



News Web  
Subscribe Query



- 
- [MAIL](#)
- 
- You might also like:
- [Politics Daily](#),
- [Good News Now](#)
- and [More](#)
- [Sign In / Register](#)

[Sphere](#)

- [Front Page](#)
- [Nation](#)
- [World](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Weird News](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [More](#)
  - [Crime](#)
  - [Tech](#)
  - [Health](#)
  - [The Grid](#)
  - [Science](#)
  - [Meet Our Team](#)
  - [Surge Desk](#)
  - [About Us](#)
- [Help & Feedback](#)



Operation Dragon Strike: Battle for Kandahar



Obama Makes Case for Education Reform



UK O



[Opinion](#)

# Opinion: Save the Humble Light Bulb

Updated: 3 days 6 hours ago

Text Size

| [Email](#)

**Reps. Joe Barton, Marsha Blackburn, Michael Burgess**

Special to AOL News

(Sept. 24) -- Light bulbs. They seem to be a pretty simple part of our lives today. It gets dark, you turn on a lamp and presto -- light happens. But a provision in a 2007 law, sponsored by Rep. Jane Harman, D-Calif., and passed by Democrats in 2007, will all but ban the use of the incandescent light bulb by 2014.

Now comes word that factory workers are losing jobs to China as a result of the ban. A [Washington Post story](#) earlier this month reported GE is shuttering a plant in Winchester, Va., killing 200 jobs in the process.

"Everybody's jumping on the green bandwagon,' said Pat Doyle, 54, who has worked at the plant for 26 years. But 'we've been sold out. First sold out by the government. Then sold out by GE,'" the Post reported.

Tight credit, reduced spending and a host of symptoms of the poor economy have pummeled businesses large and small. Unable to find credit to expand or even endure bad times and unable to find customers willing to spend, companies are forced to lay off workers. Those 200 blue-collar workers in Winchester, Va., will soon join the millions of American unemployed.

## **More Opinion on AOL News**

[Opinion: How My Father Became Cool  
Fighting a Book Ban](#)

[Opinion: Web Speaks Loudly Against  
Book Bans](#)

[Opinion: Got Electricity? You Might Be  
Plugging into a Crime](#)

[Opinion: The Enemy Within -- Self-  
Censorship](#)

[More Stories »](#)

## **Feedback**

Send op-eds or letters to the editor to [opinion@aolnews.com](mailto:opinion@aolnews.com).

Turns out the compact fluorescent light bulb, or CFLs as they are commonly known, can't be produced cheaply enough in America so we've turned to China, where virtually every CFL is produced.

The Winchester 200 weren't working for a small, struggling company. In fact, their employer, GE, is one of the world's most robust corporations. They weren't manufacturing high-end computers, super colliders or luxury consumer goods Americans don't feel they need or can afford. Instead, their

product is on the shopping list of tens of thousands of Americans at this very moment. They made "old-fashioned" incandescent light bulbs. They have lost their jobs not through market failure but because Washington policy makers capriciously decided to give them the boot.

Certainly the "big idea" was that by incentivizing the use of those twisty fluorescent light bulbs, enough new jobs in the "green economy" would be created to absorb those who worked their whole lives producing the old incandescent standby. There is a lesson here. Always fear the Washington "big idea" as such ideas are consistently disconnected from "reality." Remember this maxim: those who can do, those who can't teach, and those who can't teach get jobs as congressional staffers.

The problem with the "big idea" wasn't that the fluorescent bulb industry wouldn't expand. It did. In China. Those 200 American workers in Winchester, Va., are out of luck.

#### Sponsored Links

##### **Mortgage Rates Hit 3.25%**

If you owe under \$729k you probably qualify for Gov't Refi Programs  
[www.SeeRefinanceRates.com](http://www.SeeRefinanceRates.com)

##### **Penny Stock Jumping 2000%**

Sign up to the #1 voted penny stock newsletter for free today!  
[www.AwesomePennyStocks.com](http://www.AwesomePennyStocks.com)

##### **Hot Stock Pick - GSLO**

All American Solar Energy Trading, Investment, Stocks.  
[www.GoSolarUSA.com](http://www.GoSolarUSA.com)

[Buy a link here](#)

That's why we've introduced H.R. 6144, the Better Use of Light Bulbs Act, which repeals the ban on the incandescent bulb that has been turning back the night ever since Thomas Edison ended the era of a world lit only by fire in 1879. It's as simple as that, though technically it repeals Subtitle B of Title III of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

The unanticipated consequence of the '07 act -- layoffs in the middle of a desperate recession -- is what sometimes happens when politicians think they know better than consumers and workers. From the health insurance you're allowed to have, to the car you can drive, to the light bulbs you can buy, Washington is making too many decisions that are better left to people who work for their own paychecks and earn their own living.

