

Energy Bill Passes Despite Foxx's Opposition

Written by Adam Hicks

Wednesday, 17 September 2008 07:07

A new bill passed in the United States House of Representatives Tuesday evening despite Congresswoman Virginia Foxx's strong opposition.

The bill will keep North Carolina from receiving revenue from new oil drilling off the Carolina coast.

The bill passed in the House just after 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday with a 236 –189 vote.

According to the bill, all revenue from new offshore drilling leases will go straight to the federal government instead of going to the state.

Gulf coast states like Texas and Louisiana receive a share of revenues from drilling off of their coasts. Last year, these revenues amounted to around \$9 billion.

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Foxx said the new bill would lock North Carolina out of a share of the \$2.6 trillion in tax revenue.

Foxx reported the bill did not allow amendments and was written behind closed doors without going through the normal committee process.

Foxx said the bill would also lock up 90% of offshore oil forever.

Foxx said, "Almost 80% of Americans in polls have said take the supply wherever we can get it, and this bill will put more energy off limits than we will be able to get."

The bill now moves to the United States Senate for a vote.