

# September 16, 2008: Sanchez Statement on Comprehensive Energy Legislation

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## SANCHEZ STATEMENT ON COMPREHENSIVE AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

WASHINGTON, D.C. -Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) is slated to deliver the following statement on the House floor tonight in support of H.R. 6899, the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act. The House is scheduled to vote on this bill later tonight.

Below is the statement as prepared.

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The Honorable Loretta Sanchez

Floor Statement on HR 6899, the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act

September 16, 2008

Thank you Mr. Speaker

I rise today in support of the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act.

This legislation is a responsible response to our nation's energy crisis.

A lack of action by the previous Republican led Congresses and policies of the Bush Administration, have led to skyrocketing gas prices while big oil companies are earning the largest profits in American history at the expense of American taxpayers.

We need to act now. We need to pass a balanced energy bill, which is exactly what HR 6899 is. We owe it to every American facing financial hardship due to our country's energy crisis.

The Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act is a fair compromise that incorporates numerous provisions that have bipartisan support.

This bill expands domestic drilling, protects states' rights to maintain control over their shores, and allows America to move towards the future by investing in renewable sources of energy.

Despite some of the speeches we have heard on the floor today, the American people and the states are not unanimously in favor of an offshore drilling "free for all."

The looming expiration of the offshore drilling ban on September 30th, would allow drilling as close as 3 miles offshore!

That is very concerning for citizens in my home state of California, which is committed to protecting its shores from any drilling and I fully support that sentiment.

This bill provides a compromise ensuring that states like California can opt out of offshore drilling.

Quite frankly, it seems like states' rights advocates would support this provision that ensures that states are involved in the decision of whether to drill between 50 and 100 miles off their shores.

In addition, the remaining Outer Continental Shelf beyond 100 miles would be open to oil and gas leasing.

As you might imagine that doesn't thrill Californians, but this is a compromise that give states control over the waters closest to them, while also advancing federal drilling interests further offshore.

In addition to the drilling provisions, HR 6899 will help enhance our national security and move toward energy independence by investing in renewable sources of energy.

This legislation expands and extends tax incentives for renewable electricity, energy--such as solar and wind, plug-in hybrid cars, and energy efficient homes, buildings, and appliances.

There is no silver bullet to fix the years of flawed Republican energy policy. What we need is comprehensive energy legislation that addresses domestic energy production and renewable energy sources.

Let's move forward with a real plan that works for real Americans, I urge my colleagues to support HR 6899 - the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act.

Thank you and I yield back the balance of my time.

