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No. 152

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 12, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KENNY MARCHANT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

WHY ARE WE STILL IN AFGHANISTAN?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the privilege and the humbling experience of going to Walter Reed at Bethesda. It is a magnificent medical complex, and our young men and women deserve to have that kind of treatment. I was so impressed.

In visiting the wounded and thanking them for their service, I encountered a 22-year-old lance corporal who was

wounded during his second tour of duty in Afghanistan. Standing there in his room with his mother, he asked me why are we still in Afghanistan. I looked at his mother and I looked in his face and I said, I don't know. I said there are a few of us in the House trying to get our troops back home before the 2014-2015 deadline.

Mr. Speaker, I have beside me a photograph of a triple amputee, a soldier, with his wife, who has lost both legs and an arm. Yesterday I noted to the doctor who was escorting me around that I saw more double amputees than ever before. I saw some down in the rehab center, and I saw those in their rooms that have not gotten to that point yet because of their severe wounds. He said, Congressman, the number of double amputees is going up every week, every month, and it will continue to go up.

My question to the leadership of the House: Why don't you speak out, both parties, and call on Mr. Obama to bring our troops home before 2015?

It's kind of ironic. I represent the Third District of North Carolina and we got hit pretty hard, like most of the States all of the way up to Vermont, by the hurricane. It was so ironic last week that we passed a continuing resolution that had \$2.65 billion for FEMA to help those who have experienced disasters like wildfires in Texas to tornadoes to hurricanes—\$2.65 billion—but yet we found \$118 billion to spend in Afghanistan and Iraq. Where does that equal itself out? The American people get shortchanged while we send \$118 billion to Afghanistan and Iraq. It makes no sense.

That's why it's so ironic that the American people have given all of us in Congress an 18 percent approval rating. And here we will be passing trade bills today to send jobs overseas. That'll be great. The American people are tired and fed up.

But what bothers me more than anything are those young men and women

over at Walter Reed who are 20, 22, 25. I met a gunnery sergeant who's in his early thirties, both legs gone, trying to learn to walk.

I hope that the leadership in the House and Senate will join JIM MCGOVERN and many of us in both parties who are speaking out about getting our troops home before 2014-2015. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to those people who are protesting Wall Street, whether I agree with you or not, you have a right to protest. Join us in protesting the war in Afghanistan. We are beginning the 11th year. And as the 22-year-old lance corporal said to me, Why are we still there? I couldn't answer him. I don't know. I don't know. Karzai gets \$10 billion a month, and the people who've lost so much in the hurricanes and tornadoes, they get a measly pitance to what Karzai gets.

Please, American people, join us and put pressure on the House and Senate, and let's bring our troops home.

Mr. Speaker, my close is this: I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God in His loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. I ask God to bless the House and Senate that we will do what is right in the eyes of God for his people today and his people tomorrow. And I ask God to give wisdom, strength, and courage to President Obama that he will do what is right in the eyes of God for God's people today and God's people tomorrow. And three times I will ask from the bottom of my heart, God please, God please, God please continue to bless America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members to direct their remarks to the Chair.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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JOBS OUGHT TO BE TOP PRIORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree with my colleague from North Carolina that it is time for us to not just reassess but readjust our policies in Afghanistan, scale it down and bring the troops home.

There's another area of consensus that I hope we can focus on: Most people agree that employment, that jobs, ought to be a priority for this Congress, for the government, for American business. Much of what you hear on Capitol Hill about creating jobs and employment is very, very contentious. Yet what is complex and controversial in Congress is not so hard when you move off the Hill, when you look at what the experts suggest, when you look at what the American people will support, for the shape of a future recovery is emerging in terms of a consensus about what we should do. I think we probably will; the question is when.

First and foremost, it is important that we rebalance our long-term programs and priorities. But in the short term, it is not only important to keep the spending levels where they are, it would be disastrous to cut it further. Chairman Bernanke said just last week that short-term increases can strengthen economic demand with a long-term adjustment to strengthen our balance sheet by reducing the deficit.

One of the first places to start is rebuilding and renewing America. Experts agree we have vast unmet needs; the Society of Civil Engineers suggests \$2.3 trillion that should be spent in the next 5 years on repairing our roads and our bridges, extending and enhancing our transit system. There are two dozen cities across America that are looking at reintroducing a modern streetcar which can be done quickly and will spark investment in those communities that have that opportunity.

We have aging and inadequate water systems that leak 6 billion gallons of water a day, enough to fill 9,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools that would stretch from Washington, DC, to Pittsburgh. We have an aging and ineffective electrical grid. We have pipelines that need to be upgraded for safety. There is environmental cleanup, especially expensive Superfund sites that otherwise will continue to put a cloud over the adjacent businesses and governments.

□ 1010

This will create millions of family-wage jobs in the course of the next year. It is important to deal with our health care system, which is creating jobs. But, unfortunately, it's creating jobs now very inefficiently. We pay more for healthcare than anybody else in the world, by far. Compared to what other developed countries produce, we

have mediocre results as a whole. Spectacular for some Americans, but overall, Americans die sooner, get sick more often, stay sick longer. By accelerating the health care reforms to provide value instead of volume of health care, we can squeeze more value and the right type of employment that will be sustainable over time and help make Americans healthier.

There is, Mr. Speaker, no question that we need in fact to pay for this over the long term. But the path here is something that most of the American public will in fact agree on, and the experts have a consensus that this is where we start, with tax equity, making sure everybody is paying their fair share adjusting user fees for infrastructure to account for inflation—not anything immediate, but over the course of the next year or two—to be able to have the cash flow to meet our obligations for transportation, for water; reinstating the Superfund tax that expired in 1995, leaving communities with the toxic legacy.

It's important to consider a financial transaction fee, something that other European countries have—that England has had for over a century—that would in fact give stability to our stock market. This is something that's within our capacity, Mr. Speaker. I hope we do it sooner rather than later.

H.R. 3080, UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. ROBY. I come to the floor today to talk about the need to pass the three free trade agreements that we will be voting on today. These agreements will mean more export opportunities, access to raw materials at a lower cost for American manufacturing, and make American companies and farmers more competitive in additional markets where they currently face high tariffs. Free trade agreements result in jobs and profits for American businesses.

In 2010, the Second District of Alabama saw 4,927 jobs directly supported by exports. Of the \$2 billion in total merchandise exports, \$769.4 million was to free trade agreement partners. The Korea, Colombia, and Panama free trade agreements will open up opportunities for businesses all over the Nation, including those in my home State of Alabama.

In regards to the Korea free trade and what it means to Alabama, in 2009 Alabama did \$300 million in exports to Korea, making Korea the 11th largest export market for Alabama. According to the Business Roundtable, the agreement that we will be voting on today will make more than half of Alabama merchandise exports to Korea be duty free. The immediate tariff eliminations in this bill gives Alabama exports a \$3.1 million cost advantage over similar

products exported by competitors who do not have free trade agreements with Korea.

Additionally, agriculture in Alabama will benefit from the Korea free trade agreement. Currently, U.S. agricultural products face tariffs up to 500 percent in South Korea. By eliminating these tariffs, agriculture will see over \$20.3 million in additional gains in sales to South Korea. In particular, it is estimated that Alabama's export of poultry will rise to \$4.4 million per year, and cattle and beef to \$3.7 million per year.

In regards to the Colombia free trade agreement, in 2010, Colombia was Alabama's 21st largest export market, with \$154 million in exports. The agreement we will be voting on today will mean an estimated 72.3 percent increase in exports for Alabama to Colombia and 56.4 percent in fabricated metal products.

And finally, Panama is one of the fastest expanding economies in Latin American. In 2010, the United States saw a 7.5 percent growth in exports to Panama. In regards to agriculture, the United States exported more than \$450 million to Panama in 2010.

The free trade agreements that we are voting on today are in total expected to increase direct agricultural exports from Alabama by \$22.8 million per year, and the increased marketing opportunities will add more than 200 jobs to the Alabama economy. It is unfortunate that these agreements have taken so long to be considered by Congress. They will have a significant impact on our economy. This delay has already put American businesses at a disadvantage with the South Korea-European Union free trade agreement going into effect in July of this year.

American businesses do not need a stimulus or stimulus programs that do not work. I have come to the floor several times to talk about how American businesses are being stifled by overreaching and burdensome regulations. American businesses have also been stifled by the slow-moving administration and ensuring that our businesses have the same advantages as those in other countries. These agreements remove the high tariffs that have been in place in important and expanding markets.

I will continue to work to protect and promote jobs here in the United States and in my home State of Alabama and will be voting "yes" on all three trade agreements. I ask my colleagues to do so as well.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE TRADE AGREEMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. KISSELL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak of the opposition that I will have to the free trade agreements that we'll be voting on today and to

speak of some of the details about those free trade agreements that seem not to be discussed. We seem to want to talk about how these free trade agreements will be good without understanding the details of what we'll be voting upon.

My opposition to these trade agreements is not based upon any type of partisanship. That negative force called "partisanship" that is too much part of our lives here in Washington, I don't deal with. This is not partisanship. This is not some type of blinded protectionism, that somehow we need to close our shores. I'm very aware of the global impact of our modern economy. And it's not based upon any type of ignorance of the potential good that these so-called free trade agreements can present to us. Indeed, I have lived in a part of the country that has suffered immensely from free trade agreements. I worked 27 years in textiles and watched the jobs leave. My district, North Carolina's Eighth District, is still suffering, as it has for the last 10 years, because of the results of free trade agreements.

Indeed, if you look at the facts of our Nation and where we are in our economy, it's hard to say that since free trade agreements have become part of our lives that it has been good for the Nation. We look at our working families. It was reported last week that our working families are now at income levels of the mid-1990s. We've lost so much of our industrial base. We've lost hundreds of thousands of jobs. And we continue to see our trade deficits climb and climb and climb.

Mr. Speaker, we have the world's greatest economy. We need trade agreements, but not these trade agreements. We need for people to come to us and say we would like to play in the United States market, and we should say what terms that we should have for that.

So what are the details of the Korean free trade agreement? We hear that it will create 75,000 jobs. The Economic Policy Institute tells us we will lose over 150,000 jobs. And we'll hear a lot about the jobs that were created, but we won't hear too much about those jobs that were lost, of which 40,000 jobs are estimated to be lost in the textile industry.

We won't hear about how 65 percent of something can be made in another country and brought to South Korea and finished there and then brought into the United States, recognizing that China is the next-door neighbor to Korea. So how much transshipment is going to come out of China, the 65 percent to South Korea?

We won't hear that North Korea will be allowed to send goods to the United States as a part of this trade agreement.

We won't talk about the currency manipulation that South Korea engages in, just like China does.

We won't talk about the tariffs that will stay in place, protecting Korean goods, while we drop ours immediately.

We'll talk about that we can sell more cars in Korea, up to 75,000, if they choose to buy them—there's no guarantees—when we know that South Korea now is selling hundreds of thousands of cars in the United States.

□ 1020

Mr. Speaker, we need trade agreements, but we need trade agreements that work for us. This is not a reflection on the countries. It's a reflection on these old NAFTA/CAFTA-type trade deals that were negotiated years ago in the Bush era that have been dusted off and brought to us and being told to us that this is good for the American worker, this will create jobs. Unfortunately, the history of our trade agreements has been anything but that.

I was with an administration official in North Carolina a year ago, and I was told how good free trade had been for North Carolina. And I said, I can't address that, but I can address that free trade has not been good for my district. I was told that they could show me the numbers, and I told them I could show them the empty buildings, many of which are not even standing now. They've just been torn down, not replaced with jobs. Retrain our people for what, to ship more jobs offshore?

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to look at the details of this, look at our economy, and look at the jobs we have lost and say, is this good for America? No, it's not.

IN SUPPORT OF THE TRADE AGREEMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the fair trade agreements that we will vote on later today. I commend the Obama administration for their work in ensuring that our businesses and workers get the best agreement possible to grow the economy and create jobs.

While these agreements have been in the works for years, our country has benefited from the improvements garnered by our U.S. Trade Representative, Ron Kirk, and his team. This is particularly evident in their refining of the South Korean agreement so that our farmers and automobile manufacturers get a fair deal. Of course, each trade agreement is different, and they all have to be evaluated on their merits. Details matter.

Overall, these agreements will help increase U.S. exports by an estimated \$13 billion, adding \$10 billion to our annual gross domestic product and creating nearly a quarter million jobs, including many in my district in upstate New York; and we'll do that without adding a single dollar to the deficit. In fact, these fiscally responsible agreements will help cut the deficit.

Our farmers, in particular, stand to gain significantly from these agreements, opening up nearly \$30 million in

new business a year for our farmers in New York. These agreements are enthusiastically supported by our New York State Farm Bureau and by my Agricultural Advisory Panel, comprised of farmers from across the 10 counties and 137 towns I represent, a congressional district with over 1,000 family farmers.

Mr. Speaker, we have the smartest, hardest-working farmers in the world. Their issue is profitability. We help farmers when we attack the impediments to growth, which include taxes, regulations, health care costs, and energy costs. We help farmers when we have access to quality infrastructure—not only roads and bridges, but also access to high-speed broadband. And we help farmers when we expand markets to help them sell their goods. These agreements enhance our farmers' profitability.

Supporting our farmers is supporting the American way. Our family farmers represent the best of our country. And this is also a national security issue—no farms, no food. We must ensure our family farms can compete, or we risk losing them and relying on imports with the attendant food security risks. That's not what my constituents want; that's not what our country wants, which is why we need to pass these agreements.

Now, in addition to helping our farmers, the independent, nonpartisan U.S. International Trade Commission estimates key U.S. manufacturing sectors are also poised to gain. This includes the increase of U.S. exports of motor vehicles and parts by about 50 percent; metal products by over 50 percent; chemical, rubber, and plastic products by over 40 percent; and machinery and equipment by over 30 percent. This will directly help companies in my district, who are already relying on exports, with expanding markets for selling their products, companies like B&B Forest Products in Greene County, Momentive in Saratoga County, EFCO Products in Dutchess County, and Hudson River Stove Works in my home county, Columbia.

What's often missed in these conversations about trade are some of the key points. Right now, over 90 percent of the products coming from Colombia and Panama are already duty free, when less than 40 percent of our goods currently go duty free to these countries. Our goods to South Korea suffer under tariff rates about four times higher. With passage of these fair trade agreements, we will address these imbalances. These agreements will add to our GDP, strengthen existing jobs, and create new ones.

Let's recognize what's at stake, and let's not fool ourselves. If we fail to pass these fair trade agreements and do nothing, we will fall behind. In South Korea, we have seen our beef industry lose more and more of the share of that country's business year after year since the 1990s. South Korea is poised to increase agricultural trade with

Australia and the European Union. If we don't pass these agreements, we will continue to fall behind while other countries gain. Same with Colombia: in 2007, our farmers accounted for 44 percent of the agricultural business in Colombia. By 2010, that number fell to 21 percent.

These agreements are about the future. As Americans, we've enjoyed an unprecedented quality of life because we make things other people can't and we make common goods better than anyone else. That's still the case. In my district, we make the world's most advanced wafers in the semi-conductor industry and some of the most advanced medical devices.

We are poised to continue our tradition of excellence in this country if we make the right choices. And, today, making the right choices means working in a bipartisan way with the Obama administration and enacting a key provision of the President's jobs plan. It means passing these fair trade agreements before the House this week.

I urge my colleagues to support these bills and help get America back to work.

RECOGNIZING LAS VEGAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give special recognition to the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce as it celebrates its 100th anniversary on October 21 and marks a century of success in working to help build and sustain southern Nevada's business community.

I'm a proud member of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. And as someone who grew up in southern Nevada and who represents her hometown of Las Vegas here in Congress, it has been remarkable to see firsthand so many of the outstanding achievements of the chamber and its thousands of members and how they—we—have shaped our community throughout the years.

From designing some of the very first tourism campaigns for Las Vegas, to helping pass major small business legislation in recent years, the chamber has always played a key part in facilitating the growth of Las Vegas and in supporting the business community in southern Nevada—today's economic engine of the great Silver State.

I have had the pleasure to know and work with many of the chamber's leaders and participants from its member businesses who serve the families of my community every day and who serve the nearly 40 million visitors drawn to Las Vegas each year. The Las Vegas Chamber's centennial marks a milestone for an organization that had its humble beginnings a century ago in a dusty railroad town—now known around the globe as the "entertainment capital of the world."

Many of the chamber's early leaders were instrumental in getting legislation passed to create the first highways being built to and from Las Vegas, making the city more accessible to northern Nevada, southern California, Arizona and Utah. Chamber leaders advocated for the building of Hoover Dam. This modern marvel still operates today, creating electricity for millions of homes and businesses, drawing millions of tourists for recreational opportunities at Lake Mead, and creating thousands of jobs for the region.

Chamber leaders were early supporters of the aviation industry in Las Vegas, bringing the first airfield to Las Vegas in the 1920s, establishing McCarran Airport's current location. Later, the chamber worked to secure financing for a modern airport built in 1960. These early leaders recognized the need for air travel to keep Las Vegas accessible, competitive, and relevant; and their support led to McCarran Airport growing to become one of the busiest airports in our Nation.

The Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce was instrumental in creating the modern method of promoting Las Vegas through the initiation of the Live Wire Fund. Created in 1944, the Live Wire Fund eventually led to creative marketing campaigns and the initiation of the Las Vegas News Bureau to promote Las Vegas tourism and hospitality to the Nation and to the world. What happens in Las Vegas stays in Las Vegas.

The chamber has always been and remains the voice of business in southern Nevada. With over 80 percent of the jobs in the United States created by small businesses, it is my commitment to continue to honor the business people of Nevada by working towards a fairer business environment where "Made in America"—and especially "Made and Sold in Nevada"—drive the philosophy of our business mindset.

□ 1030

This will create jobs, put people back to work, and continue to provide the kind of opportunities on which our Nation was founded. The Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce has embodied these business ideals for a century, and I look forward to being a part of the great things they do in their 101st year and beyond.

In recognition of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce's success, and they are here today in number on Capitol Hill, in helping to make Las Vegas a brand recognized around the world, and for their unwavering commitment to local businesses, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce for their 100 years of service and in wishing this organization and its members another century of extraordinary success.

FREE UP AMERICA'S RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. The President's jobs bill has a surprising number in it for rebuilding our infrastructure. Most Americans would be surprised that that number is only \$27 billion. Divide that between States, and you barely have enough to put some tar and chips on the roads. And yet, as the President is out touting this jobs bill and talking about our crumbling infrastructure, it just isn't going to do the job.

How about this number? \$129 billion to build roads and buildings and water projects? Unfortunately, that number is not being spent in the United States; rather, that \$129 billion is the number that Americans pay in foreign aid to OPEC countries to build their roads, their palaces, their buildings.

Now, unfortunately, that money goes to more than just their infrastructure. It also goes to countries like Iran that fund their nuclear weapons programs threatening Israel and the neighboring countries. It goes to Iran to fund their assassination attempts against Saudi Ambassadors. Iran used it to fund terrorist weapons and IEDs to kill our soldiers. We pay for both sides in the war on terror, and much of that comes through buying foreign energy.

In the meantime, our roads are crumbling, our bridges are rusting and corroding, our locks and dams are decaying, our water and sewer pipe lines are collapsing.

And listen to the cost. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, the numbers are staggering: \$935 billion are needed to fix our roads and bridges; \$87 billion for aviation; \$12.5 billion for our locks and dams; \$255 billion to fix our drinking water; \$75 billion for energy infrastructure; \$50 billion for inland waterways; \$50 billion for levees; \$265 billion for transit. Where is the money going to come from?

What is being proposed are long-term and permanent taxes, about 30 years worth of more debt and borrowed money from China for a small \$27 billion to do this. It's not going to do the job, and raising taxes and creating warfare between classes is not going to do it.

Here's what can do it. We have, off of our coast, about 85 to 115 billion barrels of oil, trillion cubic feet of natural gas, trillions. We have massive amounts of money off our coast. Unfortunately, the administration says no, we can't use our money. We have to continue to borrow from China, increase debt or raise taxes. Those approaches to rebuilding America will not do.

What we need to do is free up American resources, use our resources, use our funding to rebuild America. And think what comes out of this. From the royalties, the leases, and from the income taxes that come from hiring, yes, millions of people to involve with civil engineers and operating engineers, laborers, architects, steamfitters, welders, people who work on the rigs, you

create \$2 trillion to \$3 trillion worth of revenue over the next 20 years.

What we need to be doing is making a commitment to invest that money in American infrastructure, American resources, American funds for American infrastructure.

Think of what this also does for our manufacturing. When you create that kind of demand for steel and concrete and that kind of demand for equipment to be purchased over a long time, this is a real jobs plan. We don't need to be going back hat in hand to other countries and saying, please let us borrow more from you. We don't need to be having class warfare. We don't need to be saying, let's just attack people who make a certain amount of money. We don't need to be saying, let's take all the revenue that comes from taxing these corporate jets for 10 years and use it to fund the government for a lousy hour and 45 minutes. Those may be great talking points, but they are not a jobs plan.

America wants to work and America wants us to use our resources. America wants to stop funding both sides in the war on terror. We can do this. And it doesn't take some sort of super plan to do this. It just says, America has all the resources.

I call upon my colleagues to continue to push for ways that we can free up American resources, stop saying no to American jobs, stop simply using political rhetoric to block these things, but really create this mechanism by which we can pay for rebuilding America.

We can do it. We have the resources to do it. We have to have the way and we have to have the will.

INITIATIVES OF THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALTMIRE. Recently I had the honor of being reappointed to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, a committee on which I served during my first two terms in Congress. Consequently, caucus rules require me to, in turn, step down from the Small Business Committee, where I've proudly served for the past 5 years.

As I leave the Small Business Committee, I wanted to take a moment to discuss a few of the important initiatives on which the committee has played a meaningful role during that time. Some of the most important initiatives have been to support the brave men and women who have served our Nation in uniform. The Small Business Committee, over the past 5 years, has led the way in helping small business owners deal with the loss of key employees during long-term overseas deployments, and has helped incentivize the hiring of our military veterans.

Committee successes include the enactment of my legislation to increase business opportunities for veterans and

reservists, and support business owners who employ them. This bill was signed into law by President Bush in 2008 and has since helped countless veterans and employers.

We also successfully enacted laws to help returning veterans access job training programs and learn entrepreneurial skills to help them transition back into the workforce.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, I was able to convene hearings that gave voice to all sides on pending issues in Congress, including bringing more than a dozen people from western Pennsylvania before the committee to make sure that their voice was heard and their point of view understood during the critical early stages of the legislative process.

Our subcommittee held hearings that brought to light the unintended consequences of the Consumer Product Safety Commission's lead regulations on small businesses and home-based toy manufacturers. We also held hearings that raised concerns about the effect that various health care reform proposals might have on small employers, and the devastating impact that skyrocketing gas prices can have on businesses and consumers.

When CMS proposed a flawed Medicare competitive bidding program that would harm medical equipment suppliers and negatively impact patient access and quality of care, our subcommittee heard the concerns of small businesses across the country. And when necessary, our subcommittee also convened field hearings to discuss important issues, such as a hearing we held in western Pennsylvania to discuss ideas on how to increase access to capital for small businesses.

When flooding impacted businesses in western Pennsylvania, we brought the SBA to Aliquippa to personally inspect the damage and improve the SBA's response. And as gas prices continued to climb and the Nation looked for solutions to our energy crisis, I joined our former colleague, Mary Fallon, now Oklahoma's Governor, to cochair a field hearing in Tulsa to hear directly from the oil industries their explanation of why gas prices were so unacceptably high and what we can do to help bring them down.

Our subcommittee also led the way in twice passing through the House my bill to expand access to private capital investment through the SBIR program. And we held the first hearing in either Chamber of Congress on the controversial credit card interchange fee, an issue that since has grown into a top priority for businesses, consumers, and banks.

We worked in a bipartisan way to successfully advocate for repeal of the onerous 1099 reporting requirements included in the health care reform law. All in all, quite a record of bipartisan success.

As I leave the committee, I want to thank Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for

her help and support during my time on the committee, and I look forward to continuing to work on small business issues through my new committee assignments in the months ahead.

□ 1040

RECOGNIZING MATT PORTER, 2011 RECIPIENT OF NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME SOCIETY'S DAN PIPER AWARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Matt Porter of State College, Pennsylvania, the 2011 recipient of the National Down Syndrome Society's Dan Piper Award.

Dan Piper was a young man born with Down syndrome who spent much of his life advocating on behalf of himself and others with Down syndrome. He, sadly, passed away on September 1, 2002. In order to celebrate Dan's life, the Dan Piper Award was created to recognize and celebrate an individual with Down syndrome that has made similar contributions to Down syndrome awareness and advocacy.

Today, I'm pleased and proud to recognize one of my constituents, Matt Porter, as the 2011 recipient of this great honor. I have met Matt Porter on several occasions. Most recently, I joined him and others at the Centre County Down Syndrome Society's annual Buddy Walk. My introduction to Matt, however, was sometime before that when he visited my Washington office in mid-February with his brother, Andy. Matt was visiting congressional offices to raise awareness for the Down Syndrome Society and to advocate on issues most pressing to those who are living with Down syndrome.

Matt's personality and attitude towards life embody the spirit of the Dan Piper Award. Much like Dan, Matt's accomplishments have opened so many doors to those with Down syndrome. I find Matt to be an inspiring individual, and I commend him on the hard work with his employment, participating in the Special Olympics, volunteering in the community, and advocating on behalf of others with Down syndrome.

We all stand to learn a lot from this young man's example and character. Congratulations, Matt Porter.

HAVE 10 YEARS IN AFGHANISTAN MADE AMERICA SAFER?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I feel like I have a case of déjà vu. Two years ago, I stood on this floor, on the eighth anniversary of our invasion of Afghanistan, and asked: Have our 8 years, 791 American deaths, and billions of U.S. dollars spent in Afghanistan made America safer?

Today, I stand in the same place asking the same question. Now, 10 years have passed, 1,800 American lives have been lost, and we have spent almost half a trillion dollars, and I have to ask again: Have 10 years in Afghanistan made America safer? Sadly, just as I concluded 2 years ago, I must conclude again today, they have not.

We went into Afghanistan under the mantle of protecting America's national security. The perpetrators of September 11, al Qaeda, were in Afghanistan, and we had to go after them. But just as was the case 2 years ago, al Qaeda is no longer primarily in Afghanistan. In fact, only 50 to 100 al Qaeda operatives are estimated to be operating in Afghanistan. Al Qaeda's primary hub is still located across the border in tribal areas of Pakistan. And other al Qaeda cells are operating around the world in Yemen, North Africa, and through affiliated groups in Southeast Asia and Uzbekistan.

Threats to America are not from Afghanistan but from ungoverned spaces around the world and even right here on American soil. A review of recently foiled terrorist plots shores up the widespread origins of U.S.-centered terror attempts. The Times Square bomber is a Pakistani American who received training in the Waziristan region of Pakistan. The explosives hidden in ink cartridges and destined for an American synagogue in my own district in Chicago were planted by a Saudi militant and shipped from Yemen. The Christmas Day airline bomber was a Nigerian, inspired by Anwar al-Awlaki, who was based in Yemen. And another devotee of al-Awlaki was the Fort Hood shooter, Nidal Hasan, an American citizen born in Virginia.

Not one of these terror plots originated in Afghanistan, and yet still we maintain close to 100,000 U.S. troops on the ground there. Every major U.S. victory the U.S. has had in the fight against terrorism has come not on the ground in Afghanistan but through targeted attacks such as those that killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan and the recent strike that killed Anwar al-Awlaki in Yemen.

There have been at least 45 jihadist terrorist attacks plotted against the U.S. since 9/11, and each one of them was foiled not by our mass ground forces in Afghanistan, but through a combination of intelligence, policing, and citizen engagement.

According to terrorism expert Erik Dahl of the Naval Postgraduate School, "When it comes to domestic attacks and securing the homeland, what works is really good, old-fashioned policing—law enforcement, tips from the public, police informants."

Not only is our military action in Afghanistan not making us safer, but research indicates it could actually be making us less safe. As counterinsurgency expert David Kilcullen points out, rather than reducing the number of terrorists, the U.S. presence in Af-

ghanistan could actually be spurring new terrorism as locals band together to resist foreign occupation.

It's called accidental guerrilla syndrome.

Further, a report issued last year by the gentleman from Massachusetts, Representative TIERNEY, revealed the U.S. military is funding the multibillion dollar protection racket. A good portion of a \$2.16 billion transportation contract is being paid to corrupt public officials, warlords, and the Taliban to get needed supplies to our troops. We are funding the very insurgency we are fighting.

We went into Afghanistan to make America safer, but, for several years now, we have known that our enemies are no longer concentrated in Afghanistan. Al Qaeda is an enemy without borders, and so now we must have a strategy without borders. The question now is: Will we adjust our strategy to reflect today's circumstances, or will we continue to live in the past, repeating this destructive cycle of sending dollars and troops to a mission no longer central to American security?

We have to end our military presence in Afghanistan now, because I don't want to stand in this same spot a year from now with another case of *déjà vu*.

DRILLING EQUALS JOBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LANDRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANDRY. Mr. Speaker, with the free trade agreements being debated this week, some of my Democratic colleagues have been talking about our trade deficit. However, if they really want to reduce the trade deficit, they'd help me end the President's de facto moratorium on offshore drilling.

You see, if oil were a country, it would be our biggest trading partner. Oil makes up 65 percent of our trade deficit. And it's simple: Drilling equals jobs. It equals American jobs.

You see what I have here is a parking lot to one of the heliports down in my district. In 2004, the parking lot was full. Last year, the parking lot was empty. And you don't have to worry because that parking lot, when we're drilling offshore, is this full 365 days a year.

Here is a port in my district which supplies over 30 percent of the oil and gas that fuels this Nation. You can see the boats in 2004 in the busy port; and today, it's empty.