We believe that the consumer, not Washington, is capable of deciding which light bulb works best. Democrats, however, believe that you just can't be trusted to make the right decision. If Democrats want to show the folks back home that they understand the pent-up frustration in this country, they'll start by supporting our bill.

*Rep. Joe Barton, R-Texas, is ranking member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., and Michael Burgess, R-Texas, also serve on that committee.*

\*\*\*

**Editor's note:** Rep. Jane Harman, D-Calif., who sponsored the provision that H.R. 6144 would overturn, declined an invitation to write a counterpoint to this op-ed.

Filed under: [Opinion](#)

Tagged:

[light bulb](#), [compact fluorescent](#), [unemployment](#), [layoffs](#), [light bulb ban](#), [jane harman](#), [cfl](#), [thomas edison](#), [lighting](#), [light](#)

Related Searches: [incandescent light bulbs](#), [cfl light bulbs](#), [congress bans light bulbs](#)

[Follow AOL News on Facebook and Twitter.](#)

2010 AOL Inc. All Rights Reserved.

| [Email](#)

## Hot Leads



Kevork Djansezian ,Getty Images

### [Lindsay Could Get Court Appointed Guardians](#)

-- Fox News

- [10 Places To See As A Kid](#) -- Huffington Post
- [What's Eating David Axelrod?](#) -- TNR
- [Six Extremely 'Wrongful' Foreclosures](#) -- The Week
- [High School Coach Moons Fans During Game](#) -- Fox News
- [Web Speaks Loudly Against Book Bans](#) -- AOL News

#### Sponsored Links

##### **Hot Stock Pick - GSLO**

All American Solar Energy Trading, Investment, Stocks.  
[www.GoSolarUSA.com](http://www.GoSolarUSA.com)

##### **Mortgage Rates Hit 3.25%**

If you owe under \$729k you probably qualify for Gov't Refi Programs  
[www.SeeRefinanceRates.com](http://www.SeeRefinanceRates.com)

##### **Penny Stock Jumping 2000%**

Sign up to the #1 voted penny stock newsletter for free today!  
[www.AwesomePennyStocks.com](http://www.AwesomePennyStocks.com)

[Buy a link here](#)

- [54comments](#)
- [add your comment](#)

## Related Articles

### More Headlines

POWERED BY **surphace**

#### From AOL News

- [New Website Streams Live Video of Northern Lights](#)  
4 days ago
- [British Town Pays \\$12,000 ... for Two Light Bulbs](#)  
46 days ago
- [Opinion: We Need to Continue Working to Create Jobs](#)  
86 days ago
- [Opinion: Private Job Growth? Don't Get Your Hopes Up](#)  
86 days ago

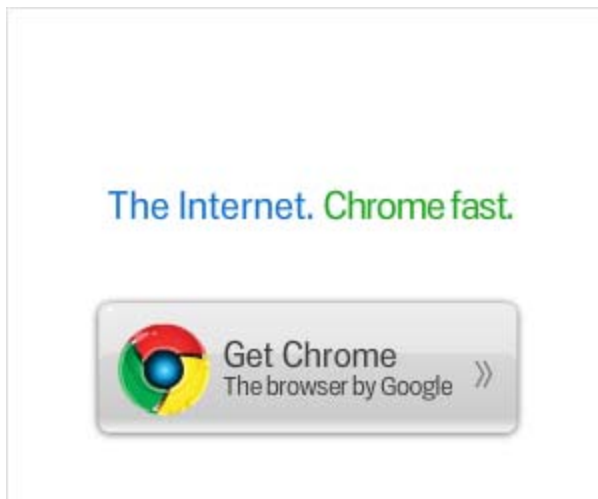
#### latest from our partners

- [Study links booze, taxes to public health](#)  
WalletPop - 13 minutes ago
- [A Bailout for Credit Unions](#)  
BloggingStocks - 13 minutes ago
- [Southwest Airlines to Purchase AirTran](#)  
BloggingStocks - 13 minutes ago
- [Think This Rally Is for Real? Use ETFs to Go Long](#)  
BloggingStocks - 21 minutes ago

POWERED BY **surphace**

### Our Comments Policy

We aim to encourage productive and lively discussion on AOL News, and we're interested in your thoughts on our coverage. As part of our monitoring system, we are asking that you log on with an AOL or AIM account to join the conversation. If you think a comment is inappropriate, you may click to report it to our monitors for review. For more on our comments policy, or to send us direct feedback, please visit our [Help & Feedback](#) page. We look forward to hearing from you.



