AHN News reports today about House Democrats' efforts to craft an energy bill that could be brought up for a vote before the Congress adjourns.

Republicans have been hammering Congress to lift a 27-year-old legislative moratorium on exploration in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and and Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The legislative ban ends at the end of the fiscal year. The President already lifted a 1990 executive order in July prohibiting drilling.

Democrats have argued that oil companies should first drill in the lands already leased to them, and that the government should release oil from the national reserve to give short-term relief to consumers. The President has said the Strategic Oil Reserve will only be used for emergencies.

Blunt's threat came four days after Rep. Mike Pence, who led the first day of GOP floor protest that ended last week, said Pelosi should allow a vote on a Republican drilling bill in order to pass the funding resolution and avoid a government shutdown.