

Carol Shea-Porter's energy policies are succeeding

September 24, 2014

Sept. 23 — To the Editor:

Frank Guinta thinks Carol Shea-Porter should have voted for HR 2, a Republican energy bill that would allegedly create jobs but would actually severely limit the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants under the Clean Air Act. Thanks, Carol, for voting against this bad bill!

Mr. Guinta faults Shea-Porter for not "weaning ourselves off Middle East oil." For his information, we are well on the way to energy independence under the Obama Administration. Energy Information Administration (EIA) statistics show that the percentage of import dependence has dropped from 57 percent in 2008 (under Bush) to 29 percent in 2014 (under Obama). Oil production and exports are sharply up, and imports are down. Oil prices are set on a global market, so our prices stay high because global demand is rising. A graph of oil prices from EIA figures shows that US prices track global prices exactly (see: <http://www.nytimes.com/imagepages/2012/03/17/opinion/sunday/0318-web-edit1.html?ref=sunday>). The Wall Street Journal notes that because global markets set prices, higher production doesn't lower prices, it just lets domestic oil producers make more profit. The conservative CATO Institute agrees with this analysis.

Shea-Porter's all-of-the-above energy strategy can lower prices by developing alternative energies and increasing energy efficiency, which will lower demand. We've already increased oil production and it isn't enough.

Frank Guinta either doesn't understand how the global oil market works, or he prefers to mislead us by trotting out Republican spin. I prefer competence and honesty. I'll be voting for Carol in November.

Stefany Pike

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