## HOT TOPICS

[Bishop Eddie Long](#) | [Katy Perry SNL](#) | [Lindsay Lohan](#) | [Jessica Moore](#) | [Stephen Colbert](#) | [AirTran](#) | [Portage Wisconsin](#) | [Segway](#) | [Tropical Storm Matthew](#) | [Amanda Knox](#)

## TOP NEWS

- [AP](#)  
Subscribe to <http://feeds.news.aol.com/synfeeds/collect/10/rss.xml>
- [NATO strikes in Pakistan prompt rebuke](#)  
52 MINUTES AGO
- [Obama: Money alone can't solve school predicament](#)  
1 HOUR 30 MINUTES AGO
- [Palestinians wait on decision to quit peace talks](#)  
1 HOUR 22 MINUTES AGO
- [Attorney says 'sexting' Wis. prosecutor to resign](#)  
2 MINUTES AGO
- [Report: US would make Internet wiretaps easier](#)  
3 HOURS 52 MINUTES AGO
- [Southwest Airlines to buy AirTran for \\$1.4B](#)  
51 MINUTES AGO
- [Naomi Campbell testifies she received gift of 'dirty-looking stones?'](#)  
8 hours ago
- [Barclays bank H1 net profit up 29 pct to \\$3.9 bln](#)  
8 hours ago
- [Oil-fouled Gulf still has a long recovery ahead](#)  
8 hours ago
- [BlackBerry reassures users of continued integrity and security of service](#)  
8 hours ago
- [Why California's Prop 8 Against Gay Marriage Was Struck Down](#)

8 hours ago

- [SKorea launches drills despite NKorean threats](#)

8 hours ago

#### Sponsored Links

##### Hot Stock Pick - GSLO

All American Solar Energy Trading, Investment, Stocks.  
www.GoSolarUSA.com

##### Mortgage Rates Hit 3.25%

If you owe under \$729k you probably qualify for Gov't  
Refi Programs  
www.SeeRefinanceRates.com

##### Penny Stock Jumping 2000%

Sign up to the #1 voted penny stock newsletter for free  
today!  
www.AwesomePennyStocks.com

[Buy a link here](#)

## Follow AOL News



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[RSS](#)

## POPULAR

- [Most Viewed](#)
- [Most Commented](#)

1. [Neo-Nazi Couple Find Out They're Jewish](#)
2. [Man Arrested in 1996 Murder of Texas Teen](#)
3. [Former Air Force Officers: UFOs Tampered With Nuclear Missiles](#)
4. [Pastor Pledges to Fight Sex Abuse Accusations](#)
5. [Witness Describes 'Hell' at New Jersey Party Shooting](#)
6. [Jet Careens to Safe Landing at NY Airport](#)
7. [Minn.Man Who Said He Was Kidnapped Found in Vegas](#)
8. [Train Kills Elephants Trying to Protect Babies](#)

9. [Mom Arrested After Cheering Teens' Brawl \[VIDEO\]](#)
10. [Seattle Shooting Victim: 'My Mom Has Gone Crazy'](#)
  - [Obama's Aunt, Zeituni Onyango: 'U.S. Obligated to Make Me a Citizen'](#)
  - [Ready or Not: 6 Healthcare Changes That Go Into Effect on Thursday](#)
  - [Pastor Accused of Abuse to Address Congregation](#)
  - [Ahmadinejad Calls for UN Investigation Into 9/11](#)
  - [Obama Slams Ahmadinejad's 'Hateful' Comments](#)
  - [Neo-Nazi Couple Find Out They're Jewish](#)
  - [Virginia Executes 1st Woman in US Since 2005](#)
  - [Obama Announces New US Approach on Development](#)
  - [Peace Hopes Totter as Israeli Settlement Freeze Is Lifted](#)
  - [Six British Men Arrested After YouTube Quran Burning](#)