If we really want a jobs bill, this is it. In the past year, deepwater permit issuance is 39 percent below the monthly averages observed over the past 3 years; and shallow water permits, permits that were supposedly never impacted by the moratorium, are off 80 percent over historical averages. As a result of this de facto moratorium, 11 offshore rigs scheduled to drill in the gulf have relocated to countries like Brazil, Nigeria, Egypt, Congo, French Guiana, and Liberia.

Now, what does this say about American policies when businesses prefer the regulatory certainty offered by Egypt over the bureaucratic uncertainty off our own shores? And while 11 rigs might not seem like a lot, each drilling platform supports 200 to 300 workers every month. Additionally, each exploration and production job supports four other positions. Therefore, 900 to 1,400 jobs per idle rig platform are at risk if production does not resume as soon as possible.

□ 1050

Wages for those jobs average \$1,800 per week, so the potential for lost wages is more than \$5 million to \$10 million per month, per platform.

Drilling equals good-paying jobs.

According to the Obama administration's own estimates, the 6-month "official moratorium" on drilling cost up to 12,000 jobs. However, the long-term impacts of the de facto moratorium could be significantly higher. A study by Louisiana State University predicts, if the de facto ban on deepwater drilling were sustained for 18 more months, we could lose 36,000 jobs nationwide, 24,000 of those along the gulf coast region alone. If the administration would accelerate the permit issuance instead of continuing this de facto moratorium, we could create a quarter of a million jobs in this country, and we could increase the GDP by \$8 trillion over the next 10 years.

As I said, the solution is actually very simple—at no cost to the taxpayer and with the ability to bring revenue into the Federal Government.

It's simple, Mr. Speaker: Drilling equals jobs.

LIBERTY, JUSTICE, AND THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk on two subjects: one, liberty and justice and, number two, our economy.

On the first, as cochair of the House Ukrainian Caucus, I stand today and join my voice to the citizens of the free world who stand in solidarity with freedom lovers in Ukraine seeking liberty and justice for all. It is with the deepest concern that we raise strenuous objection to the political decision by Ukraine's Pechersk court that sentenced former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko to prison this October 11. The court's "guilty" verdict sentences her to 7 years in prison, bars her from holding office for 3 years, and effectively stops her from participating in Ukraine's upcoming elections.

Ukraine's actions should also call into question Ukraine's accession to the European Union. I join with the members of the Ukrainian Congress of America in supporting immediate congressional hearings on what has transpired in Ukraine. I urge our leadership

to allow the passage of a resolution expressing U.S. objection to the actions of Ukraine's politically driven judicial system that seem to have more to do with politics than justice.

In furtherance of these objectives, I place on record on behalf of the Ukrainian Caucus the official statement of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, which represents over 1 million Americans of Ukrainian descent, equally incensed at what has occurred. From their statement, the Ukrainian Congress states:

They call upon the Government of the United States to take appropriate measures to support democracy and human rights in Ukraine. They urge the United States Government to restrict visas and freeze assets of the current antidemocratic regime and to hold congressional hearings on sanctions and future foreign assistance to the Government of Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me, to join our caucus; to speak out and to act then on behalf of the advance of democracy and justice in post-Soviet Ukraine.

I also wish to address today the U.S. economy. We've heard a lot about the trade agreements that are going to come before us today dealing with so-called "free trade" for South Korea, for Colombia and Panama. I wish to place some information on the record.

I've served in Congress awhile now, and fought against the NAFTA trade model back in the nineties when they said it would create jobs that would result in trade surpluses. Advocates promised we would have all this extraordinary economic growth and new jobs in the United States. Then after NAFTA was passed, we saw the beginning of these hemorrhaging trade deficits with Mexico, with Canada and, indeed, with the world. In 1997 and '98, when the China permanent normal trade relations, which I might add are anything but normal, kicked in, America went into an even greater trade deficit. Each billion dollars of trade deficit represented a loss of thousands upon thousands of lost jobs.

So, as we look at the period that we've been living through over the last 20 to 25 years as these so-called free trade agreements locked down, with every single one, America goes deeper and deeper into trade deficit, which kills the economic growth in our country. Now, today, we're being delivered three more: South Korea, Panama, and Colombia.

When we look back at CAFTA, which was passed in the early 2000s, what happened? Did we get trade balances with those countries? No. We got more U.S. job loss.

Sure, there were a few industries that made out like bandits. Okay, that's fine, I'm glad that some industries can export, and generally, agriculture is able to sell a little bit more, but the overall net is negative. The net is negative. That translates into lost jobs. We've lost over 7 million jobs in

this country because these agreements are not fair trade agreements. They really don't result in trade balances for our country, nor job creation. They yield job losses—coast to coast.

Let's just take a look at what happened with Mexico alone. Back when NAFTA was passed, we had a trade surplus with Mexico. The same people who are arguing for these agreements today said, Don't worry about NAFTA—jobs are going to be even better. We said, No, no. It's not going to be better because there's not a real rule of law. There is no respect for the peasant class in Mexico, and the agricultural adjustment there is going to be horrendous.

In fact, it is at the basis of the exodus of Mexican farmers and peasants into our country. That is what is fueling illegal immigration—the lack of a resolution to what occurred during NAFTA when the agricultural adjustment was not allowed to occur in a humane way in Mexico. What a pity to go to the communities and to see how people are living there, disrupted from their land, and then in our country to see the jobs outsourced from the United States down there or from the United States to almost anywhere—China, et cetera—to the low-wage havens with no rule of law. Every year, the trade deficit with Mexico has grown greater and greater. Remember when we began with NAFTA, we had a trade surplus with Mexico. That has disappeared and gone very negative translating into lost jobs.

Now just take a look at Korea. They say this deal is going to make trade better. Well, do you believe that? We already have a trade deficit with Korea, and this agreement isn't going to solve it because Korea already sells over a half a million cars in this country, but we only sell a few thousand cars there now. This agreement will not change these numbers and will result in more lost jobs in our country. This agreement contains no requirement for reciprocity.

I ask the Members to vote "no" on the agreements dealing with Korea, Colombia, and Panama.

UCCA CONDEMNS TYMOSHENKO SHOW TRIAL VERDICT

NEW YORK, NY.—The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the representative organization of the over one million Americans of Ukrainian descent, is outraged and strongly condemns the Pechersk court's sentencing of Yulia Tymoshenko.

The October 11th guilty verdict, which sentences the former prime minister to 7 years in prison, and bans her from holding office for three years, displays the selective and political motivations of the current regime and leaves no doubt that the court's decision was dictated by the government to remove one of the top opposition leaders from taking part in upcoming elections.

From the start, the UCCA, along with the international community, deemed the various court proceedings to be biased, not meeting international standards and selective in persecution of opposition leaders and former government officials. Thus, today's guilty verdict not only demonstrates the on-

going anti-democratic and authoritarian tendencies of the regime, but also severely threatens the country's European aspirations, specifically the expected ratification of an association agreement with the European Union.

President Yanukovich's use of criminal law to serve his own political end, must not be tolerated! The UCCA calls upon the government of the United States to take appropriate measures to support democracy and human rights in Ukraine. We urge the United States government to restrict visas and freeze assets of the current anti-democratic regime and to hold congressional hearings on sanctions and future foreign assistance to the government of Ukraine.

COLOMBIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. I want to talk today about two people opposed to the Colombia Free Trade Agreement:

Alejandro Jose Penata—a teacher, a union organizer, a spokesperson for fairness for his fellow educators in a country where getting a decent education can be difficult to impossible. Also, I want to talk about Ana Fabricia Cordoba—an advocate for the displaced, an advocate for returning stolen land to those from whom it was taken.

Ana and Alejandro were part of a vocal and committed and brave group of Colombians willing to stand up for what they believed in. They stood up for the dispossessed, for peasants, for trade union members, and for those who want to join trade unions. Like many Colombians, they were tremendously concerned about a free trade agreement that reflected the interests of large corporations but not of those workers and farmers and poor people they fought for every day.

Ana and Alejandro, if they could, would be with us today to voice their opposition in person to the Colombia Free Trade Agreement, but they can't voice that opposition because they were both murdered in Colombia. Ana was shot dead on a public bus. Alejandro was tortured and hung with barbed wire. These are tragic facts, uncomfortable facts, unacceptable facts, but they are not isolated facts.

Sadly, the faces of Ana and Alejandro are the faces of Colombia today. Nowhere in the world is it more dangerous to be a union organizer, fighting for the wages and rights of working people than in Colombia. Twenty-three trade unionists were killed this year. Fifty-one were killed last year. And over the last several years, hundreds more have been threatened, driven out by violence or have simply disappeared. In 2010, more trade unionists were murdered in Colombia than in the rest of the world combined.

In Colombia, there is an organized, intensive campaign to prevent working men and women from working together to fight for better wages and working conditions, and it seems to be working.

So why would the United States want to endorse this behavior and reward the companies, working with the government, that have unleashed this violent assault on workers' rights?

□ 1100

That, after all, is what a trade agreement is really about, a partnership. This is not a partnership the United States of America should enter into.

I'm voting "no" on the Colombia free trade agreement. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the Colombia free trade agreement.

I believe the facts are simple. Voting for the Colombia free trade agreement is a vote for violent union busting, for driving people from their land, for setting the American working man and woman up to compete on an unlevel playing field that will cost us jobs and livelihoods. I know that it is difficult to look at these pictures and hard to accept the reality of the danger to people who speak up in Colombia.

But we cannot ignore the facts, and in Colombia, trade union activists are targeted for assassination and murder. That's not an easy fact to accept, but it's a fact. Approving the free trade pact with Colombia says that the United States can live with this fact. It brings the blood of union activist victims from Bogota to Washington. That blood won't be easily washed away.

Let's think about the movements for freedom happening from Cairo to Damascus to Tripoli. We applaud them. We congratulate the protesters.

When the union leaders in Wisconsin, Ohio, and Puerto Rico stand up for their rights against oppressive State governments, my Democratic colleagues, they applaud those workers. When angry Tea Partiers bash our government and talk about individual rights, my Republican colleagues applaud them.

Well, today we have a chance to do more than applaud. We can side with the people who are standing up for freedom in Colombia. I suggest that everyone in the House who has ever celebrated, applauded, or supported a popular, pro-democracy movement in the U.S. or abroad think long and hard before they vote "yes" on the Colombia free trade agreement.

Because what we see is what we get when it comes to free trade in Colombia. We get a partnership with a country where speaking your mind is a death sentence. I want free trade, but I'm for an agreement that builds commerce while protecting commerce, environment, and the rights of farmers and men.

This is not that agreement. This is an agreement that turns a blind eye to violence and oppression and injustice.

So I ask my colleagues to do what Alejandro and Anna who were murdered cannot do: say "no" to FTA with Colombia.

GRIDLOCK EXISTS IN UNITED STATES CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I stand once again to make a plea to our spiritual leaders throughout the United States to be heard and to speak out against the gridlock that exists here in the United States Congress.

I do this feeling very comfortable since we open up our session with a prayer and as everyone can see and many have taken for granted, it says: "In God We Trust."

Clearly, the protesters have caused quite a bit of inconvenience for my colleagues and the constituents in New York, but the fact remains that they speak out for a frustration that most all Americans have. Uncertain as to what the future holds for them, many have lost their jobs, their savings, pulled their kids out of school; and they are frustrated that we in the Congress hardly talk to each other because of the depth of polarization.

And yet beyond the politics of it all, whether it's Democrats or Republicans, when you think about it, this recession can only be stopped and unemployment lowered by a combination of two things, the reduction of our spending and the raising of revenue in order to increase not only the confidence that people have but the necessity of having economic growth so America can regain its status among civilized nations.

Yet we find very little movement here because there's some that have already embarked on the 2012 campaign. They do that even though millions of Americans are suffering painfully, seeking relief now and not waiting until the end of next year.

It seems to me, whether we are dealing with the Koran or whether we are dealing with the Bible or the Torah, one thing is abundantly clear, that those who believe in a superior force would know that one of the things that we have a moral obligation to do is to take care of the vulnerable among us.

This great Nation now has broken all records in terms of our middle class actually being shrunk as people are forced into poverty. One out of every five kids in the United States of America is born into poverty, and we find that a smaller number of people in our country are controlling nearly half of the wealth.

There's something wrong with that equation, and certainly this is the time to fill that vacuum. For those who believe there's no direction to the protesters, there may not be direction, but they certainly expect that their government should be there for them. Their government is gridlocked. Our spiritual leaders could encourage them not just to pray, but to become active, find out who the Members are that represent them in the Congress, ask them to be voting on these bills that can create economic growth or can create jobs.

And so whether you're Protestant or Catholic or Jews or gentiles or Mormons or Muslims, this is the time that America needs you. This is why our Forefathers have never written out religion. While it cannot dictate which religion, if any, you should have, certainly we do have freedom of religion.

And as the protesters have a constitutional right in order to speak out to release their frustrations, I think we have a spiritual responsibility to take those parts of the proclamations that they're making, the protestations that they're making, and those parts that take care of trying to get the vulnerable to get a fair shake out of this economic disaster we find ourselves in, let us take care of our aged, our sick, those that are in poverty.

Let Social Security and Medicaid and Medicare be something that's not a gamble, but something that the American people can depend on.

Let the churches and the synagogues and the mosques and the temples be open so people can express themselves, and let this Congress attempt to be more civil in recognizing that we have a responsibility that goes beyond the election. We have a responsibility to the American people. So I conclude my remarks and make my plea.

HONORING GENERAL DUNCAN J. McNABB

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to pay tribute to a leader and a warrior, General Duncan J. McNabb, commander of the United States Transportation Command. General McNabb is retiring after honorably serving this great Nation for over 37 years with a distinguished career.

General McNabb graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1974. As a command pilot, he has more than 5,600 flying hours in transport and rotary wing aircraft. In addition, General McNabb has held command and staff positions at squadron, group, wing, major command and Department of Defense levels and is considered the finest mobility and logistics expert in the Department of Defense.

I have had the pleasure of working with General McNabb from 2005 to 2007 when he assumed command of the Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base in the congressional district that I am privileged to represent and, again, when he returned to Scott Air Force Base to be the commander of USTRANSCOM in 2008.

USTRANSCOM is a critical part of our military operations. It provides the coordinated transportation, distribution and sustainment, which projects and maintains our national power. As a global combatant commander, General McNabb has made supporting the American warfighter his top priority.

□ 1110

Under General McNabb's leadership, USTRANSCOM has moved over 1.5 million passengers and over 4 million short tons of cargo in supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraq Freedom. To put this in perspective, this is the equivalent to moving the entire population of southwestern and southern Illinois and all of their household belongings halfway around the world. America truly has a military deployment and distribution system that is unmatched anywhere in the world.

Under General McNabb's command, USTRANSCOM has provided humanitarian relief to hurricane victims in the United States, earthquake victims in Haiti and Japan, and flood victims in Pakistan, just to name a few. The medicine, supplies, equipment, and personnel that USTRANSCOM has delivered in the wake of these and other natural disasters ultimately saved lives and eased human suffering.

In addition to conducting some of the largest military moves since World War II and providing unparalleled humanitarian relief, General McNabb has made it a priority to transform our Nation's deployment and distribution system, ensuring our ability to project national power where needed with the greatest speed and agility, the highest efficiency, and the most reliable level of trust and accuracy. As a USTRANSCOM commander, General McNabb actively took on the role of the distribution process owner for DOD, charged with improving efficiency and interoperability across the entire DOD supply chain. To meet the needs of the military and the Nation, General McNabb developed the Arctic overflight route and expanded multimodal logistics throughout the northern distribution network. He has improved combat readiness and capability while saving hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars. Troops and equipment are now arriving and leaving the battlefield faster and at less cost.

General McNabb will be the first to tell you he did not accomplish these feats alone. He led the way in seeking collaborative joint solutions to today's complex global distribution issues. Those who worked for him and with him, military and civilians from every branch of service, will miss his leadership and mentorship. They'll miss the stories and humor he used to get his message across. We in Congress will miss his straightforward approach and sound counsel. The Nation will miss his devotion to duty, ceaseless drive for improvement, and unwavering support to the men and women serving in our armed services.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize General McNabb for serving the Air Force with honor and distinction for 37 years. I also wish to recognize his wife, Linda, and wish her the very best in the future as well. The Air Force will lose not one but two exceptional people upon General McNabb's retirement.

General McNabb and Linda, we wish you well in your future endeavors and pray that those who follow in your footsteps may continue the legacy of unprecedented support for our great Nation.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 14 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray this day, O Lord, for peace in our world, that righteousness will be done and freedom will flourish.

The work of these days has concerned the interchange of goods, talent, and resources with other nations of the world. In Your wisdom You created many peoples and have asked us to live and work together so that all might know and experience Your blessings.

Send Your Spirit upon the Members of this people's House, that they might judiciously balance seemingly irreconcilable interests. Help them to execute their consciences and judgments with clarity and purity of heart so that all might stand before You honestly and trust that You can bring forth righteous fruits from their labors.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FORBES led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MILAN PUSKAR

(Mr. MCKINLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, this past week, West Virginia experienced a tremendous loss. Milan "Mike" Puskar, cofounder, former chairman and CEO of Mylan Labs in Morgantown and the namesake of WVU's Milan Puskar Stadium, passed away.

Mike was not only a visionary entrepreneur who grew Mylan into the largest generic drug manufacturer in America, but he also was a beloved philanthropist who was passionate about our Mountain State. He was an extremely committed supporter of West Virginia University and gave selflessly of his time and treasure to the academic and athletic programs there.

Milan had a kind heart and lived his life with the utmost integrity. The life he lived and the legacy he left behind have left West Virginia a better place for our children and grandchildren.

My wife, Mary, and I, as well as all West Virginians and Mountaineer fans across this country, will keep Mike and his family in our thoughts and prayers. He will be missed by all.

RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE IN EGYPT

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the violence in Egypt. Months after Muslims and Christians fought for democracy, religious violence continues to plague the country. Worse yet, in post-revolution Egypt, violence against Coptic Christians is rising.

This weekend, over two dozen people were killed in Cairo, most of them Coptic Christians. Demonstrators had gathered to protest the attack on a Coptic church and other Christian-owned properties. In response, military officials aggressively confronted protesters by driving vehicles into crowds and shooting off rounds of live ammunition. In the end, 26 people were dead and hundreds were wounded.

This brutal crackdown puts into great question the ability of the military government to bring democracy to Egypt and protect its minority Coptic population. These military attacks are unacceptable, and the resulting deaths are absolutely appalling.

The Coptic Christians simply want respect for their churches, their homes, and their basic rights. Democracy cannot thrive in Egypt if the rights of Coptic Christians are not respected.

The United States must do everything it can to pressure military leaders to end the violence, punish those

responsible, and uphold the equal rights of all Egyptian citizens.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DAVID A. DRAKE

(Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice and laid down his life for our freedom: United States Army Private First Class David A. Drake.

Private First Class Drake enlisted in the United States Army in January 2011. In the Army, he served as a combat engineer, leading from the front with his unit, the 515th Engineer Company, 5th Engineer Battalion, 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. On September 28, 2011, he gave his life in Ghazni province, Afghanistan, conducting operations against the enemy.

David is remembered not only for his heroics on the battlefield, but for the tremendous impact he had on his family, friends, and his community. His brother recalls David's absolute devotion to others in describing why he joined the Army. "For him, it was pride in serving our country, serving the people, keeping our freedom." His character and patriotism are an example for us all.

Private First Class David Andrew Drake personifies the honor and selflessness of service in the United States Army. His bravery and dedication to duty will not be forgotten. As a Marine Corps combat veteran, my deepest sympathies go out to his family, his fellow soldiers, and to all who knew him.

SENIORS TASK FORCE: ENTITLEMENTS AND THE SUPERCOMMITTEE

(Ms. MATSUI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for older Americans and pledge to protect the program they have paid into, have been promised and deserve.

Throughout much of the year, we have heard how Congress needs to cut Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security benefits under the guise of deficit reduction. I reject that premise.

I do so for Dale, a Sacramento resident, who, at 70 years old, recently retired with his wife. The dream of retirement went well for a short while, then utility and home repair bills started piling up. And if this weren't enough, both Dale and his wife have suffered deteriorating health, which has increased their medical bills to levels they cannot afford. Cuts to Medicare or Social Security would, as Dale

put it, "take from the poorest of the poor."

That is unacceptable. Any proposal to meet our deficit must meet the test of protecting our seniors.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

(Mr. FORBES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Prayer Caucus to note the importance of prayer in our Nation's history. On October 12, 1844, 167 years ago today, John Chambers, the Governor of Iowa Territory, issued a proclamation declaring a day of Thanksgiving to God.

Chambers said, in part, "I have deemed it proper to recommend a day of general Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the many and great blessings we enjoy as a people and individually, and of prayer and supplications for the continuance of His mercy and goodness towards us; and for the prosperity, happiness, and ultimate salvation of the American people.

"We are told that 'righteousness exalteth a nation' and are taught by divine authority that the voice of thanksgiving and prayer is acceptable to our Father in Heaven. Let us then unite our voices in the humble hope that they will reach the Throne of Grace and obtain for us a continuation and increase of blessings."

□ 1210

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT WEEK

(Ms. BASS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Physician Assistant Week, which is observed annually from October 6 through October 12.

On October 6, 1967, the first PAs graduated from Duke University. Today, more than 40 years later, legions of practicing PAs have reached the number of over 83,000, and 307 million patients visited PAs last year alone. I know firsthand the key role of the PA profession in the delivery of care. Before serving in office, I worked for nearly a decade as a PA and served as a clinical instructor who trained future PAs.

Created in response to a shortage of primary care physicians, the PA profession today is crucial to developing a strong primary care workforce. Not only do PAs provide high-quality, cost-effective care in virtually all health care settings, but PAs also extend the reach of medicine to underserved communities throughout the U.S. With health care reform expanding access to 33 million Americans, PAs are needed now more than ever.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark the final day of PA week, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the contribu-

tion, as well as the promise, of the PA profession.

FREE AMERICA TO TRADE FREELY WITH COLOMBIA

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the House today will vote on a jobs plan that will create thousands of jobs for Americans. I'm talking about the pending free trade agreement with Colombia that has been waiting for years to be voted on.

In my great home State of Texas, new jobs will be created in the exporting sectors like petroleum, chemicals, and machinery. Texas is the number one State that exports to Colombia, but in my district alone, the 22 companies that exported to Colombia last year paid almost \$12 million in unnecessary tariffs. When tariffs on these products are removed, United States companies will be able to expand their markets, export more products, and create American jobs; and America will become more of a competitive country in the international marketplace.

I've been to Colombia, and unlike some South Americans, Colombians like Americans. They are a U.S. ally. Free trade with Colombia helps both nations and solidifies our joint interests in South America. This agreement is a diplomatic win to help thwart the influence of dictator Chavez of Venezuela in that region.

Create jobs. Pass the free trade agreement with Colombia. It's good for Americans, and it's good for Colombians.

And that's just the way it is.

SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND MEDICAID

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare were created because they reflect the values of our country. We should be incredibly proud of these programs, which provide a vital safety net for our seniors, and we should commit ourselves to strengthening them.

There are seniors like Rita Manley, in my district, who depend on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Rita is 82 years old, suffering from cancer. She lives in Central Falls, Rhode Island. She was recently laid off from her job at the Central Falls Housing Authority, and relies on Social Security for income and Medicare to cover her medication, which costs about \$400 a month. Rita would not be able to afford her cancer medication without the support of Medicare.

We should do everything we can to protect and strengthen Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid for seniors like Rita all across this country. Our seniors deserve and have earned

the benefits provided in these programs. They deserve to live their retirement years with dignity. We should not ask seniors to sacrifice benefits before asking the wealthiest Americans and largest corporations to pay their fair share.

COMMEMORATING THE BOMBING OF THE USS "COLE"

(Mr. RIGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 39 wounded and the memory of the 17 killed who were aboard the USS *Cole* when it was attacked by terrorists this day 11 years ago. I have the privilege of representing Norfolk Naval Station, the home port of the USS *Cole*.

On the morning of October 12, 2000, the USS *Cole* was moored off the coast of Aden, Yemen. At around 11:18 a.m., a small craft approached the port side of the ship and exploded, ripping a 40-by-40-foot gash through the steel of the destroyer. The ship's galley, where the crew was gathering for lunch, took a direct hit.

The attack was organized and executed and planned by Osama bin Laden. In his death, justice was served, but at the dinner table of 17 American families, there sits an empty chair. What should be a joyous family gathering is tempered by the loss of a loved one.

So we pause today, and rightly so, to honor and remember those who stand boldly in defense of America, in defense of freedom. We must meet our deep obligation to them, to our veterans, and to the families of the fallen.

May God forever bless the crew and families of the USS *Cole*, past and present, and may God forever bless the United States of America.

REJECT PROPOSED BENEFIT CUTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND MEDICAID

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget would turn the American Dream into a nightmare for millions of senior citizens—eliminating Medicare, threatening Social Security benefits, and turning Medicaid into a block grant. Those same proposals are now being discussed in the Select Committee on Deficit Reduction.

Seniors are terrified, and they are speaking out against cuts—people like Debby from Wilmette, Illinois, a public school teacher whose husband was diagnosed with MS and was forced to sell his business at a loss. She says, "My husband only gets \$1,800 a month now. There is no way we will be able to keep our house and pay our bills. We are worried."

Or Nirlean from Chicago, who lives on her Social Security check. "Medicare helps with my medication. I'm liv-

ing month to month, and I always run out of food before the next month. I really miss getting the cost-of-living increase, because my rent takes half my income."

Let's listen to Debby and Nirlean and to millions of seniors. Let's reject benefit cuts.

LET'S PUT THE GULF BACK TO WORK

(Mr. PALAZZO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again urge the administration to issue drilling permits in the Gulf of Mexico in a more timely and efficient manner.

As demonstrated at today's Natural Resources hearing, there is a critical need to correct the regulatory backlog. The long-term effects of the moratorium and subsequent regulatory slowdown will lead to decreased development levels in the Gulf of Mexico, which will reduce oil and gas production levels and associated employment and economic activity in the Gulf South's economy. Recent reports show that up to 20 deepwater drilling rigs could leave the Gulf of Mexico due to the slow, uncertain pace of the permit process. Continued regulatory uncertainty will only exacerbate this trend as operators reallocate resources to other major offshore provinces.

President Obama has said over and over that jobs and the economy are the administration's number one priority.

Mr. President, the Gulf of Mexico sits ready to work. Let's put her to work for America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

AMPSURF

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Association of Amputee Surfers and its founder, Dana Cummings.

On Saturday, I participated in AmpSurf's sixth annual Operation Restoration on Pismo Beach in California. Together, disabled veterans and other people with disabilities took to the water and learned to surf with the help of the local surfers. This event proved that the power of the ocean can inspire, educate, and rehabilitate the disabled, especially our veteran warriors.

Earlier this year, I met one of those veteran warriors at Bethesda Naval Hospital. He was recovering from injuries he sustained from an IED attack in Afghanistan. Before he'd enlisted in the Marines, Cody had volunteered with AmpSurf right there on Pismo Beach. So it was a special treat to see

his mother at the beach on Saturday, supporting all those in the water as her son rehabilitates.

I know Cody and so many others are resolved and determined to get back out in the water, and they'll be able to do it with the help of AmpSurf. Cody's story brings AmpSurf's wonderful cause full circle.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring AmpSurf and what it does for our veterans and for those who share the powerful forces of sacrifice, perseverance, and healing.

□ 1220

IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN JOBS

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, the President has proposed the American Jobs Act to get people back to work. The bill will revitalize American manufacturing and invest in infrastructure to create jobs now.

It contains proven ideas for job creation that received bipartisan support, and economists agree. Mark Zandi at Moody's says passing this bill will create almost 2 million jobs and won't add a dime to the deficit.

So why aren't we passing the bill now? Sadly, last night, Senate Republicans stood with House Republicans to stop the American Jobs Act from even coming to a vote. In fact, in 40 weeks in which they have been in control of the House, Republican leaders have never called a vote on a jobs bill. It's time we put the country first in the face of this tough economy.

Last month, I welcomed some amazing World War II veterans to their memorial here in D.C., who shared with me their great challenges of their time, how they set their differences aside and pulled together for the good of the country. Now, Mr. Speaker, with the great economic challenges we face today, it is time for us to pull together for the good of the country.

PRAISING LAWRENCE COMPANY COTTONWOOD

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise a not-for-profit organization in Kansas that I recently visited. Cottonwood, located in Lawrence, Kansas, provides a valuable service to our country by establishing employment and living opportunities to individuals with developmental disabilities. Over the years, Cottonwood has earned a reputation for quality services and care as a community service provider.

At Cottonwood, workers help make a number of consumer products, including industrial-strength cargo straps

that are used by our troops here at home and overseas for a variety of purposes. Thanks to the workers at Cottonwood, our soldiers have a great and much needed tool to help them do their jobs and keep them safe.

Cottonwood is a shining example of the potential within every American that can be developed and maintained when local community groups couple with the private sector to create products at a good value for our American military and other consumers. I am proud to use my voice on the floor of the U.S. House to praise Cottonwood and other organizations who provide meaningful employment for Americans with disabilities across the United States.

FREE TRADE

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, as policy-makers, it is our job to learn from the mistakes of the past and not repeat them.

Nearly 700,000 American jobs have been lost as a direct result of NAFTA. In my district, the 43rd Congressional District, we have lost over 2,000 jobs since the passage of NAFTA and other trade agreements; and the United States has gone from a \$1.6 billion trade surplus to a \$97 billion trade deficit with Mexico. Yet we stand this week ready to pass three more NAFTA-style trade agreements: Korea, Colombia, and Panama.

My constituents face a 15 percent unemployment rate. They need us to create jobs, not shift them overseas where thousands of jobs will be sent.

I ask you, who benefits from these trade deals? Not the American working families. Major corporations are the ones who benefit with this misguided agreement.

