our LNG exports has led to natural gas prices more than tripling in 2022.

Expert testimony supports this conclusion as well.

On February 7, 2023, the Subcommittees on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security and Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials held a joint legislative hearing entitled “Unleashing American Energy, Lowering Energy Costs, and Strengthening Supply Chains.” At this hearing, the Subcommittees heard testimony from Mr. Tyson Slocum.

In his written testimony, Mr. Slocum detailed how increased LNG exports have raised costs for American consumers, and that loosening the approval process for LNG exports would likely further increase the already-high prices Americans pay for heating and electricity.

Mr. Slocum also testified that increased LNG exports would further tie American natural gas prices to international natural gas prices, decreasing our economic independence and exposing Americans to increased gas price volatility.

Supporting documents entered into the record further underscored the point that a sudden decrease in U.S. LNG export capacity has historically resulted in a plunge in natural gas prices.

That is not the only problem with this negligent and short-sighted bill.

H.R. 1130 also eradicates existing protections that ensure American LNG is not being exported to rival nations against the public interest.

According to the Energy Information Administration, 13 percent of U.S. LNG exports went to China in 2021—that is over 450 billion cubic feet.

As it stands, this bill is far too overinclusive to be in the best interest of the people.

During both the Subcommittee and Full Committee markups, Democrats introduced reasonable amendments designed to address their concerns.

Democrats have tried and tried again to meet Republicans in the middle on this.

Instead of working with us, however, our colleagues across the aisle have remained entrenched.

Instead of focusing on the welfare of our American people, they are attempting to pass out a giant handout to Big Oil and Gas that will simultaneously enrich many of our economic adversaries.

Many of these companies already enjoy billions in taxpayer-funded subsidies and are taking in record-breaking profits since Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Republicans may point out that last month, President Biden announced a temporary pause in the Department of Energy's (DOE) approval of LNG exports while DOE completes a public interest analysis.

Importantly, however, this pause only applies to new export applications.

It does not impact currently-operating export capacity or impact capacity that is under construction, and it does not impact capacity that is permitted but has not yet started construction.

DOE's updated public interest determination is an opportunity to take long-overdue action to make sure additional exports are benefiting Americans.

This extreme bill would kill all efforts to ensure that our LNG exports are in Americans' best interests.

I will always stand behind the hardworking middle-class individuals that are the backbone of our society.

As such, I urge my colleagues to do the same and vote no on this reckless and overbroad bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1009, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mrs. Watson Coleman of New Jersey moves to recommit the bill H.R. 7176 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The material previously referred to by Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN is as follows:

Mrs. Watson Coleman moves to recommit the bill H.R. 7176 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall not take effect unless and until the Secretary of Energy certifies that increased exports of liquified natural gas from the United States will not increase domestic natural gas prices.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. 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, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2766;

Motion to recommit H.R. 7176;

Passage of H.R. 7176, if ordered;

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 533; and

H.R. 5375.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

UYGHUR POLICY ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfin-

ished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2766) to support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct identity, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 6, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 50]

YEAS—414

Adams	Clyde	Golden (ME)
Aderholt	Cohen	Goldman (NY)
Aguilar	Cole	Gomez
Alford	Collins	Gonzales, Tony
Allen	Comer	Gonzalez,
Allred	Connolly	Vicente
Amo	Correa	Good (VA)
Amodei	Costa	Gooden (TX)
Armstrong	Courtney	Gosar
Arrington	Craig	Gottheimer
Auchincloss	Crane	Granger
Babin	Crawford	Graves (LA)
Bacon	Crenshaw	Graves (MO)
Baird	Crockett	Green (TN)
Balderson	Crow	Green, Al (TX)
Balint	Cuellar	Griffith
Banks	Curtis	Grijalva
Barr	D'Esposito	Grothman
Barragan	Davids (KS)	Guest
Bean (FL)	Davis (IL)	Guthrie
Beatty	Davis (NC)	Hageman
Bentz	De La Cruz	Harder (CA)
Bera	Dean (PA)	Harris
Bergman	DeGette	Harshbarger
Bice	DeLauro	Hayes
Biggs	DelBene	Hern
Bilirakis	Deluzio	Higgins (LA)
Bishop (GA)	DeSaulnier	Hill
Bishop (NC)	DesJarlais	Himes
Blumenauer	Diaz-Balart	Hinson
Blunt Rochester	Dingell	Horsford
Boebert	Doggett	Houchin
Bonamici	Donalds	Houlahan
Bost	Duarte	Hoyer
Bowman	Duncan	Hoyle (OR)
Boyle (PA)	Dunn (FL)	Hudson
Brecheen	Edwards	Huffman
Brown	Ellzey	Huizenga
Brownley	Emmer	Hunt
Buchanan	Escobar	Issa
Buck	Eshoo	Ivey
Bucshon	Espallat	Jackson (IL)
Budzinski	Estes	Jackson (NC)
Burchett	Evans	Jackson (TX)
Burgess	Ezell	Jackson Lee
Burlison	Fallon	Jacobs
Bush	Feenstra	James
Calvert	Ferguson	Jayapal
Cammack	Finstad	Jeffries
Caraveo	Fischbach	Johnson (GA)
Carbajal	Fitzgerald	Johnson (SD)
Cardenas	Fitzpatrick	Jordan
Carey	Fleischmann	Joyce (PA)
Carl	Fletcher	Kamlager-Dove
Carson	Flood	Kaptur
Carter (GA)	Foster	Kean (NJ)
Carter (LA)	Foushee	Keating
Carter (TX)	Fox	Kelly (IL)
Cartwright	Frankel, Lois	Kelly (MS)
Casas	Franklin, Scott	Kelly (PA)
Casten	Frost	Khanna
Castor (FL)	Fry	Kiggans (VA)
Castro (TX)	Fulcher	Kildee
Chavez-DeRemer	Gaetz	Kiley
Cherfilus-	Gallego	Kilmer
McCormick	Garamendi	Kim (CA)
Ciscomani	Garbarino	Kim (NJ)
Clark (MA)	Garcia (IL)	Krishnamoorthi
Clarke (NY)	Garcia (TX)	Kuster
Cleaver	Garcia, Mike	Kustoff
Cline	Garcia, Robert	LaHood
Clyburn	Gimenez	LaLota