#### [Top News](#)

- [Report Reveals Canada's Underground Tobacco Economy](#)
- [Parents: Cop Went Too Far Pretending to Arrest Son](#)
- [John McCain Protester Tackled \[VIDEO\]](#)
- [BP Claims Czar Promises Bigger, Quicker Payouts](#)
- [On Google's Birthday, Apple Takes the Cake](#)

[View All Top News »](#)

#### [Politics News](#)

- [Race, Sex and Religion in the Case of Bishop Eddie Long](#)
- [Obama Makes Case for Education Reform, Defends Private School for Daughters](#)
- [Diesel Dangers: Mining Companies Get First Look at Government Cancer Study](#)
- [Sheriff Joe Arpaio and Dog the Bounty Hunter Lend a Hand to Tancredo](#)
- ['Why I Became a Republican': GOP Women Learn Tips on Minority Outreach](#)

[View All Politics News »](#)

#### [Sports News](#)

- [UFC 119 Results](#)
- [Jimmy Raye Reportedly Fired as 49ers Offensive Coordinator](#)
- [Leon Washington Kickoff Return Videos](#)
- [Larry Johnson Reportedly Drawing Interest From Rams](#)
- [Brett Favre Hurting Again, Suffers Stinger](#)

[View All Sports News »](#)

#### [Business News](#)

- [This Week Will Be Key Test for Stock Market](#)



- [Unemployed? How to Get Back to Work](#)
- [Wal-Mart Has Big Plans for Africa](#)
- [Midterm Mudslinging a Boon for Broadcasters](#)
- [Rival Discount Airlines to Merge](#)


[View All Business News »](#)

**goodnewsnow**

- [Descendents of First Black American Doctor Mark Grave](#)
- [Fear of Oil Doesn't Stop Sculpture Contest](#)
- [Londoners Race in Great Gorilla Run](#)
- [Swiss Minister Gets the Giggles](#)
- [Single Mom Wins \\$54 Million Lottery Jackpot](#)

[More Stories »](#)











**Find us on Facebook**




**AOL News**

Like

32,709 people like AOL News

				
Kiera	Noor	Михаил	Darlene	John
				
Mustapha	Beth	Jacques	Rick	Kevin

 Facebook social plugin

## News From Our Partners

**TIME.com**

- [Ahmadinejad's 9/11 Remarks and Iran's Nuclear Talks](#)
- [GOP Candidates with Big Business Pasts Winning in Polls](#)
- [Japan Releases Chinese Captain Zhan Qixiong But Tensions Remain](#)
- [10 Great Retirement Investments Right Now](#)
- [How to Run in '10: Be a Ghost](#)

[More Stories »](#)

**FOXNEWS**

- [Senate Power Could Shift This Year](#)
- ['Going Dark': Feds Seek Broader Internet Wiretap Authority](#)
- [U.S., Afghan Forces Begin Kandahar Battle](#)

- [Worm Attacks Iran's Nuclear Power Plant](#)
- [Chavez Allies Win, Opposition Gains in Vote](#)

[More Stories »](#)

**THE HUFFINGTON POST**

- [Josh Bernstein: Authentic Survival, Please](#)
- [Patricia Zohn: CultureZohn: Singing in the Streets](#)
- [Harry Shearer: NPR vs. The Big Uneasy: A Question of Fear?](#)
- [Deepak Chopra: Making Muhammad Safe](#)

[More Stories »](#)



- [A Cop's Daughter's Boyfriend, 1 Fake Arrest, and 2 Very Angry Parents](#)
- [EXCLUSIVE: Bob Woodward to Diane Sawyer: 'This is Obama's War'](#)
- [U.S. Soldier Describes Killing Innocent Afghans](#)
- [Advertisement:](#)
- [Reaction Mixed to Atlanta Bishop's Abuse Denial](#)

[More Stories »](#)

**THE DAILY BEAST**

- [How U.S. Jews Strangle Peace Talks](#)
- [Aaron Sorkin Talks Facebook](#)
- [What Were They Thinking?](#)
- [College Admissions' Secret Strategy](#)
- [The Tea Party Goes Corporate](#)

[More Stories »](#)

**Newsweek**

[More Stories »](#)



- [China takes the Prius hostage](#)
- [Megachurch pastor accused of forcing boys into sex](#)
- [House GOP's Pledge to America: World's saddest to do list](#)
- [Lewis Lapham on the end of capitalism](#)
- [William Shatner: As great as he is awful](#)

