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Statement of Alcee L. Hastings on the Introduction of Amendment #6 to H.R. 2021
June 21, 2011

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to a bill that adds to the ever-mounting evidence that Republicans are willing to expand offshore drilling regardless of cost.

This particular iteration of a near-criminal energy policy takes the form of selling out hardworking Americans' rights to breathe clean air. In particular, this bill excludes Shell Oil's icebreaker ships in the Arctic from regulation under the Clean Air Act.

Shell has and will continue to argue that since its icebreakers are regulated under Title II of the Clean Air Act, the vessels don't also need to be regulated under Title I.

Yet the fact is that Shell's ships would not be regulated under Title II, due to the fact that they are foreign-flagged and predate the effective date of the regulations.

Shell is asking Congress, and Republicans are obliging, to create a legal loophole so that the company can pollute with impunity and not be bothered complying with environmental regulations designed to minimize our desecration of the Earth.

This loophole would create a dream scenario for Shell and the rest of the oil industry currently taking in record profits as gas prices soar for the average American family. For its 2010 drilling operations, it was not the amount of emissions from the drill ship itself that triggered the application of the Clean Air Act regulations to Shell's operations, but the emissions from Shell's icebreakers.

The exploration drilling that Shell proposed in the Arctic that prompted this bill would have released as much particulate matter into the air as over 825,000 cars travelling 12,000 miles.

These kinds of support vessels are responsible for up to 98 percent of the air pollution from drilling outfits. And Republicans are asking Congress to close its eyes to the matter?

Mr. Chairman, my amendment would bring the oil companies dream-world crashing down around them. My amendment eliminates the loophole created in this bill, giving EPA the authority to regulate the support vessels as the emissions sources they are.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and not let Shell get away with this at the expense of our health and environment.

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2021, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA**

Page 3, line 19, strike “but shall not be subject”
and insert “and shall be subject”.