This is a debate about the haves and the have-nots. It is time to stand up for working families. I say it's time to stand up for working families and do the right thing for the American people.

COMMEMORATING 9/11

(Mr. GARDNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, last month Americans around the country commemorated the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks. I had the honor and privilege to spend the day with some of the brave police, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and first responders that put their lives on the line every day to protect us from harm.

In Berthoud and then in Fort Collins, Colorado, I had the opportunity to speak with local firefighters and police as we remembered the tragedy of 10 years ago and the sacrifice and loss of so many lives.

The lapel pin that I have on this morning was lent to me by a friend of

mine, Ed Haynes. It's a pin given to New York Police Department police officers in the wake of September 11. An officer gave it to Ed in 2004.

The pin is a reminder of that day and the understanding that police officers and firefighters around the country share, the understanding that every day they go to work willing to give their own lives to save the lives of others.

As the 10-year anniversary of September 11 passed, we remembered the victims and the devastation, the fear and the anger of that time. But we also remember the unity, the sense of understanding that existed across the Nation in the days after that horrible tragedy.

The people that have observed September 11 over this past month, September 11 through today, the people that I saw that weekend, the firefighters, the police and the citizens, remember those days as well. And in today's political environment, we could do well to focus on how it should not require a national tragedy to bring us together.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, we talk a lot about our different concerns for the future of our Nation, but there is one gravely serious threat that exists in every single congressional district and could cripple future generations and the long-term strength of our Nation.

More than 12 million American citizens, children, 17 percent, are currently obese. In my home State of Kentucky, the number is even worse, with obesity affecting 37 percent of Kentucky kids. That's millions of children who are at a significantly higher risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer, millions at risk of having their dreams cut short and millions who may not get the chance to contribute all their potential to our Nation's growth.

I am proud to applaud the work of Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville, one of dozens of children's hospitals around the U.S. taking new steps to educate kids about the importance of eating healthy and getting active. Children's hospitals are essential allies in the battle to stop childhood obesity.

I urge my colleagues to support these initiatives and every effort to get our kids focusing on a fitter future.

PASS THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, unemployment numbers just came out for our country; and again we see the country at 9.1 percent unemployment. The

number one issue that we face here in this body and this government, I would argue, is jobs and the economy.

This week we have an opportunity to come together in a bipartisan fashion. The President has talked about the trade agreements with both South Korea, Colombia, and Panama; and I think this is an opportunity for us to be able to level the playing field to allow the American worker to win.

We know that if we level the playing field, the American worker can win; and we know that if we take South Korea alone, this is an opportunity for us to add \$10 billion to our GDP. For every billion dollars that we send in exports, we create 6,250 jobs right here at home. Seventy-three percent of the dollars are outside of the United States and 95 percent of the consumers.

We want to make sure that we're selling America abroad. This is an opportunity for us to put American workers back to work, try to lower the unemployment rate from 9.1 percent, and move the country forward.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together today and this week to pass the free trade agreements and move our country ahead.

OPPOSING THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

(Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, free trade deals are not an industrial policy. Unlike most industrial countries in the world, the United States is the only one that has no overall strategy for bringing back the 5 million manufacturing jobs that we've lost in the last decade or reopening the 50,000 factories that have been shuttered.

Without enforcing current trade laws, or pressuring China to adopt fair currency policies, or using U.S. taxpayer dollars to benefit U.S. companies, we are on the losing end of free trade before the deals are even negotiated. Where's the focus on industrial education? Where's the focus on requiring other countries to live up to their trade obligations? Where's the focus on making sure that U.S. taxpayer dollars are spent on U.S. jobs?

Now, I get the benefits of free trade, but come to Waterbury, Connecticut; New Britain, Connecticut; and Meriden, Connecticut, and what you will hear is a cry for help, not for more trade deals, but for a country that recognizes what every other developing industrial country has in this world, that we need a domestic industrial policy to protect and support our manufacturers here before we engage in free trade deals abroad.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR JOB CREATION

(Mr. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to job creation, the American people are not waiting for the right speech but, rather, the right leadership.

While the Obama administration claims to seek common ground on which to help employers hire workers, House Republicans have already produced and passed more than a dozen job-creating bills through the House this year. We're going to do that here later today with the three trade bills that will create 250,000 jobs.

Unfortunately, these measures have long been ignored by the Senate and the White House. Where was the leadership? If President Obama is serious about helping create jobs, then he must listen to what job creators are actually saying. More than anything else, they need long-term confidence that Washington will stop punishing them with reckless red tape and threatening them with new taxes.

House Republicans are ready to work with the President, but not if it means supporting policies that only work against job creators and job-seekers.

□ 1230

JOBS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Some few weeks ago, the President addressed this Congress in this Chamber about jobs and introduced the American Jobs Act. Something that would help small businesses, something that would help put policemen and firemen and teachers to work, something that would help rebuild schools, a bill that would appropriately put Americans back to work and address our problems, but the Senate killed it yesterday. We should have known, and we did know the Senate would kill it because Senator McCONNELL said right after the President was sworn in: Our main job is to see that he's not reelected.

The President is in support of these trade agreements. I'm not; he is. The Republicans are, but they don't give him credit for it. They condemn him today, the previous speaker, and yet he's for the trade agreements. He couldn't do anything for them. If he made them a kidney transplant, they'd want two. There's nothing he could do they'd think was right.

We need to create jobs. It's the main issue in my district and in this Nation. We need to work together to create jobs in America, and the millionaires need to pay their fair share.

JOBS

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, last night I was disappointed, although not

surprised, to see the Senate fail to arrive at the number of votes needed to bring cloture so that the American Jobs Act could be debated. They not only don't want to pass the jobs bill, they don't even want to debate the jobs bill. I thought that was an embarrassing moment for the U.S. Congress because, with 9.1 percent unemployment, with people who have been chronically unemployed for so long, one would think that we'd want to get down here and talk about jobs, bring forth our ideas, offer amendments, and do everything we could to try to help spur the American economy on. And yet we saw that jobs bill go down.

Mr. Speaker, the American people know that Congress can bring things up, and they can bring things up again. And as long as Americans are unemployed at the disgraceful rates that they are today, our Congress will never stop fighting to continue to bring jobs bills back to this Congress.

The Republican majority in this House has yet to bring a jobs bill. We hope to see one one day soon.

SUPPORT THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, passing the South Korea, Colombia, and Panama trade agreements will decrease our trade deficit and make it easier for U.S. companies to compete on a global level. Specifically, the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement levels the playing field for Texas exports and translates into a potential duty-free savings of \$180 million for this fast-growing regional market.

For example, in the district I represent, Texas 22, Schlumberger exported \$6.7 million in machinery parts to Colombia in 2010 and paid over \$336,000 in duty fees. In Texas 22 alone, over 107,000 jobs are directly supported by over \$57 billion in exports.

Free trade means more money—money that stays with the companies in America, money that can be used to expand American businesses and grow American jobs.

I urge my colleagues to level the playing field for American businesses by supporting these three free trade agreements. Let's export American goods and services, not American jobs.

CHINA CURRENCY MANIPULATION

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, the trade agreements are front and center for us right now. But I have to ask you: What are you waiting for?

We talk about deficits; we talk about debt; we talk about trade agreements; but what is it that really would have an impact, and that is if you would set

for hearing the whole concept of currency manipulation. We have got to address China's manipulation of its yuan.

I just came running over from HASC, the House Armed Services Committee, and one of the issues that was raised there was we've got to do something about the yuan. China is outbuilding us. China is going to try to take over the Pacific. China is building ships. China is doing all of these things that put our defense and our people at risk.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask you again: What are you waiting for? Let's hear that currency manipulation bill that has 226 of us, bipartisan support. Let's hear it. It's time to really come to grips with what is truly our problem, how this bill will then affect issues such as the deficit and the debt and increase our GDP. Think about it, Mr. Speaker.

JOBS

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, it's a very important day today.

Five hundred and nineteen years ago, Columbus discovered America. He was on a trade mission. But the problem is that today, instead of dealing with trade missions and all the rest, we ought to have the bill out here that the President presented on creating jobs for American workers.

Now, this Congress has been in session for 300-some-odd days. With the Republicans talking about all of the problems of this society and how the President's plan hasn't worked, they have yet to bring to this floor a presentation of a way to create jobs for American workers.

These trade agreements, they say, well, if we had a level playing field with Korea and all of these other places, suddenly we would have a lot of jobs here. There is a much better way and a much surer way to provide jobs here in this country. My predecessor here talked about manipulation by the Chinese of our currency, which has been estimated to cut out a million jobs. There are other things we ought to be doing today than these free trade agreements.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 12, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 12, 2011 at 9:11 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1619.
With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE
PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3078) to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) has 30 minutes remaining.

Mr. CAMP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

At this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. BERG), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. BERG. Mr. Speaker, we've been waiting for these trade agreements for a long time. Every day that goes by without them has been a missed opportunity. At a time when our economy is struggling, these trade agreements mean more opportunities for Americans. They mean more American exports. And, most importantly, they mean more American jobs.

We've already seen the benefits of trade in North Dakota. Our exports have more than doubled over the last 5 years because of our renewed commitment to free trade. These trade agreements before us today could increase exports by \$23 million in North Dakota alone and \$13 billion nationwide.

If we're serious about creating jobs, if we're serious about getting our economy back on track and allowing the U.S. to stay competitive in a fast-moving global market, passing these trade agreements is a critical first step. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting them.

□ 1240

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 1 minute to the very distinguished gentlelady from California (Mrs. CAPPs).

Mrs. CAPPs. I thank my colleague for yielding.

I rise today in opposition to the Colombia Free Trade Agreement. I oppose this bill for many reasons. First, Colombia does not yet meet the high standards we should be demanding of our trading partners. While Colombia has made admirable progress, trade unionists continue to be brutally murdered and attacked. This is unacceptable. We can't just look the other way and hope things get better.

Second, this agreement makes permanent the trade preferences that have absolutely devastated California's cut flower industry, which produces 80 percent of domestically grown flowers. This agreement continues millions of dollars in subsidies for Colombia flower

growers but provides no such support for our domestic growers. California's growers have developed a plan to cut costs and compete globally, but they can't do it alone. It's only fair that our domestic flower growers get a little help from their government, too. This FTA is a huge missed opportunity to help this valued domestic industry.

For these, and so many other reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS).

Ms. JENKINS. Thank you, Mr. Chair, for yielding, and thank you for your leadership in this area.

It has been nearly 5 years since we signed our trade agreement with Colombia, and although I'm disappointed that it took this long, I am so pleased we will be ratifying this agreement today. Once this trade deal has passed, we will finally have what our Trade Subcommittee chairman Representative BRADY has correctly labeled a "Sell American" agreement with the third-largest economy in South and Central America.

Exports of American goods will increase by more than \$1 billion, and the ITC expects our stagnant GDP will get a boost of at least \$2.5 billion, not to mention Kansas wheat farmers can look forward to an even larger share of the Colombian grain market.

It's been 5 years in the making, but we are finally here. I urge my colleagues to come together and support the pro-jobs, pro-growth Colombian Free Trade Agreement.

Mr. LEVIN. It is now my privilege to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished member of our committee, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I want to thank my friend and colleague Mr. LEVIN for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the United States-Colombia free trade agreement. Some of my colleagues do not believe that the issue of human rights and the issue of the rule of law should be addressed through our trade policy. Some believe it is not about stolen lands, ransacked homes. It is not about human rights activists whose families and friends were harassed and disappeared. It is not about murdered labor leaders. It is not about a crisis that is only comparable to Sudan.

Trade for the sake of trade. Money for the sake of money. Let someone else care. Let someone else do it. Let someone else work on the human rights. Let someone else fight for justice. Let someone else worry about peace, order, and tranquility. All we need to do is find the cheapest, fastest, and easiest way to make a buck.

My friends, we're mistaken to believe that this is not about us. But the crisis in Colombia affects every part of our

region. It affects millions forced from their homes. It helped to create the drug cartels and international gangs. It impacts the cost of crack and cocaine on every single street on America.

We cannot ask someone else to address the violence. We cannot leave the question of corruption and impunity to another leader, another generation. We must demand these answers now. If we don't, who will? It is up to us. We can do better. It is on our watch.

Mr. Speaker, today is a very sad day. We could have taken our time and done it right.

Today, we are abandoning our duty to the people who elected us and to millions of Colombians who now know that their cries fell on deaf ears and cold hearts. We can do better. We must do better. This Congress and this administration must have the courage to stand up and do what is right and be on the right side of history. It is a missed opportunity for change, for good, if we fail to do what is right.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK).

Mr. SCHOCK. First, I thank the chairman for his leadership in support of these agreements.

Let me say I agree with the President. The passage of the Colombia, Panama, and South Korea trade agreements will mean 250,000 new jobs at a time when our economy needs them most. But these trade agreements, Mr. Speaker, aren't just about new jobs. They're about the millions of Americans who rely on new markets and new customers. In my district in central Illinois alone, Illinois' farmers depend on customers in South Korea, in Panama, and in Colombia. And when the United States of America does nothing, we lose market share.

Five years ago, when this agreement was negotiated, Colombians purchased 60 percent of their wheat from the United States' farmers. Today, that number is 30 percent. It's costing jobs and it's costing opportunity here in our country. In manufacturing in my home area, Caterpillar, one of the major manufacturers of our country, employs a lot of high-wage union jobs, manufacturing jobs. Eight out of 10 of the tractors that are built in my district are sent to other customers around the world. With only 5 percent of the world's population in this country, it takes a pretty defeatist mentality to believe that our country would be better off not selling to the other 95 percent of the world.

Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives will pass a jobs bill, a jobs bill that can pass the House, a jobs bill that can pass the Senate, and a jobs bill, Mr. Speaker, that the President of the United States has already said he will sign into law. And this jobs bill, Mr. Speaker, does not require a tax increase. This jobs bill does not require us to go into debt. And this jobs bill has bipartisan support and is good

not only for current Americans, but more importantly, it's good for future Americans and the future generation of America.

I urge passage of these three bills.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 3 minutes to the ranking member on the Trade Subcommittee of Ways and Means, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we are all proud Members of the United States Congress. We consider this the preeminent legislative body in the world that sets the standard for how the world should create laws and how we should govern our country. We believe in the rule of law. We talk about it all the time. We're for the rule of law. Well, that is the nub of this argument about why so many of us will vote against the Colombian Free Trade Agreement.

Now, we all know the horrors. And we'll hear them repeated again and again. But the fact is that we forced the government of Colombia—President Obama did—to sit down and write a Labor Action Plan in which they said what they would do. We had listened for a couple of years to the previous administration, the Uribe administration; promise, promise, promise—nothing happened. So this President said, I want it in writing. Write down a labor agreement. It set out the precise steps that Colombia had to take to address the particular problems faced in that country; for example, steps Colombia could take to detect sham subcontractors and punish employers for using them to suppress worker rights.

□ 1250

We went down to very specific things. Why was that? Well, many of us who have been here awhile were here when we passed NAFTA. And we thought we had read it and understood what it meant, but we didn't understand a lot of what happened because we agreed that we wouldn't put the labor into the agreement; we would write a side letter. And we wouldn't put the environment into the agreement; we would put it in a side letter. Maquiladoras would be taken care of; the Rio Grande would be cleaned up.

Nothing happened because it wasn't in the agreement. It did not have the force of law of the United States Congress behind it.

So when we came to this, we didn't seal the deal. We said to the President, we want that in there. The President talked to the Republicans, and back and forth it went. And the Republicans were absolutely implacably opposed to putting in any mention of the Colombian Action Plan. Now, if somebody says they're going to do something, you take them at face value—sure they're going to do it. Then write it down here; just let's put it right in there so there's never any confusion

about what it was you said you were going to do. But the Republicans insisted that this be as wide open as the NAFTA agreement, that it not have built into it the one thing that makes this so difficult for us to deal with.

If we believe in workers' rights and if we believe in human rights in this place—and we talk about it all the time. We talk about it for every country in the world. But when we write a trade agreement for Colombia, we're unwilling to write in the demands for the Colombian workers. That's what's wrong with this, and that's why most of us will vote against it.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. QUAYLE).

Mr. QUAYLE. I want to thank the chair for his excellent leadership in this because it's taken 5 years too long, but finally the House will have the opportunity to vote on the three pending free trade agreements.

We have to understand that America competes in the global economy; and if we ignore this, we ignore it at our own peril. And while these free trade agreements have been languishing on the President's desk for 5 years, we have actually lost market share to the EU, to Canada. And those are the things that are going to keep our country from growing again.

Now, if you look at just the Colombia free trade agreement, since we have actually drafted that agreement, \$3.85 billion in unnecessary tariffs have been put on American products. When we actually have these free trade agreements in place, we're going to actually add to our economy and add to the jobs here in the United States.

In my home district, we have a very robust high-tech sector, and it's very heavily on trade. Last year, we had \$10 billion of trade going out in exports, and a lot of them have been going to countries that we actually have free trade agreements for. And 35,000 jobs are directly related to that.

So I think that this is a jobs bill. I urge my colleagues to support all three free trade agreements, and I urge their passage.

Mr. LEVIN. How much time remains on each side, please?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) has 23 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) has 25 minutes remaining.

Mr. CAMP. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this is just long overdue. This creates jobs. There is an issue that comes to the floor that has bipartisan support rarely these days. The Obama administration estimates this will create 250,000 new jobs. We agree. With respect to Colombia in particular,

they have free access to our markets, but we don't have free access to theirs. This gives us a level and equal playing field.

Colombia is our strongest ally in the region. Colombia has done so much to help stop the proliferation of drugs coming into this country. They've helped us at the U.N. More importantly, they want to buy our products. Where I come from, Mr. Speaker, we make things and we grow things. Twenty percent of all the manufacturing jobs in Wisconsin require exports; \$16.7 billion of our agricultural products in Wisconsin in 2009 were in exports, creating 200,000 jobs in Wisconsin alone. Ninety-five percent of the world's consumers, they're not in this country; they're in other countries. If you're standing still in trade, you're falling behind.

All our trading competitors are going around the world getting better agreements and better deals for their exporters, freezing us out. It's high time we pass these agreements to break down these barriers so that we can make and grow things in America and sell them overseas so we can create jobs. And that's exactly what these three agreements, especially Colombia, do; and I urge its passage.

Mr. LEVIN. It is now my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to a very active member of our committee from the great State of Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. I thank the gentleman.

We need a new, 21st-century trade policy that encourages more trade without encouraging a race to the bottom in conditions for our workers and in the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink.

Trade agreements should not be measured solely with regard to how many tons of goods move across a border, but they must consider the impact on how our workers are treated, how our environment is treated. And that's the very kind of trade policy that President Obama has said repeatedly he is committed to. Trade Adjustment Assistance is just not a substitute for a new trade policy that recognizes that too often American jobs have been a leading American export.

All three of these Bush-Cheney trade agreements are deficient. But this one in particular shows just how far those who think that the only thing that matters in trade policy is the volume of goods from one country to another, to the exclusion of everything else, how that narrow view insists today that we must have totally free trade with the trade union murder capital of the world. Yes, supporters of this free trade agreement have forgotten it's not free, it's not free to those who attempt to represent workers in Colombia.

Last year, 49 trade union members were murdered in Colombia. And this year, it's already up to 20. Human Rights Watch has just reported that there is virtually no progress in securing murder convictions. They got six

out of 195 union member murders that were actually convicted. In nine of 10 cases, the Colombians haven't even identified a suspect in these murders. You can talk of an action plan, and that's fine; but it's just like talk of a new trade policy. It's just talk and nothing else.

This amendment denies any enforcement provision on the Action Plan that would make it actionable. LULAC, the League of United Latin American Citizens, opposes this agreement, quite rightly calling for a new American trade policy that promotes living wages and sustainable jobs, encourages human rights, labor standards, and a healthy environment—not only here, but among each of our trading partners.

Instead, today's agreement emplaces the principle that violence against the very people who make the goods being traded will be disregarded, will be overlooked if only we can increase the trade volume of what they make.

Reject this misguided agreement.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say that obviously the murder of any citizen in any country is something to be avoided. But let's just set the record straight that the homicide rate since 2002 against union members has declined 85 percent in Colombia. I think this is an example that the efforts of the Colombian Government are succeeding. And the homicide rate for the general population has declined by 44 percent, and kidnappings as well have declined.

The ILO has also removed Colombia from their Labor Watch List. They did that in 2010, recognizing their collective bargaining rules, recognizing the measures they've adopted to combat violence against trade union members. And so we have a very different picture being painted by the reality there.

I would also point out that three main labor confederations have called the Labor Action Plan the most significant social achievement in Colombia in 50 years.

With that, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART).

□ 1300

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. I want to thank Chairman CAMP not only for that great explanation that he just gave, but for bringing this bill to the floor.

Look, I keep hearing a lot about the horrors of Colombia. A couple of facts:

Because of the Andean trade pact preferential act, Colombian goods that come to the United States already basically come almost tariff-free. This would even it out so our products, created by American labor here, can go to Colombia with the same preferential treatment, fact number one.

And fact number two, the chairman just talked about this. I keep hearing about this Colombia, which is really, frankly, a caricature, an offensive caricature of what Colombia really is, as if

we can just throw those things out there pretending that it doesn't mean anything. Colombia is a democratic ally, Mr. Speaker. They have taken incredible steps to move forward to lower violence, to lower crime, to lower narco-trafficking. They're even now training police forces across the world, including Mexico, in their fight against narcoterrorism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DREIER). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CAMP. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, it's an offensive caricature of Colombia, a democratic ally, a place that is fighting for democracy and for freedom and for due process and the rule of law. We should recognize it, commend them, thank them for being such an ally, for being a democracy.

Mr. Speaker, isn't it ironic that a lot of the people that want to do business with Castro's Cuba, where labor unions aren't even permitted, complain about Colombia because they are a democracy, because they're an ally, because they're doing the right thing. Let's pass this commonsense thing.

Let's also thank the President for finally doing what he said he was going to do a long time ago when he said that it was time to pass this.

It's better late than never, Mr. President, but thank you for finally sending it.

Mr. LEVIN. It is now my privilege to yield 1 minute to our distinguished leader, the gentlelady from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his great leadership on protecting American workers while promoting the global economy which we are proudly a part of.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as we consider the Colombia free trade agreement, to make the following statement:

Much has been said about this agreement creating 6,000 jobs in the United States—6,000 jobs. Now, we want to fight for every single job for the American people. But it is ironic or strange to hear a big fuss about we have to do this because it's going to create 6,000 jobs, when the leadership of this body is totally ignoring the fact that we are losing 1 million jobs—1 million jobs—because of the China currency bill.

When it was discussed that these bills would be brought to the floor, many of us said we shouldn't even be considering these bills: 6,000 for Colombia, perhaps 70,000 for Korea, maybe 1,000 for Panama, 77,000 jobs. That's significant if, in fact, those numbers really bear out. But let's assume they do for a moment.

We're making a big deal out of 77,000 jobs, which are a big deal. But how much bigger a deal is it to say we're ignoring the fact that we are losing over 1 million jobs per year because of the China manipulation of their currency?

The distinguished Speaker has said, if we push this bill, we will start a trade war with China. My, have I heard that song before. Many of us have been fighting for a better relationship with China in terms of our trade relationship, and for at least two decades we've been fighting for opening of our markets to China to stop the piracy of our intellectual property. The list goes on.

But this manipulation of currency, okay, the Speaker says we're going to start a trade war. Twenty years ago, when we started this debate, following Tiananmen Square, our trade deficit with China was \$5 billion a year. We tried to use our leverage with most favored nation status to get the Chinese to open their markets, stop pirating our intellectual property, et cetera, and everybody said, if you do that, you will start a trade war. Just let the natural course of events take place.

Well, we didn't start a trade war. But do you know what China's surplus with the United States is today, what our deficit is with China? \$5 billion a year two decades, 20 years ago when we fought this fight and lost. It's now \$5 billion per week, over—more than \$5 billion a week. Over a quarter of \$1 trillion in surplus does the Chinese Government enjoy in their relationship with the United States.

So you're telling me that if we say, "We want you to act fairly in terms of your currency," that they're going to give up a quarter of \$1 trillion in surplus, much bigger exports to the United States, but in surplus.

This manipulation of currency is the subsidy of the Chinese Government for their products. By subsidizing their exports, they make it uncompetitive for us, not only in the U.S.-China bilateral trade relationship, but also in the global marketplace where we have to compete. Our exports have to compete with China's exports, and they have subsidized their exports on the manipulation of about 25 percent of their currency, 25 percent manipulation.

This is just not fair; a million U.S. jobs. So when our colleagues make a fuss about 6,000, every one of them is precious to us, yes, but why are we missing in action when it comes to a million jobs if 6,000 jobs are so important? And I agree, they are.

Last night in the Senate, they passed this legislation. They passed legislation to take action if China continues to manipulate their currency. We shouldn't even be talking about any trade bills until we do the same. They're not voting on Colombia, Korea, and Panama before they voted on China. They did that. They staked their claim for the American workers.

The Speaker says we're going to start a trade war. The Chinese Government started a war with America's manufacturing sector a long time ago. They've undervalued their currency, as I've said. They've violated intellectual property rights. They've subsidized target industry. They've dumped their products into our country. This is a

one-way street to the disadvantage of American workers.

Look, many of us, when we grew up, we dug a hole in the sand at the beach and we said we were going to reach China if we were digging far enough, if we dug far enough. It's a country that we want to have a brilliant relationship with culturally, economically, politically, in every possible way, economically, too.

But when are we going to call a halt to something that is so obvious? We're talking about not an 800-pound gorilla, an 8-ton gorilla that is lying on the floor of this House that we want to ignore so we can talk about 6,000 jobs and 70,000 jobs, which are important. I don't want to minimize that. But why are you minimizing a million jobs at least that would be affected?

It's funny to me because when we were having the fight on most favored nation status for China, we were winning every vote; we just couldn't override the Presidential vetoes. And so they had to change the name. You've heard the expression, PNTR. Do you know what that means? It went from most favored nation, which they said that sounds—we can't win that argument, to permanent normal trade relations.

You know what that means? Surrender all your leverage in the trade relationship. Surrender because this is a permanent normal trade relationship. So when specific things come up like the manipulation of currency—and, by the way, other Asian economies peg their currency to China's currency; so we're getting an onslaught of this. It's really, really important for us to say: Whom are we here for? Whom are we representing?

□ 1310

We have a Make It In America agenda to grow and to strengthen our industrial and manufacturing base in our country. Exports are essential to our success economically. Small businesses are essential to the success of our economy. Small businesses want to export as well. But why are we saying to small business people, to our industrial workers and to our manufacturing base, you are now going to go into an arena which we have subscribed to that makes you engage in an unfair relationship because we will not speak out against this manipulation of currency?

Sixty-one Republicans are cosponsors of the bill. It has bipartisan support. The Senate has passed the bill overwhelmingly with bipartisan support. They took it up first as a premise planting a flag, staking a claim for the American worker before they went on to consider other trade agreements. Why can't we do that in the House? I think we should call a halt to voting on any of these things until we say to the American worker, we're on your side. We're on your side when it comes to these trade agreements.

We recognize that trade is very important to us. President Kennedy is

part of the legacy of all of us here talking about America as important in the world economy and free trade. Fair trade, I like to think, is part of that. But after 20 years of violations of our intellectual property, subsidizing their projects—the list goes on and on—we just sit by and say we're going to start a trade war if we do something about the war on America's manufacturers that the Chinese already have done.

Remember, 20 years ago, they made the same claims, \$5 billion a year. How did that work out for us? Today, \$5 billion a week at least. So the Chinese are going to walk away from a quarter of a trillion dollars in profits? I don't think so. Let's stop riding that tiger. Let's do the right thing for our workers. Let's not even consider any of these trade agreements.

Since we're talking about Colombia, I want to say the following. I really wanted very much to be able to vote for this legislation. I was very hopeful when the two governments, Colombia and the U.S., negotiated the U.S.-Colombian action plan related to labor rights. They addressed labor concerns to start the process of ending the abuses. But that didn't happen. The administration was advocating for this, but the leadership in the Congress said, no, and leadership in this House said no, we're not going to put language in the bill, the language that the two governments negotiated to address the labor concerns. If it's not in the bill, it doesn't exist. If we're going to implement this action plan, it has to be part of the legislation, or else we're just saying it's an incidental, it's something on the side. That's not fair to the workers in Colombia or to the workers in the United States.

So when the commitment made by our government and Colombia to each other was not included in the bill, I lost my faith in the legislation. I hope that today we can get a vote on China's manipulation of currency, get a Colombia free-trade agreement that can work for Colombian workers and U.S. workers, and get a trade policy that recognizes that it's a competitive world. We intend to be number one, we intend to be innovative, and we intend to educate our workforce so that our entrepreneurial spirit can prevail. It could be a very exciting time—something new and something fresh, instead of reverting to the same old same old ways.

So I urge my colleagues to urge the leadership of this House to take up the China currency bill before we consider any other trade bills.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the lead chief Democrat cosponsor of the bill we're considering today, the Colombia trade promotion agreement, Mr. FARR of California.

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. I thank the chairman for yielding.

I rise in support of this agreement. Look, Colombia is a very important

country to us. It has a lot of problems, but it has incredible potential. Colombia is a big country. It's the 20th-largest trade partner with the United States. It's our best ally in Latin America. It was the oldest democracy in Latin America, the first country to accept Peace Corps. It allowed an Air Force base to be built in Colombia. Other countries haven't allowed that. They fought alongside of us and are now fighting alongside of us in Afghanistan. They help us with Mexico drug cartels by teaching the Mexican national police and military how to handle those cartels.

It's the first country to adopt a labor action plan. And let me speak to that. That labor action plan was adopted this year on April 11. You're going to hear a lot of complaints—well, it hasn't moved fast. It's only been in effect 6 months. It's already been able to organize the grocers into unions and other big industries into unions. It's the strongest labor plan ever adopted in the history of the United States trade agreements. And that's not my opinion; that's the opinion of the Secretary of Labor of this country. It's the opinion of the Congressional Research Office.

