Last Year, Don Davis Voted Against The Lower Energy Costs Act Which Would Promote Domestic Energy Production And Could Drive Down The Cost Of Energy And, Therefore, All Consumer Goods

Davis Voted Against H.R. 1, The Lower Energy Costs Act Which Would Promote Domestic Energy Production

On March 30, 2023, Davis Voted Against H.R. 1, The Lower Energy Costs Act. "Passage of the bill, as amended, that would require a number of actions to boost the domestic production of fossil fuels and critical minerals, accelerate the construction of natural gas pipelines and other energy infrastructure, and reverse or repeal certain recent policies related to energy and climate change. Among provisions to boost oil and gas leasing and production, the bill would require the Interior Department to resume quarterly oil and gas lease sales on federal lands; complete certain proposed sales on the Outer Continental Shelf; and implement at least two lease sales per year in each of the Gulf of Mexico and the Alaska regions of the Shelf. It would roll back increased fees and royalties for onshore and offshore oil and gas development and production established by the 2022 budget reconciliation package (PL 117-69). It would adjust revenue sharing requirements for onshore and offshore production to generally decrease federal shares and increase state shares, particularly for coastal states. It would also require annual geothermal lease sales; terminate a moratorium on new coal leasing; and provide for final approval of previously authorized coal leases. It would prohibit the president from declaring a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing and from taking any action that would delay new leases, sales and drill permits for oil and gas, coal or mineral exploration. It would remove restrictions on the import and export of liquified natural gas and prohibit the Chinese Communist Party or a person acting on its behalf from acquiring any interest with respect to lands leased for oil or gas. Among provisions to streamline the permitting process under the National Environmental Policy Act, the bill would set deadlines for the completion of NEPA environmental reviews and adjust thresholds for levels of review; limit the scope of reviews to 'reasonably foreseeable' effects and codify 2020 regulations removing requirements to consider climate change impacts in the review process; and direct agencies to use previously completed reviews to satisfy NEPA requirements for substantially similar proposed actions. For oil and gas projects, it would limit the scope of environmental reviews to areas within or immediately adjacent to affected plots and prohibit the consideration of downstream, indirect effects of oil and gas consumption. To expedite certain energy production and infrastructure projects, it would establish procedures and a 120-day expedited deadline for federal agencies to review applications for cross-border oil and natural gas pipelines; and expand the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's role as the lead agency for natural gas pipeline permitting. To address critical mineral supply, the bill would require the Energy Department to conduct ongoing assessments of and develop strategies to strengthen domestic supply chains for critical energy resources, including through increased mining and processing and permit the EPA to temporarily waive certain pollution regulation requirements for processing and refining projects at critical energy resource facilities to address supply chain concerns. It would make coal and critical mineral mining projects eligible for certain expedited infrastructure permitting processes; provide for appointment of a lead agency to coordinate the permitting process for mineral exploration; and limit the withdrawal of federal lands and waters from mineral leasing. The bill would also repeal certain climate-related programs established by the 2022 budget reconciliation package, including the $27 billion "Greenhouse Gas Reduction" fund to support low- and zero-carbon projects, a program imposing fees on methane emissions from oil and gas drilling sites on federal lands, and energy rebate programs to incentivize energy-efficient homes and buildings." (H.R. 1, Roll Call Vote #182: Passed 225-204: R 221-1; D 4-203; 3/30/23, Davis Voted Nay; CQ Summary, Accessed 3/30/23)

- **The Lower Energy Costs Act Would "Sharply Increase Domestic [Energy] Production," "Ease Permitting," And "Boost Production Of Critical Minerals."** "The House on Thursday approved a sprawling energy package that seeks to undo virtually all of President Biden's agenda to address climate change, with four Democrats joining Republicans in voting for passage. The massive GOP bill up would sharply increase domestic production of oil, natural gas and coal, and ease permitting restrictions that delay pipelines, refineries and other projects. It also would boost production of critical minerals such as lithium, nickel and cobalt that are used in products such as electric vehicles, computers and cellphones." ("House Passes Sprawling GOP Energy Bill Aimed At Reversing Biden Climate Policies," CBS News, 3/30/23)

- **The Lower Energy Costs Act Would Rein "In Biden's Disastrous Energy Policies That Are Driving Inflation, Keeping Gas Prices High And Wages Under Water, And Adding To The Nation's Destabilizing Debt."** "There is no better example of the success of that strategy than the media's failure to cover House Republicans' first major legislative achievement: HR 1, 'The Lower Energy Costs Act,' which passed the House 225-204 with four Democrats voting with the GOP. The bill is aimed at reining in Biden's disastrous energy policies that are driving inflation, keeping gas prices high and wages under water, and adding to the nation's destabilizing debt." (David Winston, "House Republicans' Energy Bill Deserves A Second Look," Roll Call, 4/5/23)
  - **According To The Heritage Foundation, The Lower Energy Costs Act Would Reduce Household Energy Costs By $795 Per Year.** "Using current economic data as a reference, the policies in H.R. 1 are projected to: Lower energy costs by $795 per household per year. Increase oil production by 2.03 million barrels per day. Increase natural gas production by 10.3 billion cubic feet per day. Increase wage and salary income for the median worker by $564 per year. Increase employment by 667,000 jobs. Increase gross domestic product (GDP) by $379 billion per year. Increase household income by $2,890 per household per year." (Parker Sheppard, Richard Stern And Kevin Dayaratna, "Policies In The Lower Energy Costs Act Will Lower Energy Costs And Increase GDP," The Heritage Foundation, 3/20/23)
  - **According To Americans For Tax Reform, The Lower Energy Costs Act Would "Lower Energy Costs" And Reduce "Costs That Consumers Pay At The Pump.** "The Lower Energy Costs Act, introduced by Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-La.), is a holistic package of policies that House Republicans see as key to America's energy future. The package consists of more than twenty pieces of legislation that will increase domestic energy production, reduce regulatory burdens, and lower energy costs. (…) H.R. 1 would also lower the costs that consumers pay at the pump by streamlining energy permitting and increasing lease sales. The bill requires that the Secretary of the Interior "shall immediately resume quarterly onshore oil and gas lease sales in compliance with the Mineral Leasing Act" and ensures that a minimum of four onshore oil and gas lease sales per producing state and two offshore lease sales occur each fiscal year. Several roadblocks to the oil and gas permitting process would be eliminated under the bill's permitting reform provisions, allowing companies to more easily boost production in order to lower market energy prices." (Rowan Saydlowski, "KEY VOTE: Vote "YES" On H.R. 1, The Lower Energy Costs Act," Americans For Tax Reform, 3/28/23)