kind that seeps into the tundra or sits in toxic drilling mud pits. It is one big Energy Sacrifice Zone that already spews more nitrogen oxide pollution into the Arctic air each year than the city of Washington, DC.

Allowing this industrial blight to ooze into the Refuge would be an unmitigated disaster. It would be as if we had opened up a bottle of black ink and thrown it on the face of the Mona Lisa.

But why invade this critical habitat for oil if we don't have to?

The fact is, it would not only be bad environmental policy, it is totally unnecessary. Here's why:

1. Fuel economy. According to EPA scientists, if cars, mini-vans, and SUV's improved their average fuel economy just 3 miles per gallon, we would save more oil within ten years than would ever be produced from the Refuge. Can we do that? We already did it once! In 1987, the fleetwide average fuel economy topped 26 miles per gallon, but in the last 13 years, we have slipped back to 24 mpg on average, a level we first reached in 1981! Simply using existing technology will allow us to dramatically increase fuel economy, not just by 3 mpg, but by 15 mpg or more—five times the amount the industry wants to drill out of the Refuge.

2. Natural Gas: The fossil fuel of the future is gas, not gasoline, because it can be used for transportation, heating and, most importantly, electricity, and it pollutes less than the alternatives. The new economy needs electricity, and it isn't looking to Alaskan oil to generate it. California gets only 1 percent of its electricity from oil; the nation gets less than 3 percent, while 15 percent already comes from natural gas and its growing. Alaska has huge potential reserves of natural gas on the North Slope, particularly around Prudhoe Bay and to the west, in an area that has already been set aside for oil and gas drilling called the National Petroleum Reserve. Moreover, we have significant gas reserves in the lower 48 and the Caribbean. The Coastal Plain of the Refuge has virgually none.

3. Oil not in the Refuge: The National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska has been specifically set aside for the production of oil and gas. It is a vast area, 15 times the size of the Coastal Plain, and relatively under-explored by the industry. Anything found there is just as close to Prudhoe Bay as the Refuge, but can be developed without invading a critical habitat in a national refuge. In fact, just last October, BP announced the discovery of a field in this Reserve that appears to be as large as Kuparuk, the second largest field on the North Slope. While the potential for oil in the Refuge still appears larger than in the Reserve, the Reserve holds much greater promise for natural gas, so that every exploratory well has a greater chance of finding recoverable quantities of one fuel or the other.

Our dependence on foreign oil is real, but we cannot escape it by drilling for oil in the United States. Energy legislation introduced this week in

We consume 25 percent of the world's oil but control only 3 percent of the world's reserves. 76 percent of those reserves are in OPEC, so we will continue to look to foreign suppliers as long as we continue to ignore the fuel economy of our cars and as long as we continue to fuel them with gasoline.

The public senses that a drill-in-the-Refuge energy strategy is a loser. Why sacrifice something that can never be re-created—this one-of-a-kind wilderness—simply to avoid something relatively painless—sensible fuel economy?

The latest poll, done by Democratic pollster Mark Mellman and Republican pollster Christine Matthews, shows a margin of 52–35 percent opposed to drilling for oil in the refuge.

The public is making clear to Congress that other options should be pursued, not just because the Refuge is so special, but because the other options will succeed where continuing to put a polluting fuel in gas-guzzling automobiles is a recipe for failure.

Sending in the oil rigs to scatter the caribou and shatter the wilderness is what I Call ''UNIMOG energy policy.'' You may have heard about the UNIMOG. It is a proposed new SUV that will be 9 feet tall, 7½ feet long, 3½ inches wider than a Humvee, weight 6 tons and get 10 miles per gallon.

That's the kind of thinking that leads not just to this refuge, but to every other pristine wilderness area, in a desperate search for yet another drop of oil. And it perpetuates a head-in-the-haze attitude towards polluting our atmosphere with greenhouse gases and continuing our reliance on OPEC oil for the foreseeable future.

Now that our energy woes have forced us to think about the interaction of energy and environmental policy, it is a good time to say no to a UNIMOG energy policy and yes to a policy that moves us away from gas-guzzling automobiles to clean-burning fuels, hybrid engines, and much higher efficiency in our energy consumption.

If we adopt the UNIMOG energy policy, we will have failed twice—we will remain just as dependent on oil for our energy future, and we will have hastened the demise of the ancient rhythms of a unique migratory caribou herd in America's last frontier.

We have many choices to make regarding our energy future, but we have very few choices when it comes to industrial pressures on incomparable natural wonders. Let us be clear with the American people that there are places that are so special for their environmental, wilderness or recreational value that we simply will not drill there as long as alternatives exist. The Arctic Refuge is federal land that was set aside for all the people of the United States. It does not belong to the oil companies, it does not belong to one state. It is a public wilderness treasure, we are the trustees.

We do not dam Yosemite Valley for hydropower.

We do not strip mine Yellowstone for coal.

We do not string wind turbines along the edge of the Grand Canyon.

And we should not drill for oil and gas in the Arctic Refuge.

We should preserve it, instead, as the magnificent wilderness it has always been, and must always be.

IN HONOR OF KAREN SMITH, 20TH GRAND MARSHAL OF THE BAYONNE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Karen Smith, who has been selected as the 20th Grand Marshal of the Bayonne St. Patrick's Day Parade. Ms. Smith was selected as the Grand Marshal in recognition of her years of dedicated service to Bayonne's Irish American community.

Karen Smith was born in Bayonne, New Jersey to Philip and Frances O'Donnell. She attended St. Vincent's School and the Holy Family Academy. After receiving her BS in Nursing from the College of Mt. St. Joseph in Ohio, Ms. Smith returned home in 1974 and began her nursing career in Bayonne Hospital, where she cares for the sick to this day in the Endoscopy Department.

Ms. Smith takes great pride in serving the Irish American community. She is a member of Ireland's 32 Club, the County Corkmen's Association, the Ticket and Raffle Committee for the annual New Jersey Irish Festival, and the Women of Irish Heritage of the Jersey Shore. She also works for Project Children, which promotes understanding and tolerance by allowing Catholic and Protestant children from Ireland to interact peacefully with each other while temporarily living with American families.

Ms. Smith's many contributions to the Irish American community are a result of her great love for America, Ireland, and the community of Bayonne.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Karen Smith for being selected as the 20th Grand Marshal of the Bayonne St. Patrick's Day Parade.

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE RHENEY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Joyce Rheney who on February 14, 2001 was honored as South Carolina Mother of the Year 2001. The Mother of the Year Committee recognizes the dignity of motherhood and the influence that mothers have on their families, professions, communities and churches.

Along with her duties as mother and wife, Mrs. Rheney manages to find time to donate her talents to her community in several capacities. She is a member of Orangeburg City Council, serving her 12th year in office. She is an active representative of the Downtown Orangeburg Revitalization Association board and served as co-chair on the committee to renovate Steyenson Auditorium. She volunteered to serve on the Foundation Board of TRMC and was the 1997 co-chair of the fundraising gala. The funds raised by this gala are used in the community for hospice cancer patient care and Camp Catch-A-Breath. She was elected president of the foundation for 2000–2001.