And, frankly, a lot of people say, oh, this is another NAFTA. No. No. No. It's not NAFTA. NAFTA didn't have the ILO declaration on fundamental principles and rights at work and the follow-up provisions. This is the Peru free trade agreement which we passed. It has that right here under article 17, and this is the Colombian free trade agreement. They are exactly the same. The principles are the same. Number 2 reads, effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining—effective recognition. That means that anything that stops that can be brought under this agreement, an action against the country.

So, look, you'll hear arguments today that it will create a loss of jobs. There's going to be a loss of jobs if we don't do this. Do you know that we have made a free trade agreement with every single country in Latin America except Colombia, Panama, and Ecuador? Every one of them, none of them with these labor protections. These will be the strongest. But if we don't lift those trade barriers, all the products that we send to Colombia have a tariff on them. All those other countries, they don't. All of the European countries that are entering into a free trade agreement with Colombia don't have it. Canada doesn't have it. So guess what? We're going to lose the jobs of people who make things here and send them there because it's going to be too expensive to buy them in Colombia. So we don't want to lose those jobs. We want to grow those jobs. And there's a great market in Colombia to do that.

They say union workers are not protected, and they're not allowed to organize. That's not true. In fact, the only country that counts the crimes against

labor unions is Colombia. It's the only country that has set up a ministry just to handle those crimes. And some say, oh, they haven't prosecuted enough. Some of those crimes were committed in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, it's old, old hard evidence. It's hard to figure out who did it. But they have people assigned to it, they have investigators, they have judges, and they have prosecutors. They've worked those out with the Colombian labor unions as to what crimes do you want us to go after first? They're working with the unions. A lot of unions are in support of this free trade agreement because of the labor standards that we've required them to adopt.

So I would submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that the provisions in this Colombian free trade agreement are the strongest labor provisions in any U.S. free trade agreement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CAMP. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. FARR. If we're going to encourage progress—we're investing a lot of money in Colombia, we have Peace Corps volunteers in Colombia—if we're going to encourage growth of U.S. industries and markets in South America, and if we're going to really deal with the culture of poverty, then we have to encourage a strong future for both countries. And the only way to do that is to assure the adoption of this agreement.

Most agricultural groups across the state of California are strongly supportive of all three FTAs.

They understand that the FTAs will generate new export opportunities in their sector.

However, the California cut flower industry grows over 80% of the domestically grown flowers, supporting over 10,000 jobs and contributing \$10 billion to the California economy.

They have real concerns about the pending Colombia FTA.

Our cut flower farmers are the group most adversely impacted by free trade with Colombia.

And I have been working hard to mitigate the impact of the FTA on their industry.

To their great credit, our California flower farmers do not oppose the FTA.

Together, they have developed a transportation and logistics center.

This will cut shipping costs by 22–34 percent, according to a new study by USC.

This would help level the playing field and restore competitiveness with Colombian farmers, who have received hundreds of millions of dollars in assistance from their government and ours over the past 20 years.

As reference I will point out that from 2002–2010, Colombian exports to the U.S. increased 89%.

In the same time span, the number of acres dedicated to cut flower production in the U.S. declined by 22%.

The Obama administration knows that I am a strong supporter of the Colombia FTA, and I am proud to be leading the charge in the House to pass it.

However, I have also made it very clear that I will continue to fight for funding for the new

transportation center that is vital to California cut flower farmers.

I am optimistic that this vital U.S. industry that provides 20% of flowers sold to U.S. consumers will soon get the federal assistance that it needs to thrive over the long term.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 2 minutes to another member of our committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Colombia trade bill.

Trade agreements must be balanced, facilitating reciprocal two-way trade between nations. It's absolutely necessary that we also take into consideration small, family-owned, domestic industries that are sensitive to cheap foreign imports. Unfortunately, the Colombia trade bill falls flat in accomplishing these goals.

□ 1320

For more than 20 years, Colombia has benefited from the duty-free access to the U.S. market under the Andean Trade Preference Act. At the same time, some Colombian industries have received big government subsidies from the Colombian Government, and sometimes our own U.S. foreign aid dollars benefit them. These policies have slowly eroded one of California's most unique and innovative industries.

California is home to the vast majority of domestic cut-flower growers in the United States of America. They account for more than 10,000 jobs across our State and represent hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity every year. Because of these failed trade policies, Colombia now has a stranglehold on 75 percent of the U.S. cut-flower market, creating a marketplace dominated by cheap foreign flowers, produced with cheap, unregulated labor. This puts our small family-owned businesses at an extreme disadvantage.

You can't tell me that it's cheaper to import flowers from Colombia than it is to grow them in our own backyard. I drive through northern California on a very regular basis and see collapsed, dilapidated, and unused greenhouses littering the small towns and rural communities of California. It's clear this industry has taken a major hit over the last few decades due to this flawed trade policy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. As we see more and more flower farms and greenhouses closing all over California, this reminds us of the last time we did business with Colombia. This agreement is anti-family business and it's anti-American jobs. I urge a "no" vote on the Colombia trade bill.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. I want to thank Chairman CAMP and Chairman BRADY for their leadership in moving the three pending free trade agreements that are long overdue for our consideration.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support the passage of all three pending trade agreements. Passing the Colombian agreement would not only create jobs in the U.S. but would signal our dedication to a faithful and strategic ally.

During my service in the U.S. Army, I ran Army flight operations with the Multinational Force and Observers-Sinai while serving jointly with the Colombian military. That was over 25 years ago. In watching the changes that have taken place, Colombian troops are still serving in peacekeeping roles, and they're serving internationally now in counterinsurgency and counternarcotic roles around the globe.

In 20 years Colombia has gone through an incredible economic, social, and democratic transformation. They are a robust democracy with strong ties to the United States in a region that includes increasingly anti-American governments, especially Venezuela. Let's strengthen these ties and eliminate any concern about America's reliability as a partner by ratifying the Colombian trade agreement.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Colombia free trade agreement for the job creation potential it brings to our struggling economy and especially to improve our national security in the Western Hemisphere.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished Member from Nevada, a member of our committee, Ms. BERKLEY.

Ms. BERKLEY. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding me the time.

I rise today to talk about what should be Congress' top priority—jobs, jobs, jobs. The economic downturn has hit my State of Nevada particularly hard, and families are still struggling with record unemployment.

Instead, today, we are debating the job-killing Colombia free trade agreement that will result in more good-paying American jobs being shipped overseas. In fact, this trade agreement, taken together with the Panama and the Korean trade agreements, will cost our Nation over 200,000 more jobs.

How much more job loss can Nevadans be expected to absorb before we stand up and say enough is enough?

Congress needs to get our priorities straight. Job creation needs to be our top priority. We must create a level playing field for the American worker. Last night, the Senate took a step in that direction by voting to stand up to the Chinese Government, whose unfair currency manipulation has cost our Nation over 3 million jobs in the last decade, including over 14,000 jobs in the State of Nevada alone. The House should be following suit. Instead of focusing on a trade agreement that will

send more Nevada jobs to foreign countries at a time when we can least afford it, we should reject these job-killing trade agreements and pass the China currency manipulation bill.

Let's get on with the job of Congress, which is to create jobs for the American people, for the American worker.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I do understand the concern that my very good friends have expressed on the Democratic side about the threat of violence in Colombia and the loss of jobs in America. What I don't understand is how voting against this trade agreement helps on either front. A "no" vote does nothing to create more jobs in America or, in fact, to reduce the level of violence in Colombia.

The fact is that the rate of violence in Colombia has been cut in half. The murder of trade union members is down by 80 percent. College enrollment is up by 50 percent. 90 percent of children are in school now. Poverty is down by 25 percent. Why? In large part because of the \$8 billion in Plan Colombia we provided.

Now the Colombian Government wants to show its appreciation for our investment in Colombia's future by letting us share in their new prosperity. It's difficult to do that, though, when Colombia has average tariff barriers of 9 percent, with agriculture at 17 percent. The U.S. has virtually no tariff barriers, so this is a one-way street going in our direction, this trade agreement.

The share of U.S. imports, though, to Colombia, as a total amount of their imports, has dropped from 21 percent to 9 percent; and that's because of the trade agreements Colombia has been able to sign with Argentina, Brazil, Canada, and others; and they're about to further eat into American jobs by signing a trade agreement with the European Union. We in America made the investment to help Colombia become less violent, more democratic and more prosperous; and now we want to disengage rather than reap the benefits of producing jobs, products and services in America for export to Colombia.

It seems to me my very good friends on the Democratic side should support our President, who is doing everything he can to create jobs here. He understands when other countries, don't have tariff barriers that we have to overcome we can produce and sell more products and services to those countries and generate more jobs in this country. That's what we ought to be about. It seems to me a "yes" vote on all three trade agreements is the right thing to do.

Mr. LEVIN. How much time remains, please, on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) has 14½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) has 15 minutes remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 2 minutes to another distinguished member of our committee, Mr. KIND from the great State of Wisconsin.

(Mr. KIND asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the gentleman from Michigan's allotment of time.

I rise in strong support of the three trade agreements before us today: the Colombia agreement, Panama, as well as South Korea. Let me explain why.

For too long, I feel the United States has been standing on the sidelines while other countries have been moving on without us in opening up market share and establishing bilateral/multilateral agreements with them.

In the specific case of Colombia, because of our inability to be able to come together and pass a trade agreement, in the last year alone we've lost close to 50 percent market share with agricultural products that we would normally be exporting in the Colombian market. Being from the State of Wisconsin, obviously the agriculture sector is immensely important; and the longer we delay in passing these measures, the more we're going to be precluded from the market.

Also Mr. Speaker, I rise and share the concern of so many of my colleagues today in regard to labor rights in Colombia, but I think the Colombia of today is not the Colombia of 10 years ago or even of 5 years ago.

□ 1330

And much to the credit of the ranking member on Ways and Means, Mr. LEVIN, who worked tirelessly to make sure that we had a Labor Action Plan to work with Colombia to improve labor rights and protections, he thinks it should be a part of the body of the agreement. I think it's being implemented as we speak now, and it's not necessary, but the Santos administration realizes it's in their best interest to do more to enhance labor rights and protections in Colombia. I think a large part of the credit deserves to be given to the gentleman seated next to me here today, Mr. LEVIN.

We're just 4 percent of the world's population. Of course we've got to have a proactive trade agenda. The question is whether we're going to be a member of a rules-based trading system or not, because we are going to be trading with these countries one way or the other. These trade agreements now have core international labor and environmental standards in the bulk of the agreement, fully enforceable with every other provision.

That is an attempt to elevate standards upwards rather than seeing this race to the bottom that so many of my colleagues are concerned about. That's the question I think that's before us today involving Colombia, Panama, and the larger market, South Korea, is whether we're going to move forward on trade agreements that have been

much improved with the current administration, having inherited from the last, or whether we will continue to move forward without any rules with those countries. They already have virtual unlimited access to our market but we face restrictions to theirs. These trade agreements will fix that.

I would urge my colleagues to support all three trade agreements.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished chairman of the Agriculture Committee, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS).

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my support for this free trade agreement on behalf of America's farmers and ranchers.

All three free trade agreements under consideration today are essential for our Nation's agricultural industry. Out of every \$100 in agricultural sales, more than \$25 comes from exports. So market access is critical to the success of our farmers and ranchers.

Colombia is particularly important to our producers because without a free trade agreement in place, we have begun to lose market access. Tariffs on American goods have made them more expensive and Colombians are choosing to buy other countries' products instead. Lost market access means lost income, lost jobs, and we cannot afford that.

Right now Colombia imposes duties on all American agricultural products. They range from 5 percent to 20 percent. Yet we still sell more than \$830 million in agricultural products there. That's because America's farmers and ranchers produce high-quality crops and livestock, and those goods are in demand.

Under this agreement Colombia will eliminate tariffs on 70 percent of our exports. We can be sure that when American agricultural products are no longer subject to tariffs and become more cost competitive, we'll see substantial benefits. In fact, the Farm Bureau estimates we'll see 370 million more dollars in farm exports to Colombia annually.

While our farmers and ranchers will benefit from increased market access, they will not be alone. Farm exports create jobs throughout the economy in processing, packaging, transportation, just to name a few industries. A vote to pass the Colombia free trade agreement is a vote for job growth in all these sectors. It's a vote to create income and opportunity for our farmers and ranchers.

So I strongly urge my colleagues to support this free trade agreement and help keep America's agricultural industry competitive.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from California, MAXINE WATERS.

Ms. WATERS. I thank my friend from Michigan, Congressman SANDER LEVIN, for the time.

I rise to oppose this so-called free trade agreement. I find it deeply disturbing that the United States Congress is even considering a free trade

agreement with a country that holds the world's record for assassinations of trade unionists and would cause a loss of 55,000 jobs in the United States.

The Congressional Black Caucus has been working hard to create jobs. We've held job fairs in five cities in the country. We have been working hard to create jobs because the unemployment rate in this country is unacceptable: 9.1 throughout the country, 11.3 for Latinos, 16 percent for African Americans. We need jobs, not an unfair trade agenda.

Additionally, according to Colombia's National Labor School, 51 trade labor unionists were assassinated in 2010. That's more than the rest of the world combined. In addition, 21 unionists survived attempts on their lives, 338 unionists received death threats, 35 were forcibly displaced, 34 were arbitrarily detained, and 7 just disappeared in 2010. Another 23 unionists have been assassinated so far this year, and a total of 2,908 union members have been murdered in Colombia since 1986. And the Colombian Attorney General's Office has not obtained any convictions for these murders for the past 4 years.

The people of Colombia don't need a free trade agreement; they need a government that respects the rights of all of its citizens.

Let's vote down this trade agenda and tell the Government of Colombia that there can be no free trade without human rights and human dignity.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

Mr. MEEKS. I thank the chairman for his work and I thank the ranking member.

Let me start off by thanking Mr. LEVIN also, because indeed I know he's been back and forth to Colombia, and he's made this a better trade bill with the action plan. And it was your hard work and dedication, Mr. LEVIN, and I thank you for doing that.

Yesterday, I had a chance to talk briefly on the floor in regard to the economics of it, and I'm hearing a lot of people talk about the past of Colombia, but not some of the things that are taking place on the ground right now. I have heard a lot of individuals talk about how it may be devastating in reference specifically to the African Colombian community.

But let me bring some facts to the issue, because I think oftentimes when I looked and talked to President Santos and the civil rights struggle right here in America, I see some similarities that we've got to think about because there's some positive things, a lot of positive things that happen on the floor.

For example, for the first time we have the Victims and Land Restitution Law in Colombia that was passed by the Government of Colombia. We have at the Presidential program on Afro-Colombians. We have the development projects. We have the mining and prior consultation law. We have addressing

discrimination law that has been passed. We have the Afro-Colombian and Indigenous Program that has been passed by the Colombian legislature. We have the Afro-Colombian leadership and scholarship program. We have the Martin Luther King scholarship program. We have the Equal Employment Opportunity initiative. All of this is done by the Santos government. We have the Pathways to Prosperity Women Entrepreneurs Mentoring Network. We have 400 scholarships for Afro-Colombian police. We have the emergency humanitarian assistance programs. These are just some of the programs that are happening on the ground right now that are benefiting African Colombians.

When you talk about the leadership there, because I'm getting letters back and forth, this is a diverse leadership in Colombia. This is a diverse leadership here in America.

And just as the goal is to make sure that we enact certain things into laws so that we can make changes to make it better for people for tomorrow, that is what President Santos has been doing. That's what has happened, and that's what is happening.

Some say Santos is not going to carry it out. When Lyndon Baines Johnson became President, some said he wouldn't do anything.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CAMP. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. MEEKS. But he did. He came with some of the most landmark legislation with reference to civil rights and voting rights in the history of this country, the same thing that I see happening right now on the ground with President Santos. Landmark, for the first time ever, legislation addressing the rights of African Colombians; and because of the work of Mr. LEVIN, also landmark rights addressing the rights of all in labor.

I think that it's a positive thing and we should pass this Colombia free trade agreement because we are moving in the right direction. We're not there yet, but we're moving in the right direction.

□ 1340

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I have listened carefully to this debate, and I know that my good friend Mr. LEVIN and my friend Mr. CAMP have worked to try to craft an agreement that they feel is in the best interest of this country. But this debate cannot pass without pointing out some facts that concern those of us who are opposed to this.

According to Global Trade Watch, Colombia is the world capital for violence against workers, with more unionists killed every year than in the rest of the world combined. Unionist murders have been growing from 37 in

2007 after the deal was signed to 51 in 2010, even though Colombia has been under maximum security. Only 6 percent of the nearly 2,680 unionist murders that have occurred have been prosecuted to date.

The deal doesn't require Colombia to end the unionist murders or bring past perpetrators to justice to obtain special trade privileges. Colombian unions oppose the deal and agree with U.S. unions that a recent action plan will not fix this horrific situation.

Colombia has the highest number of displaced people in the world, outpacing even Sudan because of forced displacement and land grabs, often with Colombian military involvement.

Now, I know there has been an attempt to try to address these, but I think that we have to get the Government of Colombia to answer these things first before we pass a trade agreement, and I don't believe that they have sufficiently done that. In particular, they haven't brought to justice those who are responsible for the murder of all of these unionists.

I think, as a country which supports the right of people, freedom of association, the right of free speech, if we do not stand for them in these trade agreements, then we can expect the same kind of conduct to occur. This is a concern I have, notwithstanding what I know are the honest, good-faith efforts of my colleagues who support this, even though I don't. I urge the bill's defeat.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Kansas (Mr. YODER).

Mr. YODER. I thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

As my colleagues have listened to this debate today, and as we listen to our constituents at home, our constituents are asking us to focus on one thing—jobs. We've talked about a lot of issues today. We've talked about unions. We talked about all sorts of issues; but at the end of the day, the American people are asking us to focus on jobs.

These trade agreements allow American companies to export more products to Colombia. They level the playing field, and they create jobs back here at home in America. Colombia is the third largest U.S. export market in Latin America; and for farmers and companies in places like Kansas, exports have grown over 667 percent in the last 13 years, even with the one-sided tariffs that Colombia is currently imposing. If we level the playing field, allow companies in Kansas and across the country equal access to Colombian markets, exports will go up, as will the jobs those exports create.

Mr. Speaker, every day we don't pass these agreements we are falling behind, and our companies and our workers are at a disadvantage. If our top priority is jobs, then it's time to open up these markets, put our businesses on a level playing field, and create jobs at home as opposed to exporting them overseas.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Does the gentleman from Michigan have any additional speakers?

Mr. LEVIN. I think not. I'm going to sum up myself.

Mr. CAMP. At this time I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. CANSECO).

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be able to cast my vote in support of the Colombia free trade agreement, even though it has taken almost 5 years to get a vote on it. I thank Chairman CAMP, Chairman DREIER, and Chairman BRADY for their leadership on this cause.

The Colombia free trade agreement is important for several reasons. First, it will create jobs here in the United States. The International Trade Commission has estimated this will increase U.S. exports to Colombia by over \$1 billion. It will grow our Nation's economy by over \$2 billion and create thousands of new jobs here at home.

In the case of the 23rd District of Texas, the Colombia free trade agreement is of particular importance as I have a great deal of agriculture in my district and more than half of current U.S. agricultural exports to Colombia will become duty free immediately and almost all remaining tariffs gone after 15 years. This agreement is also important as it demonstrates our commitment to a steadfast ally in Latin America against oppressive regimes like Hugo Chavez's Venezuela.

Fundamentally, this agreement is about the economic freedom of the American people to be able to have a wide array of choices and to pay less for those choices because of the power of trade and competition.

Mr. LEVIN. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. At this time I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of all three free trade agreements that will be on the floor today.

In an era where we have a near-constant supply of Federal bailouts and stimulus packages and Federal spending, it is refreshing that Congress is doing today what it should be doing, and that is creating an environment in a bipartisan way under which businesses can create jobs and the economy can flourish. It's the appropriate role of Congress to take these kinds of steps, to simply create an environment and then step out of the way and let businesses create these jobs.

Arizona alone had more than \$15 billion worth of merchandise exports in 2010. More than half was exported to countries with which we have free trade agreements. These three free trade agreements today will only expand the opportunities for that to increase. These arrangements will allow the private sector to create thousands of new jobs and strengthen the economy in the long term.

Again, that is the appropriate role for government, to create an environment where the private sector can create jobs. That's what free trade agreements do. That's why I'm pleased to support these agreements today.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I advise my colleague that I have no further requests for time.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Let me be clear what's at stake here on the Colombia FTA. I feel so deeply about it. Free trade agreements set the terms of competition between nations. It's more than about the mathematical flow of goods. The conditions for workers in the country we trade with are fundamental to that competition. Workers in Colombia have long been without their basic worker rights. More than any other democracy in the globe, there have been extreme levels of violence against workers and their leaders. There's been a universal, really, a universal lack of justice for murders of union activists. And there have been extensive flaws in Colombia's labor law and its practices.

These conditions and the insistence of Democrats that they be effectively and fully enforced are what held up consideration of the Colombia free trade agreement. What has been long overdue was work on these conditions, and there wasn't by the Bush or the Uribe administrations. Yes, it has taken 5 years because most of those years were taken up by inaction by the Bush administration, and by the administration previous to Mr. Santos.

□ 1350

Earlier this year, an Action Plan on Labor Rights was negotiated between the new American and Colombian administrations, and it included some commitments and deadlines at long last for Colombia to address issues of worker rights, violence, and impunity. Very regretfully, some key obligations have not been met in a meaningful way. Let me give you one example about a condition that I saw firsthand in visits to Colombia. Their employers have a history of using sham cooperatives and other contract relationships to camouflage true employment relationships and thereby to rob workers of their rights. The ILO has long identified this type of practice as among the most serious problems facing Colombian workers. In Colombia, only workers who are directly employed can form a union and collectively bargain. Colombia committed to stop such abuses in the action plan. It passed far-reaching legislation and proposed effective regulations. But, unfortunately, it then backed away.

Through loopholes in the law it has allowed employers in Colombia, including a major beverage company and palm oil producers, to begin converting cooperatives to other contract forms to continue denying workers their basic rights. So we privately, we Democrats in the House, pushed the Colombians

for months to try to stem this problematic shift. But even a clarification it issued on the eve of the markup last week—after public pressure had been brought to bear—fell short. So this problem highlights precisely why it was vital to link the action plan to the FTA we're voting on today. But very regrettably, the Republicans blocked any reference at all to the Labor Action Plan in the implementation bill, and unfortunately, the administration acquiesced in that position.

I just want to emphasize: Explicitly linking the action plan to entry into force of the Colombia FTA was necessary as a vital step to ensure effective, meaningful implementation of the action plan. Without such a linkage, we have no leverage to ensure that Colombia lives up to the commitments it has made. I also want to emphasize it provides no context and meaning for the enforcement of the FTA worker rights standard in the future.

The language in the FTA is the basic international worker rights language. It is general in its provision. It has to be given meaning. The Action Plan would help to give it meaning if in the future action is needed to be taken under the dispute settlement system. And so when there's no linkage between the implementation bill and the Action Plan, it takes away the context for future action.

Other obligations under the action plan have not been meaningfully met.

Despite minimal requirements set in the action plan, Colombian employers continue to use direct negotiations with workers, referred to as "collective pacts," to thwart workers from organizing. And I saw firsthand the use of those collective pacts when I was in Colombia on one of my three visits.

Another pervasive problem was highlighted earlier this month by Human Rights Watch: Little progress in investigating and prosecuting murders of people trying to exercise their rights—even those cases designated as priorities. Colombia authorities obtained just 6 convictions of 195 union murders that occurred in the 4-plus years leading up to May, 2011. It's told that the ILO left Colombia off its priority list. That's because employers vetoed Colombia being on the list.

Notwithstanding clear commitments under the Action Plan to improve the situation through reforms and investigatory policies and methods, Colombia did not take the first step to do this—namely, the publication of an analysis of closed union murder cases—until the eve of the markup, even though the action plan called for its completion. Even with this, it is clear that additional leverage is necessary. Interviews by Human Rights Watch with Colombian prosecutors reveal that there's been no clear direction to implement the new policies and methods as committed to under the Action Plan.

I wish I could stand here today and say that Colombia had fully implemented the commitments under the

Action Plan to date, and very significantly, vitally, that the legislation incorporated the Action Plan and conditioned the FTA's entry into force on its effective implementation. I cannot in good conscience do so. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to oppose the Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. I yield myself the balance of my time.

I would just say, Mr. Speaker, that well before the Labor Action Plan was signed by President Obama and President Santos, Colombia had raised their labor standards and aided union members in the exercise of their rights well before the action plan ever occurred. Colombia now has implemented all eight of the ILO core conventions—six more than the United States. The statute of limitations for murder was raised in 2009 from 20 to 30 years. The minimum prison sentence was raised from 13 to 25 years and the maximum was raised from 25 to 40. The authority to declare the legality of strikes is now in the purview of the judiciary, not the executive branch, which depoliticizes these decisions and shows the transition and progress that Colombia has made in this area. Employers no longer have a unilateral right to force a strike to arbitration. The constitution reforms in 2004 shortened by 75 percent the time it takes to prosecute a homicide case. As I mentioned earlier, the murder rate in Colombia against union members has declined by 85 percent since 2002.

As my Democrat colleagues in support of the Colombian Trade Agreement have said, the Labor Action Plan is the most stringent Labor Action Plan anywhere in the world that has ever occurred.

With regard to the cooperative issue, the U.S. Trade Representative testified in the Ways and Means Committee when we worked up this legislation that that loophole has been addressed and has been closed by the Colombian government. This is something the administration has agreed has occurred as well, not just myself.

Let me just address this issue of the Labor Action Plan being placed inside the trade agreement. I would just say that to condition entry into force of the trade agreement with compliance with the Labor Action Plan is completely inappropriate, and that's why there was bipartisan opposition to doing that. I certainly welcome the gentleman's statement that I was able to get the administration to acquiesce to not having the Labor Action Plan put into the agreement. Frankly, there was bipartisan agreement, with the administration agreeing as well on that point.

Let me just say there is a labor chapter in the agreement itself that addresses the labor issues that appropriately fall within the scope of the agreement. The Labor Action Plan goes well beyond that scope. Let me say why. The purpose of the imple-

menting bill, the purpose of the bill before the House today, is to make changes to the United States laws that are necessary to implement the agreement. The Labor Action Plan doesn't require any changes to U.S. law. So therefore it should not and is not in the bill. Apart from being inappropriate, it's really unnecessary to condition entry into force on a labor action agreement that the Colombians have agreed to.

□ 1400

They have demonstrated their commitment to fulfilling the terms of the Labor Action Plan. They have satisfied, and on time, every single action item that has come due thus far. And our administration has certified that they have satisfied those conditions. There's only a few conditions that remain, which are due at the end of the year, and a few due in 2012, which we fully expect they will completely agree to.

And let me just say that it is high time we took up this agreement. Last year Colombian exporters paid virtually no tariffs when they shipped goods to the United States, but our exporters paid a tariff on an average of 11 percent trying to enter into their market. This agreement removes that imbalance by eliminating the Colombian duties. This need is urgent. Our exporters have paid nearly \$4 billion in unnecessary duties since this agreement was signed and has been pending over the years.

We know from experience these agreements will yield the benefits that we say they will. Between 2000 and 2010, total U.S. exports increased by just over 60 percent, but our exports to countries in which we have trade agreements increased by over 90 percent. Our exports to Peru, for example, have more than doubled since the passage of the U.S.-Peru trade agreement, and those are very important statistics in these tough economic times.

So this is a major economic opportunity. Delay has been costly. There are major economies whose workers and exporters compete directly with ours. They have moved aggressively to sign and implement trade agreements with Colombia, Canada, Argentina, Brazil. Those undermine our competitive edge for our Nation and our workers and our families.

So we've been falling behind. We've been losing export market share that took years to build, frankly. For example, just the U.S. share of Colombia's corn, wheat, and soybean imports fell from 71 percent in 2008 to 27 percent in 2010 after Argentina's exporters gained preferential access.

Obviously, we have seen, also, a decline in our exports of wheat since Canada signed its trade agreement with Colombia, 2 years after. They entered and enforced their agreement with Colombia, which was signed 2 years after ours. So we owe it to U.S. workers. We owe it to our exporters to approve this

agreement now and to press the President for prompt implementation.

I would urge strong support for this agreement, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 425, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 3078 will be postponed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 358, PROTECT LIFE ACT

Ms. FOXX (during consideration of H.R. 3078), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-243) on the resolution (H. Res. 430) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 358) to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to modify special rules relating to coverage of abortion services under such Act, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2273, COAL RESIDUALS REUSE AND MANAGEMENT ACT

Ms. FOXX (during consideration of H.R. 3078), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-244) on the resolution (H. Res. 431) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2273) to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to facilitate recovery and beneficial use, and provide for the proper management and disposal, of materials generated by the combustion of coal and other fossil fuels, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

UNITED STATES-PANAMA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3079) to implement the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. One hour of debate remains on the bill. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP).

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS).

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the pending trade agreements, all three trade agreements, with Colombia, South Korea, and Panama.

In my home State of Washington, where one in three jobs is dependent on international trade, we understand the importance of expanding foreign markets for economic success. There is no question, Mr. Speaker, that these agreements will increase jobs. Let me give you an example on a parochial basis in my district. Today, potato growers and processors face an 18-percent tariff when sending their product to South Korea. This agreement will end the tariff immediately, allowing our growers to fairly compete in this very important market.

It is critical to my constituents that we act now on all three of these trade agreements. Let me be parochial again, Mr. Speaker. Apple sales in Colombia dropped 48 percent last year because Chile had duty-free access to the Colombian market while my growers in my State did not—in fact, they had a 15-percent tariff. The passage of this agreement is expected to increase apple sales by 250,000 boxes a year, allowing us to regain a market share or at least to compete on a level playing field.

