Mr. Speaker, later this week the House will vote on

energy legislation that concerns every man and woman in America. This

energy bill presents a terrific opportunity to reduce our Nation's

continued dependence on petroleum by promoting clean and renewable

energy sources. But instead of encouraging the use of renewable energy,

this Neanderthal legislation promotes the interest of corporations

through tax breaks that encourage air pollution, water contamination,

and the general destruction of our environment.

This energy legislation will harm more than our environment.

American's continued reliance on fossil fuels is the single largest

factor that contributes to our national insecurity. That is because we

obtain most of our fossil fuels from the Middle East, a region where

democracy is about as common as desert oases. By spending billions of

dollars annually on foreign fuels, the United States supports

autocratic regimes in countries like Saudi Arabia, Libya, and

Venezuela.

The citizens of oil-rich countries run by despots rarely, if ever,

receive even a dime from these oil sales. More often than not, these

riches line the pockets of fat-cat leaders and their cronies, instead

of paying for projects that would help improve the lives of all the

people in the country.

This drastic gap in wealth between the upper and lower classes, in

turn breeds hostility and despair among the local populace. This

hostility, combined with the militant form of Islam that is encouraged

by the fat-cat leaders, creates the conditions in which terrorism runs

rampant.

If the United States were to become fully energy independent, we

would essentially pull the plug on the supply of money that flows to

the Middle East much like oil through a pipeline. Therefore, the most

effective measure we can take to address global terrorism

is to curb our dependence on foreign fuel. Unfortunately, this sham of

an energy bill that we will vote on this week would do the very

opposite, making Americans more beholden than ever to the whims and

desires of big oil companies.

Sadly, 150,000 United States troops are currently embroiled in a war

in Iraq that certainly is intended to ensure that the U.S. has access

to Middle East oil.

President Bush and the Republican leaders in Congress claim they want

democracy to take hold in Iraq. But if a democratic Iraq really is

wanted, then we need to do two things right here at home.

First, we must craft a viable national energy policy that encourages

the development and use of renewable sources of energy. Second, we must

remove our troops from harm's way by withdrawing United States military

forces from Iraq, giving Iraqis and Iraqi oil back to the people of

Iraq.

I have introduced legislation to accomplish this: H.R. 737, the

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Act of 2005. It establishes a

comprehensive energy strategy that will stimulate demand for more

efficient energy processes and unlock the vast potential of renewable

energy sources.

I have also introduced H. Con. Res. 35 with the support of 31 of my

House colleagues. This legislation calls on President Bush to begin

immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. If Iraq is as stable and

secure as the Bush administration claims, then why does a third of our

standing military remain there still fighting the Iraqi insurgency? Why

do the men and women in our military continue to face gunfire and car

bombs halfway around the world? For what cause have more than 1,500

American soldiers and tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians died, with

another 12,000-plus American soldiers gravely wounded physically and

mentally?

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's energy and foreign policies are

interconnected. You cannot address one without addressing the other.

That is why the energy legislation that will come before the House this

week is so terribly wrong for America.

In promoting this misguided energy bill, the Republicans in Congress

ensure the continuation of the deep disparities of wealth in the Middle

East. These misguided policies will encourage future acts of terrorism

which will encourage future warfare. Instead of relying on foreign oil

for our energy needs, let us address the source of the problem by

employing our Nation's innovative expertise by promoting the

advancement of clean, renewable sources of energy. This will keep our

air and water pure; but just as important, it will help purify our

Nation's foreign policy.