



OFFICE OF DEMOCRATIC LEADER NANCY PELOSI

FACT SHEET

June 20, 2012

More Republican Giveaways to Big Oil (H.R. 4480)

Key Points:

- This week, the House will consider H.R. 4480, Domestic Energy and Jobs Act. The bill irresponsibly expands drilling on public lands, rolls back policies to provide for the growth of safe and responsible energy production in the United States, threatens our national security, and endangers our public health, undermining the Clean Air Act and blocking progress in reducing air pollution.
- **This is just another massive giveaway to Big Oil that would not lower gas prices by one cent and is not the “all the above approach” that the American people want.** The Democratic Leadership is urging a NO vote.
- **The bill is unnecessary, since the Obama Administration’s “All of the Above” approach is working – producing more oil, boosting clean energy, and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.**
 - Oil imports are down to the lowest level in 17 years – dropping every single year since President Obama took office, from 57 to 45 percent of total consumption.
 - U.S. oil production is the highest level since 1994, and natural gas production is at an all-time high.
 - Nationwide gas prices are below \$3.50 per gallon -- down 11 weeks in a row by more than \$0.40 a gallon. [AAA, EIA -- [state by state gas prices](#)]
 - Oil and gas companies are sitting on nearly two-thirds of public lands they have leased for drilling.
- **The GOP “Oil Above All” plan is nothing more than a boon for Big Oil, and the only jobs it will create are those of Big Oil CEOs. If the House GOP were serious about jobs, they’d pass the job-creating transportation bill.**
 - Even as ExxonMobil, Chevron, BP, and Shell have made more than \$650 billion in profits since 2005, they've eliminated more than 11,000 jobs.
 - The oil industry already receives \$4 billion in tax breaks per year.
 - Since 2008, less than 14,000 U.S. oil and gas extraction jobs have been created, while 50,000 wind and solar jobs have been created.
- **Republicans have a long record of protecting tax breaks for Big Oil, while cutting clean energy initiatives that are critical to the U.S. leading the way in the new jobs of the 21st Century, ranging from installing solar panels to manufacturing wind turbines.**
 - In just 2011 and 2012, House Republicans have voted 109 times on legislation that would enrich the oil and gas industry, including protecting oil tax breaks and other subsidies for Big Oil – while voting 38 times to stop clean energy deployment.
- The Obama Administration strongly [opposes](#) the bill, with senior advisors recommending a veto, as do the [sportsmen groups](#) (e.g., Trout Unlimited, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership), [health organizations](#) (e.g., American Academy of Pediatrics, American Heart Association, American Lung Association) and [environmental groups](#) (e.g., League of Conservation Voters, The Wilderness Society, Defenders of Wildlife, Natural Resources Defense Council, and The Sierra Club).

Giveaways to the Oil Industry

- **Oil Above All on Public Lands:** Elevates energy production above hunting, fishing, recreation, grazing, and conservation in managing our public lands -- jeopardizing fish and wildlife resources and our outdoor recreation-based economy.
- **Threatens National Security (Strategic Petroleum Reserve):** Hinders the President in releasing oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) during a disruption of the Nation's energy supply, by requiring that more public lands be offered for drilling in the same percentage as the amount of oil released from SPR.
- **Drill Where You Want:** Requires the Interior Department to grant leases on 25% of the acreage requested by the oil industry each year – meaning that in four years almost all public lands could potentially be released for drilling.
- **Rolling Back Leasing Reforms:** Reverses the Administration's oil and gas leasing reforms which are designed to increase certainty for the oil and gas industry and reduce the number of lease areas that are protested and have already reduced the number of protested parcels by 8 percent.
- **Makes Drilling Less Safe:** Imposes arbitrary deadlines for reviewing applications for permits to drill onshore. Two years after the BP oil spill, the worst environmental disaster in US history, the GOP have yet to bring legislation reflecting the bi-partisan commission's safety recommendations to the House floor.
- **Barriers to Challenging Federal Leasing Decisions:** Requires a \$5,000 documentation fee to protest an oil or gas lease, drilling permit or right of way -- denying many Americans the ability to contest decisions by the federal government.
- **National Petroleum Reserve Alaska:** Requires the federal government to hold at least one sale per year in the NPR-A.

Favoring Big Oil over Public Health

- **Cuts Heart Out of Clean Air Act:** "Repeals the health premise of the Clean Air Act," according to public health organizations. It requires EPA to use industry costs to set standards for how much pollution is safe to breathe, rather than basing the standards on science.
 - For over 40 years, under the Clean Air Act, EPA has set air pollution standards based on what the best science says is safe to breathe.
 - EPA always considers costs in determining how to meet the health-based standards.
 - The Supreme Court unanimously upheld this approach.
 - The bill's radical new approach is equivalent to a doctor changing their diagnosis of a patient based on the cost of a medical treatment.
- **Blocks Requirements to Reduce Air Pollution:** Blocks EPA from finalizing several important air quality rules that are opposed by the oil industry:
 - Reducing toxic air pollution from oil refineries, which can cause cancer, birth defects, and other serious health problems;
 - Requiring cleaner fuels and reducing tailpipe pollution from motor vehicles;
 - Providing states guidance needed to implement the 2008 ambient air quality standards for ozone, leaving only the unprotective 1997 standard in place; and
 - Updating the 2008 ozone standard to reflect the best available science over the past five years.