[More Stories »](#)



- [Is Today's Unemployment Structural?](#)
- [Can the Youth Vote Stave Off Democratic Losses This Year?](#)
- [Experts Struggle for a Glimpse at North Korea's Historic Moment](#)
- [Do the Feds Need the Power to Wiretap the Internet?](#)
- [STRANGE BEDFELLOWS: Jason Schwartzman Gives New Yorker Tutorial](#)

[More Stories »](#)

## **newser**

- [Mistrial Declared in Blackwater Murder Case](#)
- [Hitler Paintings to Fetch a Mint](#)
- [We Actually Need More Immigrants](#)
- [Jaycee Dugard Writing Memoir](#)
- [Broke LiLo Barely Made Bail](#)

[More Stories »](#)

## **CNN.com**

- [Wisconsin River levee fails](#)
- [NATO choppers cross into Pakistan](#)
- [Construction restarts in West Bank](#)
- [Segway exec dies in Segway accident](#)
- [Brazile: Tax cuts aren't the answer](#)

[More Stories »](#)

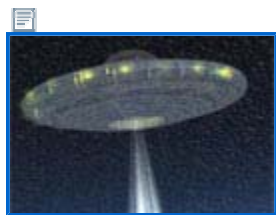
## **The Washington Post**

- [Military resisted Obama's request for war exit plan](#)

[More Stories »](#)

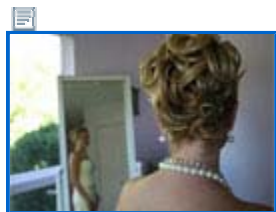
**Also on AOL >>>**

### **Weird News Today**



[Did UFOs tamper with nuclear missiles?](#)

### **TV's Worst Idea?**



[Plastic surgery for the 'perfect bride'](#)

## [Latest News](#)



- [Best 'Glee' Songs](#)
- [School Lunch Ideas](#)
- [Chael Sonnen](#)
- [Hispanic Heritage Month](#)
- [Fantasy Football](#)
- [Unemployment News](#)
- [UFC 119 Results](#)

## [Expert Money Tips](#)



[Financial advice for a famous mom of 14](#)

## [Play Free Online](#)



[Test your green thumb with Gardenscapes.](#)

## [11 Great Reactions](#)



[The best captured moments on 'Oprah'](#)



- [Search Footer Tab 1](#)

[Feedback](#)

## More News

## Top News

- [National News](#)
- [World News](#)
- [Science News](#)
- [Health News](#)
- [Weird News](#)
- [Entertainment News](#)
- [Sports News](#)
- [Politics News](#)
- [Business News](#)
- [Tech News](#)

- [Fantasy Football](#)
- [Free Fantasy Football](#)
- [NBA](#)
- [MMA](#)
- [NFL](#)
- [Stock Quotes](#)
- [Stock Market News](#)
- [Investing](#)
- [Personal Finance](#)
- [Small Business](#)
- [Movie News](#)

## Topics

- [2010 Elections](#)
- [Gulf Oil Spill](#)
- [Mexican Drug Violence](#)
- [Hurricane Julia](#)
- [Hurricane Karl](#)
- [Tropical Storm Matthew](#)

## Newsmakers

- [Barack Obama](#)
- [Sarah Palin](#)
- [Lady Gaga](#)
- [Glenn Beck](#)
- [Julian Assange](#)
- [Bishop Eddie Long](#)

## In the News

- [Afghanistan](#)
- [Lindsay Lohan](#)
- [WikiLeaks](#)
- [Trapped Chilean Miners](#)
- [UFC 119 Results](#)
- [Stephen Colbert](#)

## More From AOL

- [Switched](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [TV Listings](#)
- [Watch TV Shows](#)
- [Radio](#)
- [Singles](#)
- [Horoscopes](#)
- [Consumer Help](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Latino News](#)
- [Real Estate](#)

Latest news, weather, health, business, sports, science, money, entertainment, world news, elections, weird news and more.

**AOL News.**

- [Terms of Use](#) |
- [Privacy Policy](#) |
- [Trademarks](#) |
- [AOL A-Z](#) |
- [HELP](#) |
- [Advertise With Us](#)

- © 2010 All Rights Reserved [AOL News](#). © AOL Inc. All Rights Reserved.
- [Back to Top](#)