

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner (R-AL) today voted against H.R. 6, the CLEAN Energy Act of 2007, a measure that opponents believe would encourage the United States to be more dependent on foreign sources of energy. The bill passed the House by a vote of 264-163.

Last year, Congress passed historic legislation that would allow the state of Alabama and other Gulf Coast states to share in royalties generated from oil production in the newly opened deep waters of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). 8.3 million acres of the Gulf of Mexico were opened to encourage domestic production and help curb our dependence on foreign oil.

H.R. 6 would encourage U.S. dependence on foreign energy by establishing fees for producing and non-producing federal oil and gas leases in the Gulf of Mexico; thereby, discouraging production in the Gulf of Mexico. The fees collected pursuant to H.R. 6 would be held in reserve by the federal government and would not be shared with any Gulf Coast states.

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***The Gulf of Mexico delivers more oil and natural gas to the U.S. markets than any single***

*source, yet only 3 percent of our Outer Continental Shelf is open to production, and now even that may be in jeopardy."*

H. R. 6 would also increase taxes on the domestic energy industry thus raising the cost of gas and home heating for every American. In a time when the U.S. is too dependent on foreign energy resources, H.R. 6 discourages new exploration and strengthens our dependence on foreign oil.