As our economy is struggling to recover, I encourage all of my colleagues to act now to support all three of these trade agreements because all three of these trade agreements will expand an opportunity for our economy to grow, and especially, Mr. Speaker, the diverse agriculture economy I have in central Washington.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), a member of our committee.

Mr. DOGGETT. While this agreement, based upon the flawed framework of the Bush-Cheney administration, offers no model for the future with regard to workers or environmental protection, I am supporting today's measure because of a successful response to a longstanding concern that I have had, that is, Panama's status as a notorious tax haven, a place where taxpayers who refuse to pay their fair share of the cost of our national security and vital public services could go to hide their assets and dodge taxes.

About 2 years ago, Senator CARL LEVIN and I urged the administration to postpone the approval of this trade agreement until Panama first signed a Tax Information Exchange Agreement, where we could get information about assets hidden there and for Panama to change its laws regarding bank secrecy and other matters to assure that this agreement was meaningful. Panama has now met these conditions.

For the first time ever, we can obtain information from the Panamanian Government on U.S. taxpayers who have Panamanian assets or income. Though the Treasury Department

should have secured a stronger automatic information exchange similar to the one we have with Canada and 24 other countries—and I would much prefer also to see an actual record of Panamanian compliance—we need to accept this as a victory in the fight against offshore tax cheats. This would not have been possible had it not been for the strong Panamanian desire to get the trade agreement approved.

By also agreeing to 12 other exchange agreements on tax information, Panama was recently removed from the OECD gray list of tax havens. Now we must ensure that Panama's newfound openness and transparency does not end with approval of today's agreements.

I support this trade agreement, knowing that while it could have been much better, the dangers have been mitigated with an agreement that has a very modest scope.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

The rights of workers, which have increasingly come under attack in this country, are also at risk under these NAFTA-style trade agreements.

In Panama a 2010 State Department Human Rights Report notes that “the government lacked sufficient mechanisms to ensure that laws prohibiting employer interference in unions and protecting workers from employer reprisals were adequately enforced.”

So the government lacked sufficient mechanisms to make sure that they were adequately enforced. We shouldn't be entering into a trade agreement with a country that has yet to demonstrate its ability to uphold international standards for labor rights and financial regulation.

Panama's track record on fulfilling its promises is clear: Just as it failed to adequately address its status as a tax haven wonderland, it has failed in its promise to adequately protect its workers.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. I thank both Chairman CAMP and Chairman BRADY for their leadership on the pending trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. All three countries have seen incredible transformation take place over the last generation, especially Panama and Colombia.

□ 1410

In the last 25 years, they have revolutionized their economies. They've revolutionized socially, and their democracies are robust.

I rise in support of the pending trade agreement with Panama and encourage my colleagues to support passage of this important agreement. It's critical, not just to our economy but also for our national security. Passage of this agreement will mark renewed U.S. engagement with the region, while coun-

tering anti-Americanism and China's increasing economic prominence in South America.

Additionally, the U.S. is the largest user of the Panama Canal and works closely with the Panamanian government to ensure the safety of the canal itself and to enhance regional, maritime, and port security. For this critical asset alone and maintaining that relationship, it would be essential to passing this agreement.

I'd like to comment on one other aspect of security that's been enhanced in all three trade agreements, and that's the security of intellectual property rights. These agreements, all three of them, Korea, Panama, and Colombia, make significant improvements to IPR protections for U.S. companies. In all categories of intellectual property rights, U.S. companies will be treated no less favorably than companies in the partner countries. That's a great step forward.

The agreements establish tough penalties for piracy and counterfeiting. They include state-of-the-art protection for U.S. trademarks. The agreements include enhanced protection for copyrighted work and, ultimately, the agreements include stronger protections for patent and trade secrets.

As we look at the changing demographics of the world and the face of relationships, it is important that we turn our eyes to the south and to the east, strengthening our ties with Latin America and with South America, strengthening our ties with Asian democracies and republics through the Korean Free Trade Agreement. What we're doing with Panama, Colombia, and Korea is critical to our future, to our children's future.

I strongly urge passage of the Panama Free Trade Agreement. It's a great step forward. It's a great step in our alliance.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 5 minutes to a member of our committee, the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL).

Mr. NEAL. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for the nice words of introduction.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S.-Panama Free Trade Agreement is an example of how to do a trade agreement right. This agreement will improve the U.S. trade surplus, emphasis on the word surplus, with Panama, and help with U.S. job creation and economic growth. And thanks to the FTA, Panama has brought its labor laws up to international standards and addressed Panama's status as a tax haven.

Let's start with economics. In Massachusetts, which exported a total of over \$8 billion worth of merchandise in 2010, the total number of jobs created in my district supported by exports is over 26,000.

New exports help to support new jobs, and that's why I support the Panamanian free trade agreement. Panama is one of the fastest growing economies in Latin America. This FTA will eliminate tariffs and other barriers to U.S.

exports, promote economic growth, and expand trade between our two countries.

For example, most goods from Panama currently enter the U.S. duty-free, whereas U.S. exporters face import duties in Panama ranging from 5 to over 35 percent. This FTA will level the playing field by eliminating Panama's import duties on U.S. goods. As a result, U.S. passenger vehicle exports are expected to increase by 43 percent, and machinery exports are expected to increase by 14 percent.

Furthermore, Panama is currently free to discriminate against U.S. suppliers in government procurement, including the ongoing \$5.25 billion Panama Canal expansion project. The FTA will require Panama to treat U.S. suppliers the same as Panamanian suppliers. There is going to be an explosion of opportunity with the opening of the Panama Canal after its expansion.

Now let's go to labor rights. Over the course of several years, House Democrats, myself included, have identified a variety of deficiencies in Panama's labor laws, and we insisted that the Panamanian FTA not be considered until those issues were addressed. In April of this year, Panama's President signed into law the last remaining changes needed to bring Panamanian laws into compliance with labor obligations of this agreement.

Furthermore, when we took the majority in 2007, House Democrats insisted that the FTA be negotiated or renegotiated to include the May 10 agreement. Among other things, the FTA was renegotiated to require Panama to comply with international labor standards and key international environmental agreements. Labor rights, environmental concerns, human rights. We insisted that those be undertaken, and we were told at one time that the agreement offered had to be all or nothing. House Democrats changed that with our insistence on those basic issues.

Now let me highlight how Panama has addressed its tax haven issue. And I would submit to you today there is no Member of this House that has a stronger credential on cracking down on tax havens than I do. I have stayed at it through the course of a career, and we've had some success, with more guaranteed to come.

In 2000 the OECD listed Panama as a tax haven, but since that time, Panama has worked to adopt international standards of transparency and effective exchange of information. In 2010, the U.S. and Panama entered into a tax information exchange agreement, and this past July the OECD placed Panama on its white list of countries who have substantially implemented international standards for exchange information. These are substantial advancements.

This would not have been possible without Democrats in this House who insisted that the FTA not be submitted to Congress until the tax haven issue

was addressed. This FTA is a better agreement because House Democrats insisted on those basic human rights issues.

There is no question but labor agreements, human rights agreements, and environmental agreements have been included because of work that the minority in the House has done. And at the same time, we understand that these trade agreements are not necessarily panaceas. But by and large, the ones that I know that I've supported over a career, and some I've opposed, have had a net impact on economic growth.

These are very difficult issues for Members of this body to undertake. But we argue that the genius of opportunity is what Steve Jobs promoted through much of his life, with many setbacks along the way. But understand that many of the products that Steve Jobs and his genius succeeded in implementing ensure that people across the globe use those products today, and I think this an example of those opportunities.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just say, this agreement will create new market access for U.S. exporters of consumer and industrial products. Over 87 percent of our exports to Panama will become duty-free immediately, with the remaining tariffs to be phased out that are left over a 10-year period. This will cut by more than half the average 8 percent tariff that our exporters face.

This will provide U.S. firms with an advantage over major competitors from Europe and Asia. And because Panama recently signed an agreement with the EU, our advantage is dependent on having our agreement enter into force immediately. So it's not just about what the U.S. and Panama are doing in a vacuum; it's about what the rest of the world is doing as well.

As I said, there are key export sectors that get immediate duty-free treatment: aircraft, construction equipment, fertilizers, medical and scientific equipment. This levels the playing field for our exporters versus importers from Panama, and this agreement will create new opportunities for our farmers and ranchers.

More than half of the current U.S. farm exports to Panama will become duty-free immediately. It gives our U.S. farmers an advantage over our EU and Canadian competitors. Our exports in agriculture to Panama now face a 15 percent average tariff. Our exports of pork, rice, soybeans and wheat, and most fresh fruit will receive immediate duty-free treatment, while our competitors in Asia and Europe will continue to face tariffs on those commodities as high as 90 percent. And that's why you've seen great support, both bipartisan, for this agreement. The American Farm Bureau estimates that the increase in farm exports to Panama alone could increase our agricultural exports by \$46 million a year.

Obviously, this agreement also provides our access to Panamanian services markets. It will give our U.S. service firms market access, national treatment, regulatory transparency, and that is going to be very helpful as we continue to try to grow our economy and create jobs here in the United States.

□ 1420

I would agree with my friend from Massachusetts, Panama has improved their tax transparency; and because of the cooperation, adoption of the Tax Information Exchange Agreement, as well as other numerous double taxation treaties that I won't repeat that he referenced, they have been removed by the OECD from the so-called "gray list" to join countries such as the United States that meet internationally-agreed-to tax standards.

So by almost any measure, this agreement is positive, and it is something that we should strongly support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Public Citizen is an organization that dedicates itself to an impartial economic analysis of trade agreements. They looked at the Panama trade agreement, and here's what they came up with. They said that it includes extreme foreign investor privileges and offshoring protections and their private enforcement in international tribunals. It includes limits on financial and other service sector regulation, a ban on Buy America procurement preferences, limits on environmental safeguards and imported food and product safety and limits on drug patent rules that limit generics.

The AFL-CIO is one of the most important workers' organizations in the history of this country. They've analyzed the Panama free trade agreement, and here's what they have said. They've said it's the wrong trade model at the wrong time. Instead of helping workers here or in Panama, it rewards a country that has a history of repressing labor rights and has achieved much of its economic growth by making it easy for money launderers and tax dodgers to hide their income from legitimate authorities.

Moreover, this agreement, which was negotiated by the previous administration, contains too many flawed trade policies of the past, rather than laying out a new and progressive vision for the future. President Obama should not waste valuable time and effort advancing this inadequate agreement, but should instead focus on effective job creation measures, including currency reform, infrastructure investment, and robust training and education, and reforming our trade model so that it strengthens labor rights protections for all workers, safeguards domestic laws and regulations, and promotes the export of goods, not jobs.

The AFL-CIO noted that due to the small size of Panama's economy, the

economic impact of the Panama free trade agreement is likely to be small. Panama's gross domestic product is tiny in comparison to that of the United States, and Panama accounted for less than ½ of 1 percent of total U.S. exports in 2010. Thus, any demand for U.S. goods and services is likely to be minuscule. This is simply not an agreement that will substantially increase net exports or create American jobs.

While the Panama FTA contains—and we have to say it contains—improved labor and environmental provisions, these provisions need to be further strengthened, and our government needs to invest more resources and energy in more consistent enforcement across the board; and President Obama should work to further improve the labor, environment, investment, financial services and government procurement provisions contained in the Panama free trade agreement to build a new trade model for the future.

The AFL-CIO also pointed out another thing, Mr. Speaker. They said that Panama is not a part of any meaningful U.S. jobs plan. Even the Obama administration is not selling the Panama free trade agreement as a job-creating measure. Panama's economy is so small that the U.S. International Trade Commission was unable to quantify any job-creation effects of the Panama free trade agreement.

While economists routinely predict that trade agreements between the U.S. and developing countries will create jobs and improve our trade imbalances, the fact is that these rosy predictions repeatedly fail to pan out. The current U.S. approach to trade agreements has tended to destroy jobs, not create them.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the three free trade agreements that we are considering today. Free trade is good for America. These agreements will increase our products flowing to other countries that currently get to send their products for free here. We live in a world where products flow freely around the world. It's time for us to get American jobs to produce some of those goods moving abroad.

I would note that the President has asked us to pass pieces of his legislation, his jobs-creating legislation. I would compliment the chairman that we've waited 2½ years to get this particular proposal from the administration, and in less than 9 days, now we have it on the floor of the House. We're serious about doing the things to fix the economy. While the President lectures us, he fails to follow through on regulatory relief and tax relief. He fails to follow through on those things which would actually create jobs.

So we in the House appreciate the opportunity to vote on these particular

bills today, because it is our way of saying that we will agree with the President when he's right, and we'll steadfastly disagree with him when he's wrong. We've got many areas that we can move forward together on, and I would recommend that the President come and sit down with us, come back to this floor of the House and sit and discuss with us the way to move forward instead of pushing a plan that says "my way or the highway."

We have generally a great threat from American Government on American jobs. The overregulation is killing jobs in the electrical utility field, it's killing jobs in oil and gas, and it's killing jobs in manufacturing. We can protect workers, we can protect the environment, and we can protect species and create jobs simultaneously. It is up to us, the policymakers, to find those balance points and to move forward with commonsense legislation that will effect these.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to another member of our committee, Mr. KIND of Wisconsin.

(Mr. KIND asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Panama trade agreement, as well as the Colombia and South Korea agreements before us today. And in the matter of Panama, to Panama's credit and to Panama's Parliament's credit, they realize that in order for this trade agreement to be fully considered by the Congress, they had to make improvements in regards to the tax havens of their country. And as the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee pointed out, they did that. They took that additional step removing them from the "Gray List" of tax havens internationally.

But that brings me to the larger point. When President Obama took office, I believe he inherited three pretty good trade agreements at his desk negotiated by the previous administration; but he knew that they could be improved upon, which they immediately set out to do. And to the credit of many members of the Ways and Means Committee, especially the chairman and the ranking member both from Michigan, and the tireless efforts they put into improving these trade agreements, we finally reached the point where we could get back in the game.

At just 4 percent of the world's population, we have to be engaged with a proactive trade agenda; but the last time we had a trade agreement before this Congress has been roughly 6 years ago while other nations have been moving on with bilateral and multilateral agreements. That's too long when we have a floundering economy. Not that these trade agreements are going to be the panacea to rapid and significant job growth, but they will be helpful. In fact, countries like Panama and Colombia have virtually duty-free access to our country's markets already.

So the question is whether or not we want to try to level the playing field for our workers, for our businesses, and for the jobs being created here in the United States. And in the specific case of Panama, tariff reductions will be significant that will lead to further job growth in both the manufacturing, the service and the agricultural sectors alone.

But I commend the Obama administration and the team at the USTR led by Ambassador Kirk with the work they did in improving this Panama trade agreement, along with Colombia and South Korea, putting them in a position where there can be bipartisan support, and more importantly, to get us back into the arena of active trade which will help create jobs here at home.

□ 1430

Mr. KUCINICH. I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlelady from Maine, a champion of workers' rights, Ms. PINGREE.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. I thank my colleague and friend from Ohio for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the proposed trade agreement. The Panama free trade agreement is structured exactly like NAFTA, a trade policy that resulted in the loss of millions of manufacturing jobs all over America. In Maine alone, we have lost 31,000 manufacturing jobs since NAFTA was ratified in 1994. In addition to manufacturing jobs, it has hurt our agricultural and fishing sectors, and has had a huge impact on the economy of our State.

I have a perfect example. Steve White of Brewer, Maine, comes to mind. He worked in a factory for 22 years, making components that were used by GM, Ford, and Chrysler. Now those parts are being made in Mexico. Steve wrote this in the Bangor Daily News:

"We were given the opportunity, if we wished, to travel to Mexico and further train our replacements. My co-workers who went said that the conditions for the Mexican workers were very poor and far below the American standard. The pay rate was very low, and they would work long hours every day of the week."

Here we are today, voting on three more trade agreements that could have the same devastating consequences for American jobs. Why would we do this at a time when we desperately need these jobs right here in the United States?

This week, in addition to the three free trade agreements, we will also vote on the extension of Trade Adjustment Assistance, a program that was created for those adversely affected by trade agreements. For several years and for probably many more, we have and will spend millions of dollars retraining people who have been put out of work by misguided trade agreements.

And for what? So that big companies can get a better deal on cheap labor and loose environmental standards in other countries?

What our workers want today, what the people in my State, the State of Maine, want are jobs, not readjustment assistance, not retraining, not some idea of another job to come in the future. They want a job today. They don't want these trade agreements, and they don't want to lose any more jobs in our State.

Mr. Speaker, America has a long history of supporting our hardworking families, but this policy does not invest in our workforce. It is not what is right for America's future, and I cannot support it.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished chair of the Trade Subcommittee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I thank the chairman for yielding time.

I first want to thank Chairman CAMP and Speaker BOEHNER for insisting that the White House submit the Panama trade agreement along with those of Colombia and Korea to ensure that we open all three markets equally to American farmers, manufacturers, service, and technology companies. But for your work, we would not be here today.

This agreement is long overdue. As families know, the world has changed. It's not simply enough to buy American; we have to sell American all throughout the world. Panama is a dynamic new market for America with almost 9 percent a year in economic growth—far stronger than our own. Panama is important to our manufacturers in America, it's important to our farmers, it's especially important to our service companies because so much of Panama's economy matches up beautifully with America's economy. With the expansion of the Panama Canal, you're going to see increased cargo at our ports, increased jobs along our coasts, and lower prices in products in America as well.

Critics will say, Panama is too small an economy. Why do we bother?

In this dismal economy in America, every sale, every job counts. From Europe to Canada, to Thailand, to Singapore, and many more, our competitors negotiate sales agreements with Panama because they know those customers matter.

Critics say, Panama is a tax haven. Why are we doing this agreement? But those simply aren't the facts. They also often say that labor rights aren't what they ought to be.

Panama has passed more than a dozen labor laws that dramatically commit to raising the standard of labor protections in that country. They have passed tax information agreements with America and with other countries around the world, so much so that they are now considered in standing on tax transparency equal to the United States.

This is a valued ally in a strong and growing part of the world that, frankly, has waited far too long. It is embarrassing that it has taken 4 years to bring this agreement to the floor. But today it is here. Today, we will signal we are going to open those markets, that we are going to strengthen our ties, and that we are going to pass this sales agreement with Panama.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) be permitted to manage the remainder of the time.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Maine will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to another distinguished member of our committee, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, Panama will be the only trade deal that I will vote for because they import very little to the United States in the first place. More importantly, this allows for, as I see it, new opportunities for the U.S. gulf and east coast ports. Over 60 percent of the goods shipped through the canal sail to or from the United States. I think they've corrected what needed to be corrected. There is no indication of a loss of American jobs, and I think that's what we should be all about.

As for Colombia, I don't know how anyone could stand in front of the American people and say that Colombia is making progress in terms of stopping the concerted, conspiratorial effort, proven time and time again, of the murder of trade unionists in that country. In fact, there have been no convictions in 94 percent of the cases from 1986 to 2010—6 percent of convictions. I don't know how anybody could stand on this floor, Mr. Speaker, and compare the system of justice there to the system of justice of the United States. Some have suggested, well, we have murders here in this country, too. Of course there are. This is an absolute disgrace. We've lost our soul on this deal, no question about it.

Also, a number of multinational companies didn't want the China currency fixed because it doesn't help their big businesses and their purposes. So let's come to the crux of the issue:

If we'd have put together all the promises that were made to the American workers for the past 25, 30 years on trade deals, we would be very, very disappointed. This deal has come a long way, perhaps, since the last administration, but neither party is privy to perfection here. This is not a one-party rap.

I've read every one of these deals as much as I could, and there are good aspects of the deal, but let's take, for instance, that the United States International Trade Commission does not believe this bill will create jobs. Let me repeat that over and over again.

The SPEAKER. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. PASCRELL. In fact, the updated report they provided to Congress contains a very specific disclaimer that is not an official estimate.

When are we going to stop the hemorrhaging of American jobs? It is part of what we've gone through, both parties, but more importantly, the entire Nation, over the last 4 or 5 years.

Every trade deal does not mean that there are jobs created in this country. In fact, 90 percent of the trade deals have led to a lessening of jobs in the United States of America. So you can't have high hopes, and you don't have the evidence to show it. Let's bring jobs here to this country.

□ 1440

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I yield 2 minutes to the chairman of the Agriculture Committee and a champion of new markets, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS).

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my support for this free trade agreement with Panama.

Trade agreements open market access to our farmers and ranchers, which brings in valuable income and creates jobs. In my home State of Oklahoma, agricultural exports support more than 10,000 jobs. Across the country, agriculture exports support more than 1 million jobs total. Those jobs aren't confined to the farm either. They stretch across a variety of industries, including processing, manufacturing, and transportation.

In fact, for every dollar of farm products that we export, we add another \$1.31 to our economy from those non-farm industries. That's why it's so important to continue opening markets for American agricultural products.

More than 60 percent of our agricultural exports to Panama face some sort of duty or tariff. Those tariffs average 15 percent; but they can be as high as 70 percent on meat, 90 percent on grain, and a staggering 260 percent on poultry. Meanwhile, more than 99 percent of Panama's farm exports enter the U.S. duty free.

So this agreement will not only create new opportunities for America's farmers and ranchers but it levels the playing field for our exporters. As soon as this agreement is implemented, more than half of our farm exports will become duty free. So we can expect to see immediate opportunities once this agreement is in force.

America's farmers, ranchers, processors, manufacturers and shippers can all benefit from those opportunities. Let's help them expand their businesses and create more jobs. Let's pass this agreement.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman from Maine for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here today voicing the concerns of America's workers and rise in opposition to the Panama free trade agreement, as well as the South Korean and Colombian.

Like many others, in terms of Panama, I have expressed concerns about Panama's long history of being a tax haven. Supporters of this NAFTA-style trade deal claim that the Tax Information and Exchange Agreement, or TIEA, that Panama ratified in April of this year wiped away decades of secrecy as a tax haven there. We've been told that Panama's recent removal from the OECD's gray list indicates that it's a fresh start.

Well, I ask, when have the promises made in other NAFTA-style trade deals that have brought us these trade deficits since NAFTA was first signed, when have they ever made good on their agreements?

Public Citizen notes that the 2001 Panama tax agreement, called TIEA, includes a major exception, a major exception that allows Panama to reject specific requests if it's contrary to the public policy of Panama. Now, that's an interesting concept for a country that derives a significant national income from activities related to being a tax haven.

Time has proven those who oppose these NAFTA-type trade accords correct. They have all been job losers.

Otherwise, America would have a trade balance, but we have a half a trillion dollar trade deficit. Sure we might sell a few more pork chops and a few more soybeans. But, you know what, overall America loses almost all of its GDP growth simply because the growing trade deficit just squashes down the opportunity for job creation in our country. We've seen millions and millions of jobs outsourced.

Let me say a word about the U.S.-Korea trade agreement. It's modeled after NAFTA too; and, again, it's one of these copy-cat agreements. In the last decade alone, these agreements have cost Americans over 6 million jobs, 55,000 plants have been lost, so many outsourced. I mean, what world do you live in if you don't even understand what's happening with job outsourcing to our country between our borders from Atlantic to Pacific.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MICHAUD. I yield the gentlelady 1 additional minute.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman. I'm from northern Ohio. Just to clarify what this means for one of America's lodestar industries, here's a little graph that shows how many Korean cars are coming into the United States today, over half a million.

This little dot here represents what the U.S. is selling into the Korean market right now: 7,450 of our cars in that market versus over half a million of their cars sold here. This agreement basically says maybe America could

sell 75,000 cars—but there's no guarantee, no guarantee—and if you go to Korea today, you see less than 5 percent of the cars on their streets are from anywhere else in the world. So, you think they're going to be reciprocal?

Theirs is a closed market. When is America going to stand up in its trade policies to state-managed capitalism in these other countries and give our workers and our companies an even break? All this deal says is we might sell—it doesn't say must sell—it says we might sell up to 75,000 cars in that economy, but they're already eating our lunch.

The Economic Policy Institute estimates this agreement will cost us another 159,000 net jobs. And you know, Mr. Speaker, I sure hope they don't come out of Ohio again. I hope they come out of the districts of every single person here who's going to vote for this agreement and cause more job hemorrhaging to this economy.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON).

Mr. MATHESON. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding me some time.

Madam Speaker, I find that sometimes when we talk about issues around here, we hear the same thing we've heard for years and years and years, and sometimes that's a good thing.

But sometimes it's also important to acknowledge that the world is changing. Things are happening. Globalization is a mixed bag, globalization creates opportunities, but it also creates a lot of challenges. As policymakers, what we need to do is look for where we can best position this country to compete in that changing environment.

I rise in support of all three of these agreements, and I will tell you what's going on compared to years ago. The rest of the world's moving on. The rest of the world is opening markets to each other, and U.S. products and U.S. opportunities are being limited by that phenomenon.

For example, in Colombia, 2008, the United States was responsible for 46 percent of all the goods coming into Colombia. But what happened after 2008? Well, Colombia entered into bilateral trade agreements with Argentina and with Brazil, and just 2 short years later, in 2010, the U.S. only had 20 percent of the products that were being shipped into Colombia. That's a pretty big drop. About 25 percent of all the materials coming into that country, the U.S. used to have that market and then we lost it.

We should seek out the fairest deals, the best deals for this country; but we should not be in denial for what's going on in the rest of the world. We should not be in denial about markets opening up elsewhere and the U.S. sitting on its hands and doing nothing.

Now, mind you, in the case of Colombia, in particular, it's already had an

opportunity for markets in the U.S. due to the Caribbean Basin Initiative. Their goods have been coming here duty free for years. We have an opportunity now to level that playing field.

So I encourage my colleagues to recognize where we are in 2011 and the circumstances we are in and what other countries in the world are doing to respond to the opportunities presented by globalization and dealing with mitigating the problems. I encourage you to vote for all three of these trade agreements.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I yield myself 10 seconds.

I would point out in manufacturing we actually run a trade surplus with our trading partners, including NAFTA, selling much more products there. It's our trade deficit with our nontrade agreement partners that we have troubles with. Panama is a surplus for America.

I now yield 2 minutes to a key member of the Ways and Means Committee, who has helped lead the freshman class in opening new markets and finding new customers, the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED).

□ 1450

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of all three free trade agreements we will be voting on this evening. This is a great day. We are talking about, with the passage of these free trade agreements, approximately 250,000 new jobs across America. Those are new jobs that will put families back to work. They'll put roofs over their heads, put food on their tables, and allow them to enjoy the American Dream.

I rise in particular in regards to the U.S.-Panama agreement. Some of my colleagues, Madam Speaker, have argued that free trade has forced a lot of our manufacturing and industrial jobs to go overseas. Well, one of the facts of the circumstances can be illustrated by what's going on with U.S.-Panama. Right now our goods, as they go into Panama, face up to a 260 percent tariff at its borders. Yet the imports coming from Panama to America, because of the Caribbean Basin Initiative and the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act, come to us duty free. That is an uneven playing field.

What these free trade agreements do, in my humble opinion, is even the playing field so that American workers can compete on an equal and level playing field. And if that is the case, I'm confident that the American worker and American families will always win in that competition. So I strongly support these trade agreements.

It's amazing to me that it has taken 5 years to get these agreements to this Chamber; but rather than point fingers at who caused what and what the reasons for those delays were, I always will look to the future. And what these agreements will represent is a step in the right direction of getting America back in a position where it competes in

the world market and once again rises up and says we are the strongest, we are the best, and we will create 250,000 new jobs.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 2½ minutes to a new parent who is bringing a picture of his new son with him to the podium, Mr. POLIS of Colorado.

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentleman from Michigan.

Today I am pleased to see that Congress is finally focused on America's top priority, jobs. As economic experts from across the ideological spectrum have made clear, these trade agreements with Panama, Colombia, and South Korea will create jobs for Americans. In fact, the White House has said these deals will create 70,000 new jobs for Americans at a time when we need them. That's why I intend to vote for all three agreements.

I'm also going to vote "yes" because these trade pacts will help put money back in the pockets of hardworking Americans. By lifting the aggressive tariffs on many commonly purchased clothing and household items, we can cut the prices of essentials that every family needs. Tariffs are essentially like a sales tax on imported goods, and like sales taxes in many States, they're regressive.

Most U.S. imports today come into this country duty free, but a small amount of items that many Americans use, like sneakers and clothing and other household items, come with a tariff that's much higher than many luxury items. For example, a pair of fancy Italian loafers has a tariff of only 8.5 percent, but a pair of affordable sneakers that moms and dads buy for their kids when they're heading back to school carry a tariff that increases their price by 50 percent. Thrifty cotton and polyester work shirts carry a 16 and 32 percent tariff, but a silk Armani shirt comes with only a 1 percent tariff. Not only are these regressive tariffs hard on the middle class, but they hurt American businesses.

Many businesses in my district can expand their operations and hire more workers with these three trade agreements. For example, in my district alone, four businesses that export electronics, building materials, and foods pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in tariffs just to the Colombian Government. That translates into jobs in my district.

Most importantly, as the gentleman from Michigan mentioned, as a new father, I think about the kind of world I want my son to grow up in. I want a world that reduces barriers between ideas, between people, and between the flow of goods and services so that we can fully embrace our brothers and sisters in Colombia, our brothers and sisters in South Korea, our brothers and sisters in Panama and, indeed, across the world to build a common greatness of humanity that manifests itself economically through the flow of goods and services, culturally, and of course to better establish the greatness of global culture.

Congress should pass these three trade agreements. I'm proud to support all three of these job-creating free trade agreements. I compliment President Obama on his leadership for bringing these deals before us, and I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" to create jobs in America.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to inquire as to how many speakers we have remaining, if I may.

Mr. MICHAUD. I have one more, plus I will be closing.

Mr. LEVIN. I will close on our side.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. We have two more and then closing.

At this time I would like to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), the chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee for Appropriations.

(Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the three free trade agreements with Panama, Colombia, and South Korea. Frankly, it is about time they have come to the House for action. Studies have shown that further delays on these three trade agreements would put 380,000 American jobs at risk; whereas, passing them will create over a quarter of a million new jobs and add \$13 billion to our gross domestic product.

The latest data shows 130,000 jobs in New Jersey depend on international trade. Of these, 50,000 are manufacturing jobs. Approximately one out of every six manufacturing jobs in New Jersey is directly related to global trade. We need more activity on the trade export agenda, and these free trade agreements will produce many, many hundreds of thousands of jobs. We need to get about it. Let's act on it. I strongly support it.

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains on all sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maine has 9½ minutes remaining, the gentleman from Michigan has 3 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Texas has 3¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. MICHAUD. I now would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. The United States of America has failed trade policies. They are unlike any other in the world. And I guess the question before this body today should be: Will these trade policies create jobs? The answer is yes. Will they create jobs in America? The answer is no.

Like all the other free trade agreements we've entered into, these are designed to benefit multinational companies seeking cheap labor and fewer restrictions in terms of the environment and labor protections and other things overseas. That's what these are about.

They're also about transshipment of goods with the low content requirement in Korea. Yeah, goods will be cheaper. Made in China, maybe made by slave labor in North Korea, those will be really cheap.

American consumers who don't have jobs will benefit from this. No, American consumers would benefit a heck of a lot more if their neighbors had jobs, if they had jobs and if our kids had a future. Passing more of these free trade agreements, which has led to this sea of red ink, isn't going to fix the problem.

Directly before us now is Panama. Now, Panama has a very interesting economy, mostly bolstered by being a tax haven and money laundering center. Now, the agreement that we're voting on doesn't prohibit that, but there's a separate agreement entered into by the administration that will go into effect a year from now. It doesn't require an automatic exchange of tax information between the U.S. and Panama, unlike other countries where we have these sorts of agreements. We must know what we want and submit detailed information to Panama, and Panama might or might not honor that request; i.e., we submit a request for drug money laundering. They say, "You have to be more specific."

"Name the drug money people's deposits."

"Well, we can't do that."

"All right. Forget about it."

We can name them. Good. But then Panama says they won't give us the information if it is contradictory to their public policy; i.e., the way they make a living, by being the largest Western Hemisphere haven for the laundering of drug money, as a tax haven, and also terrorist money in recent cases. We're going to facilitate that with this agreement.

Somehow, a country with 3.5 million people, about the same size as my State but a much lower income per capita, has 400,000 corporations domiciled there, almost one for every Panamanian.

□ 1500

No, these aren't really domiciled there. They're very conveniently avoiding our laws and the laws of other advanced nations around the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MICHAUD. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DEFAZIO. As I said yesterday on Colombia, the noted economist Joseph Stiglitz says that our agriculture—yes, we'll get a few agriculture jobs—will displace traditional agriculture in Colombia, causing huge disruptions in that country, driving people to produce more coca. But don't worry. Right next door, the Colombian drug lords will be able to deposit their money and not have to worry about the U.S. finding out about it—right next door in Panama. How convenient.

This is really a great series of trade agreements.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 1 minute to a freshman lawmaker who represents a region of Texas where international trade means jobs, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CANSECO).

Mr. CANSECO. I rise in strong support of the Panama free trade agreement. Like the Colombian agreement, this agreement has been pending for far too long. And I thank the leadership of Chairmen BRADY, DREIER, and CAMP.

At a time when unemployment is hovering above 9 percent, the Panama free trade agreement will be a welcome shot in the arm to help the U.S. economy. The International Trade Commission's analysis shows that the Panama agreement will boost U.S. exports to Panama for key products between 9 percent and 145 percent. This will mean thousands of new jobs here at home. The Commerce Department has estimated that every \$1 billion in exports creates 6,000 new jobs.

This agreement will benefit all sectors of the American economy, from agricultural to financial services to manufacturing. It does so by leveling the playing field for American exporters who currently face tariffs of up to 260 percent while Panama exports face virtually no tariffs in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. CANSECO. Fundamentally, this agreement is about the economic freedom of the American people to be able to have a wide array of choices and pay less for those choices because of the power of trade and competition.

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, is the chairman prepared to close?

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Yes, I am.

Mr. MICHAUD. I yield myself the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maine is recognized for up to 6 minutes.

Mr. MICHAUD. On the House floor today, we are considering three trade agreements: the FTA with Korea, which manipulates its currency; the FTA with Colombia, the labor unionist murder capital of the world; and the FTA with Panama, which has one of the smallest populations in Latin America.

At a time of 9 percent unemployment, why are we even considering these trade agreements? We should not be advancing the failed NAFTA-style trade policy when millions of Americans are still out of work. Instead, we should be considering legislation that will create jobs here at home.

The American people were pretty clear in 2008 when they voted for hope and change, and they were even clearer in 2010 when they voted in a new generation of lawmakers to set Washington straight. Both times, Americans voted against the inside-the-beltway perspective and for Representatives and a President they thought would

take the country in a different direction. Both times, despite these signals from the American people, the White House and Congress have ignored them, and Washington remains as beholden to Wall Street and as detached from Main Street as ever.

In a poll done by NBC and the Wall Street Journal last year, the majority of Americans said that they thought the FTAs had been bad for the country. Given that they're so unpopular, why on Earth would the President send these agreements up to Congress right now? Well, you only have to look at the President's economic advisers to find out.

Since elected, the President has surrounded himself with advisers from Wall Street banks, with CEOs from companies that don't pay taxes, and with staffers who pushed the NAFTA-style trade agreement under Clinton. Those advisers don't bring fresh perspectives to the White House. They bring more of the same corporate priorities that have caused the current and previous White House administrations to turn a blind eye while the big banks played roulette with our pensions and mortgages and then asked for a taxpayer bailout.

The Panama free trade agreement is another example of Washington's corporate priorities. Panama's GDP is about \$25 billion. That's about the same GDP as the city of Portland, Maine. The entire country has a population of 3.4 million. We have three times as many people in the United States on unemployment lists alone. And this agreement does nothing for those 14 million Americans without jobs.

Panama simply isn't a significant market opportunity for U.S. exports, and this FTA won't do anything to reduce our 9 percent unemployment. But the big companies and the big banks want it, so President Obama is going to give in to the Washington elites once again.

The working people and the middle class don't want these trade agreements—not with Panama, not with Korea, and not with Colombia. They want good-paying jobs that allow them to provide for their families. They want a government to pass laws to help get the economy going again. They don't want another NAFTA-style trade agreement, and they definitely don't want any more Wall Street-centric, beltway-based policies from the White House or Congress. They want Washington to wake up and they want the hope and change that they voted for. How much clearer could the American people be? They want policies written by citizens, not by chief executives. They want leaders to listen to town halls, not wealthy tycoons. They want change, not more of the same.

I call on my colleagues who were sent here in 2010 with a mandate of change to work with me. Vote against these trade deals, which will cost us more than \$7 billion. I call on my colleagues

on the Democratic side to remember we have always been the party of the working people. We must vote against these NAFTA-style trade agreements. These agreements are unjust to the American people.

I urge a "no" vote on all three of these trade agreements.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for up to 3 minutes.

Mr. LEVIN. First, let me speak as someone who opposed, actively, the NAFTA agreement and led the effort in this House in opposition to CAFTA. This is, in terms of worker rights, the opposite of NAFTA and CAFTA. What this does is to embody the basic international worker rights enforceable in the trade agreement. Peru was the breakthrough, and Panama continues along that pioneering path.

Secondly, on Panama, why are we here? Panama acted to change its labor laws before we voted, as was true for Peru. We pointed out the deficiencies in their laws and I discussed them with the previous administration in Panama. But neither it nor the Bush administration was willing to make sure action occurred.

□ 1510

Now those changes have been made as to companies less than 2 years. Those changes have been made in terms of the economic processing zones, and they have prohibited bypassing unions by direct negotiations with non-unionized workers—unfortunately, not true in Colombia. Look, on the tax haven, they signed the TIEA. We asked them to do that, and that's precisely what they have done.

In terms of investment, this bill strengthens the present status quo in terms of investment protections for the United States communities.

So, in a word, we have a bill before us that meets the requirements that we set out when we said to the Bush administration, we will not take up Panama until changes have been made. Those changes have now indeed been made in terms of worker rights, in terms of strengthening investment, in terms of ending Panama as a tax haven. Those changes having been made, I urge support of this FTA.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, to close, I am proud to yield the balance of my time to a champion for job creation in America, the majority leader of the House, Mr. CANTOR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for up to 2½ minutes.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman from Texas.

Madam Speaker, our current economic environment has left millions of Americans without the hope of a brighter future. The constant threat of tax increases and the continued threat

of excessive regulations coming from this administration sends the wrong signal to our entrepreneurs, our investors, and our small business people, the very people we need to create jobs. It sends the signal that America is not open for business. And there is a sense that we may be falling behind other nations in the global marketplace.

We face big challenges, but America has always stood up when times were tough. We are a country of entrepreneurs and innovators. Madam Speaker, it is time to energize our small businesses and job creators and get the economy growing again.

When House Republicans released our plan for America's job creators, we outlined our ideas to get our economy back on track, to promote an environment for job creation, and to ensure America remains the land for opportunity without raising taxes or adding to the deficit. And part of that plan was passage of the free trade agreements with Colombia—yes, Panama, and yes, South Korea.

But our support for passing these agreements is not new. On December 22, 2009, I, along with other House Republican leaders, wrote to President Obama outlining what we called the "No Cost Jobs Plan." In that letter, we noted that passage of these trade agreements would, according to experts, increase exports by 1 percent. That 1 percent increase in exports equates to a quarter of a million new jobs. We noted in our letter that the only thing standing in the way of creating those jobs was for the President to submit the trade agreements to Congress for approval. Since then, we have repeatedly called on the President to move forward with these agreements so we can clear the way for thousands of new jobs and create an environment for economic growth. Nearly 2½ years later, on October 3, the President finally submitted all three agreements.

I am glad that the administration has recognized the importance of expanding market access for American companies, both small and large. As majority leader, I introduced all three agreements the very same day the President submitted them, and I am pleased today that the House will approve all three agreements.

By moving forward on these agreements, Madam Speaker, we will help manufacturers in my home State of Virginia and those across the country increase exports and increase production. The more manufacturers produce, the more workers they need, and that means more jobs.

Our action today is proof that when we look for common ground and work together, we can produce results. I'd also like to note that today, Madam Speaker, the House is acting on another bill that is part of the President's jobs plan. The House will pass the VOW Act, the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act, to help our soldiers and veterans with the challenges of reentering the workforce.

Madam Speaker, there is no more time to waste. We have said over and over again that we should not let our differences get in the way of producing results, and we want to find common ground so that we can work together to improve the economy. I hope today's action will encourage the Senate and the President to join us in helping to pass these trade agreements and other pro-growth measures to help the American people get back to work.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 425, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3080) to implement the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Louisiana, Dr. BOUSTANY.

Mr. BOUSTANY. I rise in support of all three of these very important agreements because they promote U.S. engagement in strategically important countries around the world. Also, they promote U.S. leadership. They open new markets for American farmers, ranchers, and businesses. This means American jobs, good-paying American jobs. These agreements constitute a signature jobs bill, a jobs promotion bill.

South Korea is a critical U.S. ally in Asia and one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Multiple agreements have occurred throughout Asia over the past few years while America sat on the sidelines. This agreement is the largest free trade agreement for the U.S. and could result in an increase of our exports by \$9.7 billion, according to the International Trade Commission, by lowering tariffs and other barriers to U.S. goods and services. We must pass this agreement in order to gain leverage in Asia and to show support for one of our key allies in Asia.

This expansion of U.S. engagement will serve as a platform to build further commercial relationships, creating more jobs for American workers by opening new markets. Upon implementation, more than one-third of Louisiana's exports will be duty free, and that's just a starting point. This alone will give Louisiana companies a significant advantage over similar products made in countries that don't have an FTA with South Korea.

We know small and medium-size businesses are the key to creating new jobs. Over 18,500 companies of this size, small and medium companies, export to South Korea. And they will be able to grow and hire new workers here in the United States, right here at home.

□ 1520

These agreements are about creating jobs. In fact, President Obama estimates that the passage of these bills will create over 250,000 new jobs right here at home as a starting point.

Madam Speaker, I urge voting to promote all of these agreements because it will promote American competitiveness and American jobs. It will promote American credibility with our trading allies. It will promote American confidence in our international engagement. And it will promote American leverage as we work with our trading partners. And most importantly, it will promote American leadership in the 21st century.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT), ranking member on Trade.

(Mr. MCDERMOTT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Korean free trade agreement.

We should all be proud of Korea. We created Korea. Our troops went to Korea at the beginning of the Korean War and saved South Korea from becoming North Korea. That's how the Koreans look at it.

I took a trip with the Commerce Secretary, Gary Locke, who's now the Ambassador to China. And the Koreans said, we're very grateful and we want to have this relationship with you. And they have come—because we opened our markets to them, they are the most successful country in Asia in coming from nowhere to an average income of around \$33,000 per person.

Now, making an agreement with them is making an agreement more with an equal. And when we went from Seattle, we know about our regional relationship with them, we are the third-largest State exporter to Korea. In 2010, Washington State exported more than \$55 billion worth of goods; more than half of all that went to Asia. Hundreds of thousands of jobs in my State depend on this trade relationship. So this is not something where we're going to lose jobs.

I believe it's important to move ahead because I think it's equally important to move ahead right. And what

is amazing is how the Bush administration went into this thing and never figured out the biggest problem, that it was a one-way trading operation. We said to them, send us anything you want, and they did. And now we were going to go for an agreement where we were going to turn it around and say, we're going to send some things to you.

The Bush administration ignored that. Had it not been for CHARLIE RANGEL and SANDY LEVIN and the Democrats, we would never have gotten them to sit down and renegotiate. They didn't want to reopen. They had actually passed it and felt badly, and kind of—they lost some face because we didn't respond. But we said, no, it's not good enough. So we brought this agreement back and got an agreement that is much fairer and much more equitably deals with our economy, particularly our automobile industry, but also beef and some other things.

And this is an agreement between equals. This is not going out looking for cheap labor. They were that once. Back in the mid-1950s, when we said send us anything, they made all the textiles. They were the textile bunch. But they don't make textiles anymore. That's not what they're doing. They're dealing with high-end exports. And we have to have an agreement with them that makes it possible for us to have a level playing field.

This agreement does it, and from that point of view, I think this is one that everybody can support. I urge my colleagues to support this free trade agreement with the People's Republic of Korea.

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

In response to the two previous speakers, I just want to highlight at this time the lunch bucket that I carried with me for over 29 years at Great Northern Paper Company in the mill. The Korea free trade agreement is bad for the workers who carry a lunch bucket similar to this.

At this time I would like to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ).

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to this fatally flawed trade agreement. During a time when our top priority should be job creation, Congress is instead considering free trade agreements that will ship more American jobs overseas.

Making matters worse, we need to make sure that our current trade laws are being enforced. This Korea FTA will allow China to dump even more cheap goods into the U.S. without paying proper duties. And we're not talking about just a couple of dollars here either.

Chinese companies fraudulently labeled many of their products as "Made in Korea" to the tune of \$153 million last year. This fraud will mean lost jobs and lost revenue here in the United States. If this agreement passes, more Chinese companies will

ignore our trade laws. I think we can all agree that we should be working toward supporting our manufacturing sector, not making it easier for China to cheat us.

Working families in this country deserve better than this flawed agreement. For that reason, I'm urging my colleagues to vote against it.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of these free trade agreements. Simply put, the trade agreements create more jobs, increase exports, and broaden economic growth. At a time when the United States unemployment hovers around 9 percent, including 8½ percent in Texas, engines of job growth are needed.

As the independent International Trade Commission points out, the three trade agreements would increase U.S. exports by \$13 billion. While more jobs are good news for the country as a whole, Texas, in particular, stands to benefit from increased trade. In today's globalized economy, Texas depends more than ever on world exports.

Businesses in the Dallas-Fort Worth area are positioned for big gains. DFW Airport, one of the world's leading trade gateways, already handles almost 65 percent of all international air cargo in Texas. The trade agreements would increase shipments of goods from DFW to some of the most lucrative Latin American and Asian markets.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CAMP. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. MARCHANT. DFW alone has five direct flights every week to South Korea. Madam Speaker, I am in support of the trade agreements.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), another distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. On balance, the package of measures moving forward is a constructive development for America's economy, and particularly for my State of Oregon. The people I represent will see increased sales abroad of machinery, technology, and agricultural products. This, in turn, will lead to increased activity at our ports. Beef exports from Oregon will increase to help our State's farmers and ranchers. Services ranging from engineering, design, to the legal sector, all will increase. The Korean free trade agreement means jobs for Oregonians.

Some people have complained this process took too long, but I commend this administration and, particularly, my colleague, Mr. LEVIN, who didn't rush to approve trade deals that weren't good enough. Dramatic improvements have been made to the Korean free trade agreement where blatant unfairness towards American automobile sales in Korea have been

addressed. Indeed, this agreement is now supported by the American workers who make cars. And I commend Mr. LEVIN for his untiring efforts.

In total, these agreements represent improvements that we can build upon, but do not signal that we can relax our efforts. There's more that can be done. We need to redouble our efforts to ensure the benefits of trade are more widely distributed, and in the spirit with which we discussed today, that they, in fact, are enforced.

I've been encouraged by the renewed commitment to use the tools as they're supposed to be. I was pleased the Senate has acted on Chinese currency manipulation, and that the administration's decision to impose tariffs on illegal Chinese activity in the tire market was sustained by the WTO. I look forward to helping ensure a continued focus on appropriate trade enforcement.

Our economy has grown increasingly interdependent around the world, especially in Oregon. Our best efforts are needed to make sure we realize the promise of international trade. It is not a one-way street. The years spent to improve these agreements were an important step in that direction.

□ 1530

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, the Korea trade agreement is bad for workers who carry a lunch bucket like this one.

At this time I would like to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. KISSELL).

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Korean free trade agreement, and I want to make two points. One, Korea is a very important ally, a good friend of ours. It's just that their name is on the latest of these NAFTA-type template deals that we've been asked to pass. Two, I love exports, but if you look at our trade deficit, you've got to figure out that we don't know how to get our exports higher than our imports, not even get close.

I want to talk about the textile industry today. I spent 27 years of my life working in textiles. Hundreds of thousands of good Americans were working there. Their only mistake was in believing their American Dream could be fulfilled in an industry that our government decided to give away in trade deals. Now we're at it again. The South Korean free trade agreement will eliminate around 40,000 textile jobs. How much more can one industry be asked to give? They give good solid jobs, and, once again, we give those jobs away.

We heard last week the average American working family is now effectively down to a standard of living of the mid-1990s. I simply ask this question: How much more of the American Dream of our American working families should they have to give up, have to delay, until we figure out how to get this right, until we quit trying to give

our jobs away to other parts of the world and we concentrate on this great American economy and make it here in America?

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I would just note that in countries that we have trade agreements with, we have a surplus in manufacturing exports.

With that, I would yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Being from Georgia's Third Congressional District, we have been blessed to have a robust manufacturing industry. We have both Kia Motors and a large textile presence in my district.

I would like to ask the chairman if he would enter into a colloquy.

Mr. CAMP. Yes, I would be glad to.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Chairman, what will the Ways and Means Committee do to ensure no textile jobs in the U.S. are lost due to the Korea free trade agreement?

Mr. CAMP. If the gentleman would yield, first of all, the agreement includes a robust safeguard that allows the United States to raise tariffs if imports from South Korea surge and injure the domestic textile industry.

Second, the agreement includes a number of provisions to prevent transshipment of products from China or other third countries to ensure that U.S. companies are competing only against South Korean imports.

Third, KORUS uses a "yarn forward" rule of origin, which requires that the yarn production and all operations forward occur either in South Korea or in the United States. This stringent rule is consistent with other U.S. trade agreements.

Fourth, the agreement will open up significant new commercial opportunities for U.S. textile and apparel exporters and support the creation of new textile and apparel jobs in the United States.

South Korea is the 10th largest market for U.S. textile and apparel exports. The ITC estimates that U.S. textile exports would increase by \$130 million to \$140 million, that's 85 to 92 percent, and apparel exports would increase by \$39 million to \$45 million, that's 125 to 140 percent.

U.S. textile and apparel exporters are currently at a significant disadvantage vis-a-vis European textile and apparel exporters. U.S. companies currently face average tariffs in South Korea of 10.2 percent on U.S. textile and apparel exports. As a result of the EU-South Korea FTA entering into force, EU textile and apparel exporters now face an average tariff of just 0.1 percent.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Further, Mr. Chairman, what has the Ways and Means Committee done to ensure textiles from China do not illegally enter the U.S. through Korea?

Mr. CAMP. If the gentleman would yield, we are currently working with U.S. Customs and with the Koreans to avoid this problem. The agreement

itself includes a number of aggressive provisions to address transshipment. In addition, U.S. Customs and South Korean Customs have worked closely to develop state-of-the-art procedures, including advanced risk management techniques. For example, textile products are automatically categorized as "high risk" and subject to a greater level of scrutiny by U.S. Customs.

In addition, the agreement authorizes textile-specific fraud detection and verification programs. For example, article 4.3 of the agreement requires the South Korean Government to share detailed information about textile manufacturers in South Korea, including production capacity, supplier information, and machinery. This allows U.S. Customs to quickly and accurately estimate likely production and to flag suspicious shipments and companies.

The agreement also allows U.S. Customs to send inspectors to South Korea to conduct on-site verifications to prevent evasion and transshipment. These inspectors are allowed to make unannounced visits; and if the South Korea firm refuses to allow U.S. Customs officials to inspect, Customs can suspend preferential tariff treatment for goods from that company.

U.S. Customs maintains a permanent Customs liaison in our Seoul Embassy who focuses closely on transshipment issues. South Korea has already started implementing its commitments in preparation for the trade agreement. South Korea has dramatically increased resources to address transshipment, including tasking 157 Customs employees to work exclusively to verify the accuracy of country of origin information to products going to countries in which South Korea has a trade agreement.

I will continue to work with Customs and the Koreans to ensure that trade enforcement is a high priority in the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I thank the gentleman, and I appreciate his commitment to bolster the customs enforcement and close the loopholes in the customs process that have negatively impacted U.S. textiles, including taking up the Textile Enforcement and Security Act, which I'm sure the chairman would do.

It is my understanding that Korea's tariffs on U.S. textiles are subject to a 5-year phaseout, but the U.S. tariffs would go to zero immediately, allowing for free entry for Korean textiles. What is your committee doing and will it do to ensure an equal playing field for U.S. textiles in Korea and there's not a flood of Korean textiles into the U.S. market?

Mr. CAMP. If the gentleman would yield, actually the tariff asymmetry works the other way around. By value, 73 percent of U.S. textile exports to South Korea would receive duty-free treatment immediately upon entering into force. In contrast, only 52 percent of South Korean textile exports to the U.S. by value would become duty-free immediately.

So, in addition, it's worth noting that South Korean exports to the United States have fallen by 50 percent over the past 5 years, while U.S. exports to South Korea have nearly doubled.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I'd like to ask the chairman, will you promise to work with the Textile Caucus to ensure that the textile provisions of the Korean free trade agreement are not used as a model of future free trade agreements, especially the Trans-Pacific Partnership?

Mr. CAMP. If the gentleman would continue to yield, I look forward to continuing to work together with you and your colleagues in the Textile Caucus to work to address your concerns and ensure that the USTR is aware of industry concerns and that Customs adequately prioritizes its trade enforcement responsibility, particularly as it relates to textiles.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I thank the chairman for the colloquy.

I would like to submit two articles about the impact of the Korea free trade agreement on the textile industry.

[From Bloomberg Businessweek, Sept. 15, 2011]

KOLON LOSES \$920 MILLION VERDICT TO DUPONT IN TRIAL OVER KEVLAR

(By Jef Feeley, Gary Roberts and Jack Kaskey)

Kolon Industries Inc. lost a \$919.9 million jury verdict to DuPont Co. over the theft of trade secrets about the manufacture of Kevlar, an anti-ballistic fiber used in police and military gear.

Jurors in federal court in Richmond, Virginia, deliberated about 10 hours over two days before finding Gyeonggi, South Korea-based Kolon and its U.S. unit wrongfully obtained DuPont's proprietary information about Kevlar by hiring some of the company's former engineers and marketers. The award yesterday is the third-largest jury verdict this year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

DuPont, based in Wilmington, Delaware, is spending more than \$500 million to boost Kevlar production and meet rising demand for armor and lightweight materials that reduce energy use. Kevlar and Nomex, a related fiber used in firefighting gear, accounted for about \$1.4 billion of DuPont's \$31.5 billion in sales last year.

The "jury decision is an enormous victory for global intellectual property protection," Thomas L. Sager, DuPont's general counsel, said in a statement. "It also sends a message to potential thieves of intellectual property that DuPont will pursue all legal remedies to protect our significant investment in research and development."

DuPont rose 86 cents, or 1.9 percent, to \$45.52 in New York Stock Exchange composite trading yesterday. The shares have declined 8.7 percent this year.

Kolon said it disagrees with the verdict and will appeal.

MULTIYEAR CAMPAIGN

The "verdict is the result of a multiyear campaign by DuPont aimed at forcing Kolon out of the aramid fiber market," Kolon said in a statement e-mailed by Dan Tudesco of Brodeur Partners, a public relations agency. "Kolon had no need for and did not solicit any trade secrets or proprietary information of DuPont, and had no reason to believe that

the consultants it engaged were providing such information. Indeed, many of the 'secrets' alleged in this case are public knowledge."

Kolon said it will continue to pursue an antitrust case against DuPont, which is scheduled for a March trial. DuPont will file motions later this year to have the case dismissed, Sager said in a telephone interview.

DuPont will pursue recovery of the award "wherever we can find Kolon assets," Sager said. The company also will seek punitive damages for each of the 149 stolen secrets, reimbursement of more than \$30 million in attorney's fees and an order barring Kolon from making products with DuPont's information, Sager said.

BODY ARMOR

DuPont, the largest U.S. chemical company by market value, sued Kolon in February 2009 alleging it stole confidential data about Kevlar. DuPont began selling the bullet-resistant fiber in 1965 and it's used in body armor, military helmets, ropes, cables and tires. Kolon began making its own version of the para-aramid fiber in 2005.

DuPont argued in court filings that Kolon executives conspired with five former employees of the U.S. chemical maker or its Japanese joint venture, DuPont-Toray Co., to gain access to Kevlar information.

To spur sales of its Heracron aramid fiber, Kolon hired Michael Mitchell, a former DuPont engineer who also had served as a Kevlar marketing executive, DuPont said in court papers. DuPont contended that Mitchell, hired as a consultant, provided Kolon with proprietary information about Kevlar.

HOME COMPUTER

Mitchell "retained certain highly confidential information on his home computer" and passed the information to Kolon, DuPont alleged in court filings.

After learning about Mitchell's activities, DuPont executives alerted the Federal Bureau of Investigation, according to U.S. Justice Department officials.

During a search of Mitchell's Virginia home, FBI agents uncovered DuPont documents and computers containing confidential information belonging to his former employer, federal prosecutors said last year.

Mitchell pleaded guilty to theft of trade secrets and obstruction of justice and was sentenced in March 2010 to 18 months in prison.

Kolon recruited other former DuPont workers, including engineers and researchers, as part of a "concerted effort" to obtain information about Kevlar, according to court filings.

"DuPont's investment in developing this information, amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars over many years, was thereby essentially lost," the company said in a filing in October. "Kolon is now able to compete against DuPont in the aramid marketing using DuPont's own information against it."

[From the New York Times, Oct. 11, 2011]

TEXTILE MAKERS STRUGGLE TO BE HEARD ON SOUTH KOREA FREE TRADE PACT

(By Binyamin Appelbaum)

WASHINGTON.—There are still a few textile mills in the Carolina piedmont, making futuristic fabrics that cover soldiers' helmets and the roofs of commercial buildings.

There is also a new threat on the horizon. A proposed free trade agreement with South Korea, which the House and Senate are scheduled to consider this week, would open the American market to a manufacturing powerhouse that has its own high-technology textile industry.

The South Korea deal, and companion pacts with Colombia and Panama, are sailing

toward approval. Both political parties are eager to show they are doing something to revive the ailing economy, and there is a broad consensus among the Obama administration, Republican leaders in Congress and many moderate Democrats that the deals will reduce costs for American consumers and increase foreign purchases of American goods and services.

That has left opponents of trade deals, like the textile industry, struggling to be heard. They say past trade agreements, which remove tariffs and other protections for domestic manufacturers, have eroded the nation's industrial strength. The new round of deals will repeat that pattern, they say, allowing South Korean companies to flood the domestic market without creating significant export opportunities for American manufacturers.

"We are very much in favor of global trade, but we're just not about having agreements that are unfair to the U.S. textile industry," said Allen E. Gant, Jr., chief executive of Glen Raven, a family-owned company that employs 1,500 people in the United States. "The U.S. needs every single job that we can get."

The Obama administration renegotiated some elements of the deals—first authored by the Bush administration—to address concerns raised by trade unions and industries including automakers. The agreements are a centerpiece of its strategy to increase exports as a driver of faster economic growth, and the White House is pushing to seal the deals in time for a state visit to Washington this week by President Lee Myung-bak of South Korea.

Votes in both chambers of Congress could come as soon as Wednesday, during Mr. Lee's scheduled visit.

"These agreements will support tens of thousands of jobs across the country for workers making products stamped with three proud words: Made in America," President Obama said in a statement last week when he submitted the deals to Congress.

Economists generally argue that free trade agreements benefit all participating countries by creating a larger market for goods and services. But that benefit derives in part from the movement of some activities to the lower-cost countries. In other words, even if the deal is good for the United States as a whole, it is likely to create clear losers.

