

Congressman Bachus delivered the following remarks on the floor of the House of Representatives on Tuesday, September 9.

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Mr. Speaker, when I visited my district in August, people had one thing on their mind: high gas prices and what a hardship they are on the people of Alabama and people throughout the nation.

One of my constituents in Bibb County handed me his gas receipt at a town hall meeting. As you can see, he paid \$89, \$90 to fill up his truck. Now, in Bibb County, people make \$312 gross a week.

Imagine a county where the average income is \$312 a week.

Now, further imagine that 59 percent of the people in that county commute out of town to work, having to drive 40 or 50 miles a day.

And they're like this gentleman, taking \$90 out of paycheck of only about \$300 a week.

My constituents told me stories about how they pay their gas bills. They're struggling to pay their rent or mortgages, to put food on the table, all sorts of financial hardships. Is it any wonder that 9% of the people in the country are behind on their mortgage when they're putting hundreds of dollars on their gas bills?

They're angry about something else. They're angry because we're not doing anything about it.

Not only is this money coming out of the United States and our citizens' pockets, but let me tell you where it's going.

Many countries in the world that we're getting oil from don't like us. Some even hate us. But one that actually is our friend is Dubai, and I went there recently.

First, I want to show you a picture of Dubai in 1976 before oil prices went up. That's the main street in 1976, a dirt road. The highest structure is the mosque that many are in, about three stories high.

When I went to Dubai, it didn't look anything like a small coastal village. It looked quite different.

The next picture I'm going to show you is from when I went

there. Now, you saw that \$89 gas bill. You're wondering where the money is going.

This is where it's going and what it's accomplishing for Dubai (skyline of modern Dubai).

That's where our money is. The Highway Trust Fund will run out of money next week. The people of Dubai are not running out of money.

Do you see all of the construction there? I was in Minneapolis last week.

I saw very little construction.

You go to cities around the country, you see very little construction.

You see very few of these high-rise cranes.

But let me show you what you're seeing in Dubai.

This is a picture I took from a five-star hotel we toured.

Look at the construction cranes.

These are construction cranes that, if we solved our energy dependency, would be in Minneapolis, Denver, and Atlanta.

This is where our money should be going.

But they are in Dubai instead.

So people should be angry about what they're paying, and these are our friends. Most of our money goes to countries that are not our friends.

Let me tell you what else Dubai is doing. They've got plenty of oil and a lot of money.

Do you know what they're spending it on?

Let me show you – nuclear power plants.

China, India, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi – they get it. They're doing something about their energy problem.

China is building 32 nuclear power plants.

India is building 17.

The slide I just showed you of Dubai, an oil-rich country, and Abu Dhabi – they're building nuclear power plants.

Let me tell you, the people in Alabama and this nation are upset that China, India, and other countries are building and standing still.

We need nuclear power and we need it now.

Mr. Speaker, during my energy presentation on the House floor this evening, I received

assistance from our congressional page, John Brinkerhoff. John is a junior at Spain Park High School in Hoover. He is an accomplished young man who will reflect well on well on the page program and his family, school, and community during his time in Congress. My sincere thanks go to John for his help on the floor.