

Mahoney Supports Drilling Legislation Bringing Relief From High Gas Prices

(Ft. Pierce, FL) - Today, Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) voted to support the Drill Responsible in Leased Lands (DRILL) Act, which would bring near-term relief to high gas prices by accelerating drilling for oil and gas in Alaska's Naval Petroleum Reserve, expediting the construction of pipelines to carry Alaskan oil and gas, and banning the export of Alaskan oil. The DRILL Act includes the "Use It or Lose It" legislation co-sponsored by Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16), which requires oil companies to drill on the leases they already have or relinquish them. The legislation failed to pass the House of Representatives.

Bill
Defeated By Partisan Politics

(July 17th, 2008)

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"Today, America missed an opportunity to lower gas prices. I am disappointed that some of my colleagues chose election year campaign ploys over middle class families struggling to pay their bills," said Congressman Mahoney. "Floridians do not have to put our beaches and tourism industry at risk to lower gas prices. With the Farm and Energy bills that were recently signed into law, Floridians will help America kick its oil addiction by creating energy from wind, solar and biofuels while creating good high paying jobs with a future. I will continue my efforts to pass meaningful legislation that offer Floridians real solutions to lower gas prices."

The DRILL Act
will increase domestic oil supply by:

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Requiring oil producers to
drill on the leases they already have or relinquish them so that another
company can produce the oil there: Requires oil

companies to diligently develop leases on federal lands (onshore and offshore) that they are already holding. If they cannot certify that they are doing so, they must give up the unused leases - so that someone else can develop them - before obtaining any new leases.

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Speeding Up Leasing in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A): Mandates that the Bush Administration conduct annual lease sales for 5 years to ensure that the lands in the NPR-A are more rapidly leased for oil and gas production. Even though it has more oil than the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (10.6 billion barrels vs. 10.4 billion barrels) and it has been open to drilling for 26 years, only four lease sales have been conducted since 1999, and only 14% of the NPR-A is leased. Unlike ANWR, which is protected by law from drilling as an environmental preservation area, NPR-A is already designated for oil and gas production so it could occur more rapidly. Based on EIA projections, oil production in ANWR is four to six years behind that of the NPR-A.

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Facilitating the Completion of Oil Pipelines Into the NPR-A: Requires the Transportation Secretary to facilitate the necessary pipeline infrastructure to bring the producing oil fields in NPR-A online. Right now, available pipelines reach to within 5 miles of NPR-A. The bill requires project labor agreements for both the NPR-A and Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline to provide good paying jobs.

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Expediting the Construction of an Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline to the Continental United States to Move Oil and Gas to the Market Rapidly: Requires the President to work with the Canadian government, state of Alaska, and oil and gas producers to facilitate construction of the pipeline. While this pipeline was proposed in 1976, and Congress authorized up to \$18 billion in loan guarantees for this project in 2004, there has been no progress in building this critical energy infrastructure under the Bush Administration. The planned pipeline would have a daily capacity of 4 billion cubic feet of natural gas, or almost 7% of current U.S. consumption. Not only is this pipeline critical to our energy security -- transporting natural gas from Alaska to America's Midwest -- it will create good-paying American jobs and would be among the largest construction projects ever undertaken.

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Banning the export of Alaskan oil: Reinstates the Alaskan export ban that was in place from 1973 to 1995, imposed to ensure that American oil helps Americans. In 2000, about 7% of crude oil production from the Alaskan North Slope was exported to South Korea, Japan, and China.

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