The government estimated in 2007 that the deals would increase annual economic output by up to \$14.4 billion, or about one-tenth of one percent. Most of that demand would come from South Korea, which would join a short list of developed nations that have free trade pacts with the United States, including Australia, Canada, Israel and Singapore.

But the study by the United States International Trade Commission found that the deals would cost jobs in some industries, and it singled out the textile industry as one likely to face the largest blow.

Highland Industries, a Greensboro, N.C., company that employs 680 people at two factories, manufactures a kind of fabric that is used to reinforce the roof coverings on commercial buildings like big-box stores. The massive rolls of fabric can be 12 feet wide and 5,000 yards in length.

South Korean companies already sell similar material at prices 15 to 20 percent below Highland's. Bret Kelley, the company's marketing manager, said Highland was able to compete on speed and customer service, but he said that could change if the trade agreement passed, because the tariff reductions would allow South Korean companies to lower prices by another 10 percent.

"We're quick and nimble, and we forge strong relationships, but what we're selling is a commoditized product," Mr. Kelley said.

"Those companies will start looking away for savings of 25 and 30 percent."

Textile industry executives are particularly incensed that for some products, like the roofing fabric produced by Highland, the deal requires the United States to reduce tariffs more quickly than South Korea.

The administration says there are only about two dozen such cases, and that the deal on the whole favors American companies. South Korea must eliminate tariffs immediately on 98 percent of the roughly 1,500 listed products in those categories, and to complete the process within five years. The United States, by contrast, would eliminate tariffs immediately on 87 percent of listed products, and complete the process within 10 years.

But many in the textile industry say they have a broader concern. Even once all the tariffs are gone, a deal between a large economy and a smaller one inevitably favors the smaller one, because it gains access to a much larger market. South Korea's economy is less than one-tenth the size of the American economy.

"There's not a market for our products there," Mr. Kelley said. "We don't have an opportunity."

All of this is a familiar story for the textile industry. The production of shirts and sheets has shifted steadily from the United States to countries with lower-cost labor. Economists argue that this process strengthens the economy as companies and workers shift to more productive and lucrative kinds of work.

The American Apparel and Footwear Association, a trade group that includes many members who have shifted some production overseas, is among the supporters of the trade deals. The group's president, Kevin M. Burke, has said the deal would "create more jobs here at home," because American workers still run textile companies, and design, transport and sell the products.

But from the perspective of the dwindling ranks of domestic manufacturers, putting existing jobs in jeopardy seems like an act of senseless destruction.

"We have felt for many years that our government isn't supporting the idea of keeping manufacturing alive in the United States," said Ruth A. Stephens of the United States Industrial Fabrics Institute, a trade group that represents companies with domestic factories.

Critics also see little evidence that American workers are moving on to better jobs in more competitive industries. The primary benefit of the deals, they say, is that corporations are able to produce goods more cheaply for consumption in the United States.

"We don't have a free trade agreement with Great Britain, which could actually buy American products," said Auggie Tantillo, executive director of the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition, which opposes the agreements. "Instead we have this penchant for doing free trade agreements with countries that are low-cost manufacturing centers. Why? Because multinational companies aren't looking at this and saying, 'It will be great to make things in Ohio and send it to South Korea.' No, they're looking at this and saying, 'It will be great to make things in South Korea and send it to Ohio.'"

Mr. Tantillo said he expected it would be clear even a year from now that the benefits predicted by the government were overstated.

Mr. LEVIN. First, I yield 10 seconds to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Madam Speaker, in a letter to the president of the Committee to Support

U.S. Trade Laws, the Ambassador of the Trade Representative, Mr. Kirk, said there is nothing in the trade treatment that will weaken the international rules or U.S. laws to address unfairly traded imports that injure U.S. industry and workers. The specific trade remedies provisions you raise are carefully crafted by our negotiators to mean that they will not adversely affect the efficacy of relief under U.S. anti-dumping and countervailing duty laws.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE,

Washington, DC, April 13, 2011.

GILBERT B. KAPLAN,
President, Committee to Support U.S. Trade Laws, c/o King & Spalding, LLP, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. KAPLAN: Thank you for your recent letter regarding certain provisions in the trade remedies chapter of the U.S.-Korea trade agreement (KORUS). Let me assure you that the Administration is committed to maintaining strong and effective trade remedy laws. There is nothing in KORUS that will weaken the international rules or U.S. laws to address unfairly traded imports that injure U.S. industries and workers.

The specific trade remedies provisions you raise in your letter were carefully crafted by U.S. negotiators to ensure that they would not adversely affect the efficacy of relief under U.S. antidumping and countervailing duty laws, and would not impinge upon the rights of U.S. petitioners to seek and obtain relief from unfairly traded imports. None of the provisions mentioned in your letter—relating to undertakings, pre-initiation notification and consultation, and the committee on trade remedies—will require any change in current U.S. laws or regulations or any substantive change to current U.S. practice. Furthermore, the dispute settlement provisions of the agreement do not apply to the antidumping and countervailing duty provisions of the trade remedies chapter.

With regard to undertakings, which are currently permitted under U.S. law, KORUS does not require that any special consideration be given to requests for undertakings from Korean exporters or the Korean government or otherwise obligate the U.S. Department of Commerce to enter into undertakings. The only requirement in KORUS that does not already exist in current practice involves the provision of written information on the procedures for requesting an undertaking, as well as the timeframes for offering and concluding such an undertaking. This information is readily available in U.S. law and regulations. The requirement to provide a copy of this information at the time an investigation is initiated will in no way affect our ability to enforce our trade remedy laws.

With respect to the pre-initiation notification and consultation provisions in KORUS, these are procedural provisions that will not require any changes to U.S. law. Under current law and practice, the Commerce Department notifies the government of the exporting country when an antidumping or countervailing duty petition is filed. Pre-initiation consultations are already required under U.S. countervailing duty law. In the antidumping duty context, the agreement clearly states that the provisions are to be applied consistent with U.S. law. Accordingly, these provisions do not alter current laws or regulations in any way.

As you note in your letter, KORUS establishes a Committee on Trade Remedies, the purpose of which is to exchange information

and discuss issues related to trade remedies; enhance each country's knowledge and understanding of the other country's trade remedy laws and practices; and improve cooperation on trade remedy matters. This forum will allow U.S. trade law administrators and experts an opportunity to exchange information and views with their Korean counterparts, and could provide us a basis to address matters of common concern and better advocate on behalf of the commercial interests of U.S. exporters, manufacturers and workers. Moreover, the United States succeeded in obtaining a commitment from Korea to use this Committee as a forum to discuss industrial subsidies, which will enhance our ability to obtain information on Korean government subsidy practices to the benefit of U.S. companies and workers.

Thank you again for sharing your views on these important issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional concerns.

Sincerely,

AMBASSADOR RON KIRK.

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

(Mr. KIND asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIND. I rise in strong support of the U.S.-Korea trade agreement today as I have in support of Colombia and Panama as well.

Madam Speaker, the Korea trade agreement is another example of President Obama and his team at USTR, led by Ambassador Kirk, inheriting what I thought were three pretty good trade agreements when they assumed office, but realizing there was room for improvement, and much to the credit of the chairman and the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, we got that crucial improvement with Korea over two vital sectors of the U.S. economy—automobiles and beef.

More specifically for the State of Wisconsin, which is the largest cranberry-producing State in the Nation, this enables us to get back into the game with meaningful exports going into the Korean market. Each day we wait to pass this agreement, Chile captures more market share, affecting the ability to export and the job creation that we desperately need back home.

□ 1540

It's also true for one of the largest manufacturers and, therefore, one of the largest employers in my district in western Wisconsin, located in my hometown of La Crosse. Right now, the goods and products that they're making at that La Crosse plant face an 8 percent tariff barrier to the export into the Korean market. With the passage of this agreement, that tariff goes down to zero, which is the point of all of these trade agreements, that we're leveling the playing field for our workers and our businesses so they can compete more effectively and fairly in gaining greater market access to Korea, to Colombia, and to Panama.

These won't be the panaceas to the job creation we need at home, but they are important steps in the right direction. They all contain vital inter-

national labor and environmental standards in the bulk of the agreements, fully enforceable with all other provisions. That has been a significant improvement as far as the elevation of standards globally and the leveling of the playing field for our businesses and our workers at home, which cannot be discounted.

Again, I commend the members of the Ways and Means Committee, the leadership there, and especially President Obama and his USTR team in taking these three trade agreements, improving upon them, and making sure that the "open for business" sign is over the United States of America again so we can pursue a meaningful economic engagement throughout the rest of the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. KIND. I do subscribe to Cordell Hull's theory on trade. He once stated that trade is more than just goods and products crossing borders because, when that occurs, armies don't.

These are an important tool in our diplomatic arsenal and also part of the answer to the economic growth that we need desperately in this country.

Mr. MICHAUD. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. My friend who preceded me talked about the reduction in tariff exports. Well, guess what? That will be blown away if they manipulate their currency, and Korea is one of only three nations on Earth identified as a currency manipulator by our own U.S. Treasury. Does this agreement preclude currency manipulation? No, it does not.

Secondly, they rebate their national taxes, a Value Added Tax, to all their exports. Build a car in Korea, you don't have to pay taxes in Korea. Guess what? Build a car in the U.S., we can't rebate the taxes under these crummy trade laws we've bound ourselves to, and when the U.S. car gets to the border of Korea, they have to pay a 10 percent tax. So we're going to be able to export autos to Korea if they're 20 percent cheaper than those produced by cheaper labor in Korea. Not very likely, but let's say we could do that. Then there are a couple of other problems.

If you buy a U.S. car and if you're a Korean citizen, they will audit your taxes. Most employers do not allow the owners of foreign automobiles, which are mostly luxury automobiles over there—there are very few foreign automobiles—to have parking spaces at work. Also, Korea does not buy very many cars. They have a 65 percent mix: 65 percent of the cars they produce are exported.

This is not about U.S. exports to Korea. Once again, it's a platform for them to say to us stop here—it's cheaper—and displace American jobs.

Even the U.S. International Trade Council, the wildest cheerleader in the

world for all of these failed agreements, says we're going to have a bigger deficit in autos. These are the same people who said we were going to have huge trade surpluses with Mexico. Whoops, got it wrong. They can't even mess around with this and pretend we're going to benefit from this—\$300 million, they say, of additional auto exports to Korea and \$1.7 billion of more auto exports from Korea to the U.S. That's what the cheerleader is saying. Imagine what the real numbers are going to be like.

We're talking about 160,000 to 200,000 U.S. jobs. Kiss the remainder of the auto industry and auto parts goodbye with this agreement.

Mr. CAMP. I would just note that this agreement is endorsed by the three big automakers as well as by the United Auto Workers.

With that, I would yield 1 minute to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS).

Ms. JENKINS. I thank the chairman for his leadership on this important issue and for yielding time.

Madam Speaker, many Americans believe that Congress can't agree on anything; but if there is one thing Washington can agree on, it's that we're in a jobs crisis and that we should be doing everything in our power to create an environment that encourages the private sector to thrive and create jobs.

If we are looking to make a dramatic and immediate impact on our job market, we need to look no further than the South Korean trade agreement. Ratifying this deal will secure at least 70,000 American jobs as we increase our exports by more than \$10 billion, adding \$12 billion to our GDP. This agreement also means jobs for Kansas. Our agriculture sector is looking at a multibillion-dollar expansion in our processed foods, chemical and transportation industries, which do well over \$150 million of business with South Korea each year, and are prime to expand further under this deal.

If our focus is on jobs, jobs, jobs, then let's pass this South Korean trade agreement, and let's get America back to work.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to another member of our committee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. I rise today in support of this agreement between the United States and Korea. I especially want to thank my colleague, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, for his tireless efforts to improve the agreement, along with Chairman CAMP and Congressman BRADY of Texas in a bipartisan way.

A lot of credit for the concept of this agreement should also go to President Obama. The Bush administration was willing to submit an agreement that heavily favored Korea, but the Obama administration held out until we got a better deal—a more fair deal, a more fair agreement.

For a long time, our roadways have been home to cars named Hyundai. Now, because of this agreement, South Korean roadways will see more American cars on them. It's only right that Fords and Chevys have the same access that Hyundai has here in America. This agreement will not only break down barriers for American car manufacturers, but American services and goods, such as insurance, legal, finance, television, and movies will now be available in South Korea. Korean services companies have always had the right to operate here, but this agreement is about making sure that American companies have the same ability to operate in South Korea.

That's good news for American businesses and good news for American workers. For a State like mine, which depends so much on the service industries, it is important that we are able to export our products throughout the world. It is no secret that the number one reason to support this agreement is that it tears down barriers for U.S. exporters and will create jobs right here in the United States.

But the number two reason is just as important. I have often discussed with my Korean American constituents back in Queens and in the Bronx the importance of there being a strong South Korea. This is as much about diplomacy. This is as much about our geopolitics. South Korea is in an area of the world that is dangerous and unpredictable. America needs strong allies in this region, and this agreement acknowledges South Korea as a friend and stalwart ally of the American Government and, more importantly, of the American people. Since we stood shoulder to shoulder during the Korean war against the advancement of Communism to our joint efforts today to stop terrorism throughout the world, South Korea has been a true ally of the United States.

This agreement sends a message to countless other countries around the world that, if you want to be treated like South Korea, act like South Korea.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. CROWLEY. South Korea has strong labor and environmental laws. South Korea is committed to a representative democracy, and South Korea recognizes that trade is a two-way street that must benefit Americans as well as South Koreans.

I strongly urge the passage of this agreement.

□ 1550

Mr. MICHAUD. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. I rise to voice my strong opposition to this trade agenda with South Korea.

Like the two other NAFTA-style trade agreements before us, we know

this deal will lead to the outsourcing of American jobs, potentially displacing 159,000 U.S. workers, according to the Economic Policy Institute. It will provide Chinese businesses engaged in the transshipment of goods through third countries an easy opportunity to take advantage of tariff rates that are intended for South Korean goods.

According to the Korea Customs Service, the quantity of products illegally labeled "Made in Korea" doubled from 2008 to 2010. These transshipped products come primarily from China and southeast Asian nations.

Chinese companies have a history of transshipping goods to the U.S. through other countries so that they can avoid duties that are levied against them for illegal trading practices. Korea's proximity and 16 ports, including the world's fifth-largest, makes them a usual target for Chinese companies.

Investigations by U.S. Customs in recent years have resulted in indictments and convictions for a variety of duty evasion schemes that hurt America, including cases concerning steel, wire garment hangers, and honey from China. There are no provisions in this agreement to guard against a potential flood of Chinese products shipped through Korea.

That means we can expect an increase of cheap Chinese goods into our market, again to the detriment of U.S. workers, if we pass this agreement. Millions of jobs have been lost or displaced because of our trade deficit with China, and Chinese products from chicken to toys have posed serious public health concerns.

What American families need right now is real job creation. We should be focused on policies that will put Americans back to work here at home in good, well-paying jobs that cannot be outsourced. And what we do not need are shortsighted trade deals that open a back door for Chinese companies to exploit.

I urge my colleagues: Stand up for struggling Americans and oppose this agreement.

DISTRICT LODGE 26, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS, AFL-CIO,

Kensington, CT, March 22, 2011.

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,
House of Representatives,
Washington DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DELAURO: I am writing to you, and all members of the Connecticut Congressional delegation, to make certain that we have conveyed clearly to you the position of the International Association of Machinists regarding the proposed South Korea Free Trade Agreement.

It is our understanding that you have already declared your opposition to this unacceptable treaty. Thousands of IAM members across the state and the country thank you for your decision to protect working families rather than cave in to global corporate interests. Hopefully, the material in this letter will give you more ammunition with which to actively encourage defeat of this flawed pact.

Let me start by stating plainly and without equivocation—the Machinists Union nationally and in Connecticut is strongly opposed to this proposed agreement. Much has

been written about this pact, so I will not repeat arguments unnecessarily. Attached to this correspondence is a statement from our national leadership declaring their opposition. Our main concern, and one that has been borne out by the results of a series of regrettable so-called "free trade" agreements, is further loss of US jobs, and a mounting US trade deficit.

The Economic Policy Institute estimates that the US will lose approximately 159,000 jobs as a result of this pact. We cannot afford to lose any jobs, and certainly not here in Connecticut.

Our state is particularly vulnerable in regards to this agreement. As you may know, South Korea has embarked on an ambitious renewable energy program, and one of their favored technologies is the fuel cell. While neither our state nor our federal government has seen fit to invest significantly in fuel cells, South Korea is now the largest consumer of the technology.

Fuel Cell Energy has already located production facilities in South Korea, and there is no doubt that other producers, including UTC Power, are continually evaluating the location of their production in relation to markets.

The US State Department, in its 2010 Investment Climate Guide, states:

The Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS-FTA) would be a major step to enhance the legal framework for U.S. investors operating in Korea. All forms of investment would be protected under the KORUS-FTA agreement, including enterprises, debt, concessions and similar contracts, and intellectual property rights. With very few exceptions, U.S. investors will be treated as well as Korean investors (or investors of any other country) in the establishment, acquisition, and operation of investments in Korea. In addition, these protections would be backed by a transparent international arbitration mechanism, under which investors may, at their own initiative, bring claims against a government for an alleged breach of the KORUS-FTA chapter. Submissions to investor-state arbitration tribunals would be made public, and hearings would generally be open to the public.

Such re-assurances about the ease & safety of investing in Korea are, in fact, alarming to workers whose jobs will be the "collateral damage" when such investments occur. That includes Connecticut working families.

The 35% content provision—allowing goods with up to 65% content produced outside of South Korea to be treated as South Korean exports—makes the agreement a conduit for sweatshop products from all over Asia. These are not provisions that help workers either in the US or South Korea.

There has been some small confusion, exacerbated by proponents of the treaty, about where the US trade movement generally stands on this issue. It is true that the United Auto Workers and the United Food & Commercial Workers have stated their support—but labor's support stops there. The AFL-CIO and its affiliates oppose this treaty—period.

Just as importantly, the South Korean labor movement also vigorously opposes the pact. Given the claims that workers' rights are enhanced in the agreement, the Koreans' opposition is a sobering reality check. In fact, the International Metal-Workers Federation (IMF), of which the IAM is a part, stated in 2009 that "Union repression in South Korea is among the worst in the world." That article is attached, as is a recent piece concerning a huge struggle taking place at a South Korean shipyard where thousands of workers are losing their jobs, despite contractual commitments from the employer.

Incidentally, the conduct of large Korean corporations, even outside of Korea, calls into question their attitude towards workers. Attached is an article describing the ongoing hardship being endured by employees of the South Korean ship building HANJIN in the Philippines. The situation is, in a word, shameful.

South Korea, and the rights of workers internationally, is of such importance to our Union and its members that Eastern Territory General Vice President Lynn Tucker recently traveled to Korea for a conference of ship-building unions, to speak to delegates. General Vice President Tucker was appalled at the accounts of abuse of South Korean workers. He asks very pointedly how President Obama can give assurances that the "re-negotiated" treaty protects workers, when here in the US workers in states like Wisconsin and Ohio are being trampled into the ground. "Does Obama know how to get to Wisconsin or Ohio and demand from those Governors a fair agreement for workers? I think not," GVP Tucker concluded.

Please dispense with any notion that the labor movement is supportive or ambivalent about the South Korea Free Trade Agreement. We urge you to remain steadfast against the treaty and to work on persuading your colleagues to do the same, in the best interests of our great country and our beleaguered state.

Thank you. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about this matter. I can be reached at 860 459-5381.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. HARRITY.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished chairman of the Select Revenue Subcommittee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI).

Mr. TIBERI. I rise in support of the three agreements before us today and would like to read a recent quote from our President, Barack Obama:

"If Americans can buy Kias and Hyundais, I want to see folks in South Korea driving Fords and Chevys and Chryslers. I want to see more products sold around the world stamped with three proud words: 'Made in America.'"

Madam Speaker, this is about jobs, and I support the President's effort, our chairman's effort in crafting these three agreements before us today. In fact, I asked Ambassador Kirk earlier this year in our full committee, how many jobs did he think would be created if these three agreements were passed? And his answer was 250,000 new American jobs would be supported with these three agreements.

In Ohio, Madam Speaker, agriculture is still the number one industry. We believe, the trade ambassador believes, that we will see an increase in exports to South Korea and the three other countries of 55 million per year.

This is about jobs, Madam Speaker. This is about exports. This is about leveling the playing field.

I urge my colleagues' support of the agreements.

Mr. LEVIN. It is my pleasure to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the U.S.-Korea free trade agreement, as well as the Panama and Colombia agreements before us today.

Economic growth depends upon a number of factors, including growing access to foreign markets. These agreements do that. Foreign goods enter our country under few restrictions, but around the world our products face product tariffs and other prohibitive barriers to trade. The current situation is neither free nor fair trade.

This changes that. The barriers are against our products. This reduces and eliminates those barriers.

The pending agreements will allow American products to better compete globally and drive job creation here at home. That's why I support these agreements.

Perhaps no industry stands to gain more than agriculture throughout America, and especially in California, the number one agricultural State in the Nation. Passage of these agreements with South Korea means American-grown raisins, asparagus, almonds, pistachios, and wine will benefit from immediate duty-free access to the world's 12th-largest economy. Many other crops, including citrus, will also benefit. Recognizing the agreement's potential to create over 70,000 American jobs, it's been endorsed by the United Auto Workers, United Food and Commercial Workers, and many of the agricultural trade associations.

With Panama, American exports will gain duty-free access to Latin America's fastest-growing economy. The agreement with Colombia will eliminate most barriers to trade for U.S. products entering Central and South America, its third-largest economy, and strengthen our ties with a key ally in that region.

Simply put, expanding access to emerging foreign markets will boost agricultural revenue and, in turn, help put Californians back to work.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. COSTA. But simply passing these agreements is not enough. We must build on the current and future administration's accountability to ensure these trade agreements are enforced. We cannot afford to sit on the sidelines while other countries forge their own pacts with emerging markets. Increased exports mean more jobs for here at home and for America.

I ask you to support these measures.

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I thank the gentleman.

These are the same promises that we heard during NAFTA and during the Most Favored Nation trade status debate with China.

We hear a lot of statistics about job creation. We don't need statistics. Come to Ohio. Go to Toledo. Go to Pittsburgh. Go to Fayetteville, North Carolina. Go to Youngstown, Ohio. Go to Akron. Go down the Ohio River. All

these promises were made before, and it didn't pan out. It didn't work.

And these trade issues are sideshows. The number one issue facing this Congress is whether or not we're going to deal with China and their currency manipulation. That bill came to the floor, this floor, last year. We had 99 Republicans vote for it. It passed with 350 votes. It just passed the Senate.

We need to bring that bill to the floor and take on the beast in the middle of the room, and that's the Chinese, and drive investment back.

When we put a tariff on oil country tubular goods in China, countervailing duties and anti-dumping, we had \$2 billion of investment that now came into the United States in steel mills.

We know what to do. We just need the courage to do it. And to all my friends here who are going to help all these multinational corporations, they're going to get the money that they made, and they're going to utilize the Citizens United case, and they're going to invest it in your campaigns to beat you.

It's time we have the courage to take on the beast and do what's right.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT).

Mr. REICHERT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding.

Well, the beast in the room is jobs, and that's what these bills are about: jobs.

We need to pass these trade agreements just like President Obama said. Pass these trade agreements now. Pass these jobs bills now. That's what these are, jobs bills.

Korea alone, 70,000-plus jobs. And how does that work? Well, 95 percent of the tariffs that we pay currently to Korea disappear. They're eliminated almost immediately.

What happens then? Guess what. Our prices go down. More demand for our goods. More demand for our goods, what does that mean? Produce more products. When you produce more products, what happens? This is Economy 101.

□ 1600

You have to hire more workers, more workers to make more products. Guess what. The unemployment rate goes down.

That's what we need to do today. We have to come together, and we know this is a bipartisan effort. We know that people have come together on both the Democrat side and the Republican side. We know that the White House has supported these trade agreements.

What happens if we don't pass these bills? We lose. The European Union has already made their agreement with Korea. It went into effect on July 1. Their exports to Korea have already increased by 17 percent. We are losing market share. Ninety-five percent of

our market is outside of this country. We need to sell America. We need to pass these trade agreements now. We need to pass these jobs bills now.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICHAUD. I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman MICHAUD, for his tireless work to promote responsible trade policy.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the U.S.-South Korea free trade agreement. Nearly 14 million Americans remain out of work; and instead of considering a job creation bill, we are voting today on a trade bill that the Economic Policy Institute estimates will cause the loss of an additional 159,000 U.S. jobs.

This trade deal will further devastate the American manufacturing sector which has already lost 6 million jobs since 1998; 55,000 factories have closed in the last decade. The three Bush-negotiated trade deals under consideration today are an expansion of the NAFTA trade model, which has decimated cities and towns across America. Agreements like the Korea FTA have accelerated the outsourcing and offshoring, sending American jobs and plants overseas.

This trade agreement is a bad deal for American workers. Trade can be a valuable tool to bolster the U.S. economy, but only if we utilize a trade model that promotes U.S. jobs. If we want to create jobs, we need to create jobs, not pass another trade agreement that will ship even more U.S. jobs abroad.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, this is a difficult time in the life of our Nation—9.1 percent unemployment nationally, and millions of Americans families are hurting. And the American people are looking to Washington, D.C., more for solutions than for fights. And today with the Korea free trade agreement, with the Colombia trade promotion agreement and the Panama trade promotion agreement, Washington, D.C., in a bipartisan way is coming together with a solution that will help to create jobs and get this economy moving again, and I heartily support it.

I want to commend Chairman CAMP, Ranking Member LEVIN, Speaker BOEHNER, Leader CANTOR, and even the President of the United States for working together in common purpose to bring us to this important moment. I've always believed that trade means jobs. And I say with some pride, that's especially true in the Hoosier State.

Indiana is uniquely poised to take advantage of the free trade opportunities

provided in these agreements, and I'm grateful for the chance to elaborate on that. I often say in Indiana we do two things well: we make things and we grow things. The truth is that in the State of Indiana, we do a lot more than that. But in Indiana, what we grow and what we build is really at the heart of the Hoosier economy, and expanding global markets for what we make and for what we grow is going to create jobs in Indiana, in the city and on the farm.

The American Farm Bureau estimates that implementing these three agreements will increase agricultural exports in Indiana by nearly \$55 million a year, creating 500 new agricultural-related jobs.

The Korea agreement that we debate at this moment will eliminate \$1.3 billion in tariffs on U.S. exports that cover many products Indiana is known for, like feed corn, soybeans, and dairy. It will eliminate those duties while other duties on products like pork will be phased out. Other industries, like Indiana's growing life sciences sector, will benefit.

Let me say again, I rise in support of these agreements because I believe that trade means jobs. And America and Indiana need jobs like never before. I urge my colleagues in both parties to join in this bipartisan effort, and let's move this bill.

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maine has 11 minutes remaining, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) has 8 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) has 6½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MICHAUD. Thank you.

At this time I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

Mr. JONES. I thank the gentleman for the time.

Every time a President, Democrat or Republican, asks Congress to approve a trade deal, they give us these wild optimistic projections for how many jobs these deals are going to create.

Sadly, this administration is no different. President Obama has suggested that the Korea free trade agreement will create 70,000 new jobs. The record shows just how wrong that claim is.

In the 1990s, President Clinton suggested that NAFTA would create over 200,000 jobs. Well, here's the reality: Since NAFTA passed in December 1993, America has lost 5.15 million jobs. Lost 5.15 million manufacturing jobs. And 384,000 of these jobs were lost in my home State of North Carolina.

In 2005 President Bush claimed that CAFTA was a "pro-jobs bill" that would stem the tide of U.S. manufacturing job losses. But since CAFTA passed in September of 2005, America has lost 2.4 million manufacturing jobs.

Here we have roughly 9.1 percent unemployment in this country, due in no small part to the Washington elite jamming these job-destroying trade agreements down our throats.

Americans do not want more “free trade.” A recent NBC-Wall Street Journal poll showed that 69 percent of the American people believe that free trade has cost American jobs. The poll shows that 61 percent of Tea Party supporters believe that trade agreements have hurt this Nation.

It’s time we started listening to the will of the American people and doing what is in the best interests of the American people, not in the best interests of the foreign nationals who desperately want to take our jobs.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will show their true American colors and vote “no,” “no,” and “no” on these three trade agreements.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, as the public is listening to this, I think they’re kind of collectively going, Whew, finally there’s something that’s going on in Congress. Finally there’s something going on with the other body. Finally there’s something going on with the White House that is common ground around a very simple premise, and that’s this: no-cost job creation. It doesn’t cost a single dime.

For my home State, the proof is in the pudding. This means it’s going to help 145,000 Illinois jobs right now that are tethered within 650 companies that are dealing with exports. This deal helps them. Twenty-five percent of all manufacturing jobs in my home State of Illinois are related to exports. And let’s face it, 95 percent of the world’s consumers live outside of the United States. So you know what this trade deal does, this says: game on. The U.S. can compete. Give us a fair playing field, and game on. We can compete.

These were hard-headed, hard-nosed negotiations led by Chairman CAMP and the White House and Ranking Member LEVIN and others. These were tough deals that were put together that were not just weak handshakes. This was staring down opponents and finally coming to common ground and putting something together that has a great deal of possibility, a great deal of promise in a country that is desperate, I mean absolutely desperate, for solutions; and this is a remedy. This is a way for us to move forward.

□ 1610

It’s important from a strategic point of view. We’ve got one of our Nation’s best friends poised in Asia, the 10th largest economy in the world, a country that has moved from the devastation of the Korean War, that has transcended all of that and is now a donor nation, and we’ve got the opportunity to be in a unique and strategic relationship with them.

This is our opportunity to move forward. I think we need to support all of these FTAs. I urge their passage.

