

Republican Themes for Subcommittee Hearing on Challenges Facing American Workers

September 11, 2008

1. Congress' needs to expand energy supplies and reduce energy prices.

- a. According to a recent CRS analysis, more than one million more U.S. households have living standards below poverty due to recent rises in energy prices.
- b. Republicans have introduced the *American Energy Act*, to lower gas prices by encouraging more conservation and efficiency, promoting the use of more alternative and renewable fuels, and expanding drilling on remote lands and far off American shores in an environmentally-safe way.
<http://republicanleader.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=101574>
- c. The *American Energy Act* will increase the supply of American-made energy, improve conservation and efficiency, and promote new and expanding energy technologies to help lower the price at the pump and reduce America's increasingly costly and dangerous dependence on foreign sources of energy. <http://www.gop.gov/energy/americanenergyact/>
- d. Speaker Pelosi and her Democratic colleagues adjourned Congress on August 1 for a five-week recess without allowing a vote on the GOP plan – or any meaningful energy solutions for that matter – to lower gas prices.
- e. The floor schedule set by the House Democratic leadership since it returned this week has been devoid of any vote on comprehensive energy legislation, much less a vote on the “all of the above” energy reforms Americans want.
<http://republicanleader.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=101519>

2. Higher Energy Prices Hurt American Families

- a. Higher gas prices lower employment, income, and spending.
- b. Lower employment leads to slower economic growth.
- c. Personal savings are being used to pay for rising costs for gas and other energy.
http://www.heritage.org/Research/Economy/upload/bg_2162.pdf

3. Republican Economic Policies Benefit American Workers and Families

- a. Our economy has benefited by the trade surplus we have today with every one of the 14 nations with whom we have free trade agreements.
- b. In the past 20 years, Republicans controlled Congress for 12 years and Democrats for 8 years. During this time, the U.S. unemployment rate rose by 1.8 percentage points during years Democrats were in charge (including rising from 4.6% in January 2007 to 6.1% in August 2008), while falling by 1.5 percentage points during years Republicans were the Majority.