Mr. LEVIN. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, at this time I would like to yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), who has fought harder and longer for fair trade than any Member I have served with.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank my dear colleague Mr. MICHAUD, who has fought equally hard.

I’m proud to stand here on behalf of the communities and workers and businesses of our country that want to compete on a level playing field. The problem with our trade policies is they export more U.S. jobs than products.

The gentleman talks about possibility. I don’t want possibility. I want results. When you look at what’s happened over the last quarter century, we don’t have any balanced trade accounts. They’re all in the red. And these trade deficits snuff out economic growth. Didn’t anybody here take math? Look at the balance sheet. It’s all negative.

This is Korea today. All negative. Our trade accounts with them have been negative. They’re already negative. What difference does this deal make? It only says “maybe.” Maybe Korea will allow us to sell more than 7,450 cars in their market when they’re selling half a million here already. Shouldn’t reciprocity be at the heart of our trade deals?

We’ve got a half a trillion dollar trade deficit. How many times do you have to be hit over the head before you say, You know what? This isn’t working.

Soybean exports aren’t enough. Cranberries aren’t enough. Look at the job outsourcing of America from coast to coast. Our people’s wages are going down. Their standard of living is going down. Their jobs have been outsourced. They’re losing their homes. Unemployment is stuck. GDP isn’t rising. Is anybody here listening? Is anybody paying attention?

This is just another example of powerful Washington elites being totally out of step with Main Street and the American people.

I’m proud of the Tea Partiers who are out there organizing and I’m proud of the Occupy Wall Street rallies because they’re saying, You folks, you are out of step up here in Washington. Pay attention to what is happening on Main Street.

I oppose this agreement with Korea as well as Colombia and Panama and ask this Congress to have some real common sense and move to trade balance rather than trade deficit. Create jobs in America by balancing our trade accounts.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. CANSECO).

Mr. CANSECO. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the South Korea free trade agreement, which is the most significant trade agreement the United States has negotiated in more than 16 years, and I thank the leadership of our chairmen, Mr. CAMP,

Mr. BRADY, and Mr. DREIER, in this regard.

The International Trade Commission’s analysis shows that the South Korean agreement will increase U.S. exports to South Korea by at least \$9.7 billion annually, the tariff cuts alone will add \$10.1 billion to the U.S. economy annually, and that U.S. exports to South Korea will increase by nearly 30 percent more than imports from South Korea.

The economic activity that will result from the South Korean agreement will mean thousands of new jobs here at home. The Commerce Department has estimated that every \$1 billion in exports creates 6,000 new jobs.

In particular, the South Korean agreement is especially beneficial for agriculture. In the 23rd District of Texas, I have the privilege to represent many agricultural producers. This agreement would be a huge win for American farmers and ranchers by ensuring that our competitors who are also seeking trade agreements with Korea are not at an advantage in South Korea’s \$15 billion per year agricultural market.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, would you tell us each our remaining time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) has 8 minutes. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) has 3½ minutes. The gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) has 7½ minutes.

Mr. LEVIN. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today as a former mill worker who punched a time clock for over 29 years at the Great Northern Paper Company in East Millinocket, Maine. What I’ve seen firsthand is the devastation that these free trade agreements can do to our communities.

This agreement is the most economically significant since NAFTA, and its consequences for America’s middle class will be enormous. Since NAFTA, we have lost more than 5 million manufacturing jobs. We’ve seen more than 50,000 factories close in the last 10 years alone. The Korea FTA will bring more of the same. It will cost us more manufacturing jobs, it will shut down more factories, and it will ship more jobs overseas, all at a time of 9 percent unemployment when the American middle class can least afford it.

My colleagues have already highlighted the many reasons to oppose the Korea FTA, but I want to highlight two of those issues again. First, it does nothing to protect the U.S. in the face of Korea’s currency manipulation. Second, this agreement isn’t just a giveaway to Korea; it’s also a giveaway to China.

Korea has a history of manipulating its currency to boost its exports. Once in 1988 and twice in 1989, the U.S.

Treasury Department officially labeled Korea a currency manipulator. Even though the Treasury stopped officially identifying currency manipulators, in their February and May report of 2011 they stated explicitly, "Korea should adopt a greater degree of exchange rate flexibility and less intervention."

The International Monetary Fund agrees. In August of this year, the IMF stated that the won was undervalued by 5 to 20 percent. The fact is, Korea manipulates its currency. Our own Treasury Department recognizes it. But the FTA does nothing to protect American businesses and workers from it.

You only have to look at Mexico's 1994 devaluation of the peso to see how effectively an undervalued currency can wipe out an FTA's benefits. Our trade balance with Mexico has never been positive since.

Without a provision to protect us from the won undervaluation, Korea's exports will continue to be cheaper than our own exports. This Korean advantage will wipe out the FTA's tariff benefits for American companies and cost American workers their jobs.

□ 1620

Candidate Barack Obama recognized this threat, claiming that as President he would "insist that our trade deals include prohibition against illegal subsidies and currency manipulation." But this FTA includes no such prohibition at all.

And, second, this agreement is not just good for Korea; it's great for China too. Today, we're actually voting on an FTA that will be an outright boon for China's auto parts sector. The agreement's rules of origin require that only 35 percent of the car's content value come from Korea or the U.S.

We have two FTAs with car-producing countries: NAFTA and the Australia FTA. In the Australia FTA, the content requirements are 50 percent. And in the NAFTA, the content requirements are 62.5 percent. Korea's car production in 2010 was almost equal to that of Canada's and Mexico's combined; yet the Korea FTA content requirements are much lower than NAFTA's. By allowing 65 percent of a car's content value to come from a third country, we're opening the door for that 65 percent to come from—guess who—China. As a result, these rules of origin will be devastating to the American auto parts industry.

The U.S. auto supply chain is already facing challenges from China. According to the Commerce Department 2010 report titled, "On the Road," China auto parts exports to the U.S. have increased 43 percent from 2004 to 2009, and they're expected to account for an increased share of U.S. automotive parts in the future. In fact, Commerce predicts that many auto parts companies will continue to move production to China in an effort to reduce costs and remain competitive. If this FTA passes, that's not a prediction; that's a guarantee.

I've already mentioned the fact that we have lost more than 50,000 factories since 2001. Before voting today, I urge you to imagine how many more factories will close if we are to pass this agreement, and to think about the devastation that will be brought to those towns when that happens.

I oppose it because it will devastate our manufacturing sector at a time when we need to rebuild it. I oppose it because this President promised hope and change, not more of the same. I oppose it because in my home town, unemployment is more than 28 percent. I oppose it because I want to create jobs in the United States, not South Korea, and definitely not in China.

As a former mill worker from East Millinocket and on behalf of America's middle class, I urge my colleagues to oppose the Korea FTA agreement.

I would like to insert into the RECORD a letter from the AFL-CIO in opposition to all three free trade agreements.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS,

Washington, DC, July 7, 2011.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I write to urge you to oppose the proposed trade agreements with Colombia, Korea and Panama. Working people, in the U.S. and around the world, are bearing the brunt of decades of flawed trade policy. We need Congress and the White House to focus on creating the millions of good jobs at home that we so desperately need—not passing more flawed trade deals. These trade agreements, negotiated by the Bush Administration, incorporate too many of the disastrous policies of the past, rather than laying out a new and progressive vision for the future.

Instead of using valuable time and effort advancing these flawed agreements, Congress should instead focus on effective job creation measures, including currency rebalancing and enforcing existing trade laws. We need to invest in a modern, functional infrastructure; in a high-tech, high-skilled workforce; and in clean renewable energy. It is time to update our trade model for the 21st century so that it strengthens labor rights protections for all workers, safeguards domestic laws and regulations, and promotes the export of U.S. goods rather than jobs.

COLOMBIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Violence: Colombia is the most dangerous place in the world for trade unionists. In 2010, 51 labor leaders were killed in Colombia, an increase over 2009 and more than in the rest of the world combined. So far in 2011, another 17 have been killed. The government of Colombia—despite renewed efforts—has been unable to effectively guarantee the rule of law allowing workers to exercise their legal rights without fear of violence.

Impunity: Impunity in cases of violence against trade unionists remains high, with more than 95% of cases unsolved.

No Opportunity to Exercise Fundamental Rights: As a result of this campaign of violence, as well as weak labor laws and inconsistent enforcement, only four percent of Colombian workers are unionized today, and only one percent of workers are covered by a collective bargaining agreement. Most workers lack freedom of association, the ability to engage in collective bargaining, and the right to strike effectively.

Labor Action Plan Inadequate: In April 2011, the Obama Administration negotiated a

Labor Action Plan with the Colombian government to address long-standing concerns about violence, impunity, and weak and unenforced labor laws. Unfortunately, the Labor Action Plan does not go nearly far enough in addressing these issues. It fails to require sustained, meaningful, and measurable results with respect to reductions in violence and improvements in impunity prior to ratification or implementation of the agreement, and it does not address the need for broad labor law reform. In addition, the Action Plan is not enforceable under the trade agreement itself.

Need to Wait for Results: Once the agreement is in force, the United States will have lost its most important leverage to improve the human rights situation in Colombia. The Labor Action Plan will not fix Colombia's problems overnight. Congress should wait to see if it is implemented as promised, and if conditions for working families in Colombia actually improve as a result.

KOREA-US FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Job Loss: The Korea FTA is the largest trade deal of its kind since NAFTA. If enacted, the Economic Policy Institute estimates the Korea FTA would displace 159,000 U.S. jobs—mostly in manufacturing.

Kaesong: The Korea FTA does not adequately protect against goods from the Kaesong Industrial Complex, a sweatshop zone in North Korea where workers have few rights and earn an average wage of \$61 a month. Kaesong provides \$20 million a year to a dangerous North Korean regime.

Weak Rules of Origin: In order to qualify for reduced tariff under the Korea FTA, automobiles need only have 35% U.S. or South Korean Content—meaning up to 65% of the content of autos traded under the deal could be from other any other country, including China.

Transshipment: South Korea has already reported an increase in transshipped goods (primarily from China) illegally and improperly labeled "made in South Korea." This illegal transshipment is likely to increase further as unscrupulous businesses try to take advantage of reduced U.S. tariff rates specified in the Korea FTA.

PANAMA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Investment, Financial Services, and Procurement Problems: The Panama FTA contains similar flaws as other past trade agreements, including:

Investment provisions that give foreign investors the right to bypass U.S. courts while they challenge our domestic health, safety, labor, and environmental laws.

Provisions that reduce our ability to regulate the financial sector; prevent banks from becoming "too big to fail"; and even use taxpayer money to "buy American" and create local jobs.

Labor Rights: Panama has a history of failing to protect workers and enforce labor rights.

Tax Haven: Panama is known as a "tax haven," with a history of attracting money launderers and tax dodgers. The Tax Information Exchange Treaty that Panama recently signed does not go into effect for another year and may be too weak to fix the problems. Only time will tell if Panama will live up to its promises.

American families need a new way forward on trade, not more of the same. So long as these agreements fall short of protecting the broad interests of American workers and their counterparts around the world in these uncertain economic times, we will oppose them.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SAMUEL,
Director,
Government Affairs Department.

I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. KISSELL) for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request.

(Mr. KISSELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KISSELL. I thank my friend for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD 27,000 petitions from American Textile Workers expressing opposition to the Korean free trade agreement.

Mr. MICHAUD. I yield to the Congresswoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request.

(Ms. SUTTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD a letter from the AFL-CIO on Korea's labor violations.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS,

Washington, DC, July 6, 2011.

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: As you will soon be asked to ratify the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, I would like to share important information regarding serious labor violations in South Korea.

The AFL-CIO has learned disturbing allegations from our colleagues in the Korean Metal Workers Union (KMWU). These allegations call into question the Government of South Korea's commitment to promote and defend not only the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (as promised in Chapter 19 of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement), but human rights more generally.

The allegations center on concerted actions against two different employers. The first involves Hanjin Heavy Industries, which in December 2010 unilaterally dismissed 170 workers in violation of the employment security agreement with KMWU. Later that month, the union local began a strike, which included a sit-in protest inside the factory. We understand that, in June, Hanjin hired some 400 private contractors, who, together with 2000 riot police, forced most of the peaceful protestors out of the building. In addition, it is alleged that, for the protestors who remain on site in "Crane 85," these security forces have limited the food and water available and cut off electricity.

Instead of helping these workers, we understand that the Government of South Korea has imprisoned one striker, issued arrest warrants for four union leaders, and issued police summonses for an additional 240 union members in connection with its "Obstruction of Business" law. The ILO has repeatedly called on Korea to revise this law to bring it into conformity with the internationally recognized right of workers to exercise their freedom to associate.

The second incident involves Yuseong Piston Ring (YPR), a major supplier for Hyundai Motors. On May 18, workers at YPR engaged in a two-hour work stoppage in order to protest management's apparent failure to implement a "2-day shift system" per an agreement signed with the workers in 2009. That day, YPR instituted a lockout that remains in place. When workers attempted to return to work on June 22, 150 private contractors physically attacked union workers with iron pipes, fire extin-

guishers, and other weapons. Some 20 union members were seriously injured, and four arrest warrants were issued for KMWU leaders.

These allegations are made all the more disturbing with the impending vote on the Korea FTA. If these types of violations are occurring at a time when Korea should be putting its best foot forward in hopes of gaining trade concessions from the U.S., it is unlikely that the government will feel the need to better uphold its promises to guarantee fundamental rights for workers once the agreement is in place and Korea's internal labor relations are no longer under a microscope.

While opinions differ on the underlying merits of the Korea FTA, the AFL-CIO asks that you oppose Congressional consideration of the FTA at least until the fundamental rights of South Korean workers to organize and bargain collectively are respected.

I urge you to contact the Korean Government and make your views known on this important matter.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SAMUEL,
Director,
Government Affairs Department.

Mr. MICHAUD. I yield to the Congresswoman from California (Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ) for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request.

(Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD a resolution from the League of United Latin American Citizens expressing opposition to the free trade agreement.

TO SUPPORT A FAIR TRADE MODEL AND OPPOSING THE COLOMBIA, PANAMA AND SOUTH KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

Whereas, the League of United Latin American Citizens is this nation's oldest and largest Latino organization, founded in Corpus Christi, Texas on February 17, 1929; and

Whereas, LULAC throughout its history has committed itself to the principles that Latinos have equal access to opportunities in employment, education, housing and healthcare; and

Whereas, LULAC supports a new U.S. trade policy that creates living-wages, sustainable jobs for people in the U.S. and trade partners countries while promoting democracy, human rights, labor standards, a healthy environment, and access to essential services; and

Whereas, LULAC opposes the U.S. Korea Free Trade Agreement (FTA), U.S. Colombia FTA and U.S. Panama FTA, and it has in the past opposed the U.S. Peru FTAs and the Central America FTA (CAFTA) because these pacts did not meet these goals; and

Whereas, LULAC has succeeded in bringing to national attention how agriculture provisions in the North American FTA (NAFTA) and CAFTA have forced rural Latin Americans to leave their countries and families, risking their lives crossing the U.S. border to be able to support their loved ones back home; and

Whereas, since NAFTA the U.S. has lost over 5 million family-supporting manufacturing jobs and whereas the country cannot sustain further job loss of this magnitude, especially when unemployment disproportionately affects Latino families and other people of color; and

Whereas, the foreign investor provisions and their private enforcement included in pacts like NAFTA and CAFTA threaten the sovereignty and the environment of Latin

American nations, and their control of their natural resources; and

Whereas, President Obama committed during his campaign to create a new American trade model that could deliver benefits to more people and remedy these problems, but to date has not implemented these commitments; and

Whereas, a comprehensive, bipartisan reform bill—the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act—that would deliver on Obama's commitment by addressing agricultural displacement, job loss and other past trade deal problems was supported by LULAC and over 150 members of Congress; and

Whereas, the Obama administration has announced that it will send to Congress three NAFTA-style trade deals with Colombia, Panama and South Korea; and

Therefore be it resolved, that the League of United Latin American Citizens will continue to fully and actively support a new fair trade model based on the TRADE Act; and

Be it further resolved, opposes ratification of FTAs with Colombia, Panama and South Korea leftover from the Bush administration; and

Be it further resolved, that a copy this resolution be provided to the President of the United States, the Members of the appropriate Congressional committees, the U.S. Trade Representative, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Approved this 1st day of July 2011.

MARGARET MORAN,
LULAC National President.

Mr. MICHAUD. I yield to the Congressman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CRITZ) for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request.

(Mr. CRITZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD a letter from the United Steelworkers in opposition to the Korea free trade agreement.

UNITED STEELWORKERS,
June 20, 2011.

Re oppose the free trade agreements with Korea, Panama and Colombia

U.S. SENATE,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.2 million active and retired members of the United Steelworkers (USW) I write to urge you to vigorously oppose the Free Trade Agreements with Korea, Panama and Colombia. These three FTA's will undermine our economic recovery, further decimate American manufacturing and jobs and deepen the economic insecurity and devastation faced by workers across the country.

International trade and the consequences of accelerated globalization are matters of long-standing and deep concern to the USW, as an overwhelming portion of our members work in import-sensitive manufacturing sectors and all too often have lost their jobs due to bad trade deals and unfair and predatory trade practices. Promises made by administrations past and present touting the benefits of free trade have simply not materialized for America's manufacturing workers. This is clearly reflected in the nation's massive trade deficit—a deficit fueled by trade deals that grease the path for greater and greater out-sourcing and off-shoring of jobs and capacity—and every bit as dangerous as our federal deficit.

The results of “free trade” deals are all too clear: In the last decade alone six million manufacturing jobs and 55,000 plants have been lost. Multinational companies easily set up operations overseas and export back to the U.S. market. Numbers tell the story. New Department of Commerce data show that large U.S. multinational companies cut their workforces in the U.S. by 2.9 million during the 2000s while increasing employment overseas by 2.4 million. This continues even as workers and families wrestle with a tepid and uncertain economic recovery that is generating insufficient job growth with millions still unemployed or underemployed. It's no wonder—our trade policies encourage job growth overseas. Trade deals force working Americans to assume all the risk and encourage big multinationals to reap all the rewards.

USW members have sacrificed enough. We oppose these trade deals because they do not adequately address the changing nature of trade and accelerating globalization. They are based on the failed NAFTA model. We need to update and reform our nation's trade policies, not simply continue on the present course.

The following comments provide an overview of our objections to these three agreements. They touch upon only some of the issues which undermine our nation's interests.

US-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT.

The Steelworkers have spent considerable time and effort analyzing the proposed FTA and engaged in a substantive and extensive dialogue with the Administration and leaders on the Hill regarding the FTA's provisions. Regrettably, the US-Korea FTA (KORUS) will undermine America's economic interests and lead to higher trade deficits and greater job loss.

While the focus of the Obama Administration's activities relating to KORUS was on improving the provisions relating to trade in autos, their efforts came up short for the vastly larger US auto supply chain. The final provisions allow for a vehicle to be eligible for the preferences of KORUS with only 35% of the content, by value, coming from the signatory countries. So, a Korean vehicle, to be eligible for duty-free treatment entry into the U.S., could have almost 2/3rds of its content, by value, coming from another country—like China. And, KORUS gives automakers the discretion to choose among three different methods to calculate content allowing them to choose whichever method is best for them, not for job retention or creation.

Americans want the term “Made in USA” to mean something. Indeed, the Federal Trade Commission's standard for Made in USA is that “all or virtually all” of the content should be of U.S. origin. The KORUS will accelerate the off-shoring and outsourcing of auto parts production, jeopardizing not only the jobs of the 350,000 Steelworkers that make products that can be used in the auto supply chain, but those of other workers across the country.

These provisions alone make the FTA fundamentally flawed, but, there are other problems that will cause serious economic consequences with the KORUS:

It will jeopardize jobs across the economy. The Economic Policy Institute estimates that KORUS will cause the loss of 159,000 jobs;

It will increase the trade deficit in seven high-paying sectors, according to the International Trade Commission;

It undermines our trade laws by allowing for the diversion of dumped or subsidized components to be shipped to the U.S. from third countries. The agreement lacks suffi-

cient safeguards to address this serious problem and provides new procedures that could advantage Korean producers.

It does not include provisions to ensure reciprocal market access—the Korean market is one of the toughest markets in the world for foreign products to compete in. Tariffs are often buttressed by a labyrinth of non-tariff barriers that will continue to impede our exports.

It fails to address Korea's ongoing currency manipulation.

It fails to include a comprehensive and annual review mechanism that will allow for comprehensive oversight of the workings of the FTA to ensure that the provisions that are adopted, and fully and faithfully enforced. It largely leaves to the private sector the job of demanding compliance, rather than an ongoing review mechanism that identifies and addresses problems before the injury is inflicted on our workers, farmers and businesses.

U.S.-PANAMA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The U.S.-Panama FTA is not an economically meaningful agreement in terms of providing a robust market for U.S. exports and job creation. But, its flawed provisions continue to expand the existing trade model that has proven to undermine our economic and employment interests. Thus, it further jeopardizes our economic recovery and expands an unacceptable trading framework.

Among the reasons the U.S. Panama FTA should be rejected are:

It fails to provide significant economic opportunities to promote our economic recovery and job creation;

It fails to reform the existing FTA approach to investment allowing for Panamanian investors to challenge many of our most important health, safety, environmental and other laws;

It fails to ensure adequate provision of labor rights despite recent changes adopted by the Panamanian government;

It does not do enough to address Panama's historic role as a tax haven or center for narco-trafficking.

US-COLOMBIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement puts in jeopardy America's moral leadership by sacrificing the lives and livelihoods; the worker and human rights of the Colombian people at the altar of free trade. Trade has the power to lift people up and to advance America's values—it also has the power to entrench the status quo.

In Colombia, the status quo has made that country the most dangerous place in the world to be a union member. Indeed, as the ITUC concluded in its most recent, 2011 world survey of anti-union violence, Colombia, in the words of the ITUC, continues “to maintain the lead in a grim record of murder and repression of workers involved in trade union activities.”

Moreover, the Colombian government continues to fail miserably at effectively prosecuting those responsible for anti-union violence. Thus, impunity for anti-union killings remains at 96%, while impunity for other forms of anti-union violence remains at an incredible 99.8%.

Colombia should not be rewarded with a trade agreement until it has a proven track record of bringing to justice those who have perpetrated crimes against union activists and has adopted and enforced workers' rights throughout the country. In recent weeks,—since the Action Plan was announced between our two countries—violence against union activists and worker repression has continued unabated. And, while the Action Plan purports to improve Colombia's existing framework of laws and regulations, there is no reason to believe that these changes

will have any real positive impact on workers. The US is giving away the one tool it has to effect change in Colombia, by voting to pass the agreement before there is time to see if the Santos Administration will live up to its commitments under the Action Plan. Only time, and additional improvements in the operation of their laws and judicial system and the enforcement of their labor laws, will position Colombia as an appropriate free trade agreement partner.

Among the reasons that the US-Colombia FTA should be rejected are:

Violence against union leaders and activists continues;

Colombia has not developed a sufficient investigatory and judicial infrastructure to bring the perpetrators of this violence to justice;

Significant opportunities exist for employers to deny workers their most basic organizing rights. Employers can continue to use cooperatives, temporary contracts and other means to thwart union organizing and the ability of workers to exert their rights;

The Action Plan is not part of the FTA and, as a result, Colombia's adherence to its terms may be subject to the discretion of this and future Administrations. The provisions of the Action Plan need not only to be given time to be fully and faithfully implemented but must be subject to specific mechanisms and commitments to ensure that they will be effective—now and in the future;

The FTA, through its agricultural provisions and its encouragement of further corporate exploitation of Colombian land, will only accelerate internal displacement in Colombia which just overtook the Sudan as the country with the largest internally displaced population (over 5 million) in the world.

America's economic recovery is still tenuous. We face a significant jobs and trade deficit which will only deepen if these agreements were to pass. And, indeed, passage of the Colombia agreement will create a moral leadership deficit—where America's promotion of internationally-recognized workers' rights is put in jeopardy. At any time, but certainly at this time, these three agreements should be rejected.

The American people, in increasing numbers, reject the approach our policymakers have taken on the trade issue. They will remember, at the next election, those who stood by their side and those who put their jobs, their families and their communities at risk.

Sincerely,

LEO W. GERARD,
International President.

Mr. MICHAUD. I yield to the Congresswoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE) for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request.

(Ms. PINGREE of Maine asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD a letter from the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO in opposition to all three FTAs.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

TRADES DEPARTMENT,

Washington, DC, June 27, 2011.

DEAR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: As President of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, I strongly oppose the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea, and I urge you to oppose each of these trade agreements because they represent an expansion of failed trade policies that will cause great harm to workers in the building and construction trades.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton worked to pass the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that was negotiated by President George H.W. Bush. NAFTA has contributed to the erosion of America's industrial base and been a disaster for our members who build America's factories and retool and service them. Many of our unions represent manufacturing workers, as well as those in the construction trades, and our members have lost jobs as well as line workers in America's shuttered factories. The loss of manufacturing jobs also undermines our nation's ability to finance the public infrastructure (roads, bridges, schools) on which we all rely.

When unfair trade policies destroy our manufacturing base and erode the tax base for infrastructure, our jobs in the building and construction trades disappear too.

With that experience, I am very disappointed that Congress may soon consider the free trade agreements for Colombia, Panama and South Korea. These trade agreements, negotiated by President George W. Bush, replicate the failed trade policies of the past that have exploded our trade deficit, destroyed millions of jobs, driven down U.S. wages, undermined the Buy America policies that reinvested our taxes in our communities, and exposed our domestic laws to repeated attacks in foreign tribunals.

From the extreme violence against labor leaders in Colombia to the tax havens in Panama and the failure to address currency manipulation in South Korea, these trade deals are a bad deal for U.S. workers. In addition, efforts to provide expanded Trade Adjustment Assistance benefits are a recognition that jobs will be lost as a result of these trade agreements.

The Building and Construction Trades Department supports a more equitable trade model. Our nation can and must do better to enact fair trade policies that expand economic opportunities for all Americans. With unacceptable unemployment levels and working families struggling to recover from the Great Recession, our members want Congress to pass real job-creation legislation, not more job-killing trade agreements. In the end, working families will remember who is working for them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

MARK H. AYERS,
President.

Mr. MICHAUD. I yield to the Representative from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request.

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD two letters opposing the Korean free trade agreement, one from the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition and another from the United States Industrial Fabrics Institute.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURING
TRADE ACTION COALITION,
October 7, 2011.

AMTAC URGES "NO" VOTE ON KORUS

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: The American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC) urges you to vote NO on the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS). The agreement was submitted to Congress on October 3, and a vote is expected in both the House and Senate on Wednesday, October 12.

AMTAC strongly opposes KORUS for three main reasons:

the agreement is flawed in concept;

the terms of the agreement are unfavorable to key industries such as textiles; and, the textile and apparel provisions in the agreement are unlikely to be adequately enforced.

These problems are why as many as an estimated 40,000 U.S. jobs are expected to be lost in the first seven years after implementation just as a result of textile concerns with the agreement.

If Congress is serious about creating jobs, passing trade-law enforcement measures like the stalled anti-currency manipulation legislation, strengthening our "buy American" laws, and eliminating trade distortions caused by foreign border-adjusted taxes should be targeted instead.

(1) KORUS IS A CONTINUATION OF A JOB-DESTROYING U.S. TRADE POLICY

KORUS replicates a fatal flaw contained in almost every free trade agreement (FTA) that the United States has implemented: our FTA partners can (and do) sell more to us than we to them. During the lifetime of our existing FTAs, the United States has run a cumulative \$2.1 trillion deficit with our trade partners. This flaw drives up the U.S. production shortfall manifested in our trade and current account deficits that have destroyed so many middle-class American jobs.

The disparity in market opportunities is immense for several reasons. South Korea's population is less than one-sixth of the United States. Its GDP of \$986.3 billion is less than 7 percent of the U.S. GDP of \$14.6 trillion in 2010.

Despite the South Korean economy's smaller size, it is an export superpower in many important industries such as autos, electronics, and textiles.

With respect to textiles, South Korea has a highly sophisticated, vertically integrated industry that is a world-class manufacturer of even the most technical products. In 2010, South Korea was America's 8th largest supplier of textiles and apparel by volume. For just yarns and fabrics, the largest component of the U.S. industry, South Korea is America's 2nd largest source of imports.

In addition, South Korea has a long history of unfair trading practices. Currently, there are 16 antidumping and countervailing duty orders in place against U.S. imports of goods from South Korea.

Moreover, despite its obligations under the World Trade Organization (WTO), South Korea has been hostile to imports. It has raised non-tariff barriers for those goods where there is sizeable Korean production, autos being the prime example.

We would also note that while KORUS will give South Korean goods duty-free entry into the U.S. market, U.S. exports to South Korea will still be subjected to a 10 percent Value Added Tax (VAT). Through their VAT system, South Korea will be allowed to maintain what amounts to a permanent 10 percent tariff on U.S. exports to their market. Moreover, South Korea has complete freedom to raise their VAT rate above the current 10 percent at any point in the future. It was a major error on the part of our negotiators not to address this inequity as part of KORUS, as border taxes are another persistent example of foreign practices that place domestic companies at a competitive disadvantage.

Finally, the agreement is geographically disadvantageous to the United States. South Korea faces roughly the same logistical challenges as its other Asian competition when it exports to the United States. In contrast, the United States must ship its exports of manufactured goods several thousand miles across the Pacific Ocean to a market where our competitors in China and Japan are right next door.

The disparity in market opportunity is one reason why the United States ran a \$10 billion trade deficit with South Korea in 2010. Of that total, the U.S. ran a \$10.6 billion deficit in motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts and a \$600 million deficit in textiles and apparel. It is also why the U.S. textile industry and some other sectors expect few export opportunities for their products under KORUS.

In the face of these unfavorable factors, KORUS will eliminate U.S. tariffs on 95 percent of current trade in industrial products within three years of implementation of the agreement while not guaranteeing reciprocal U.S. access to the South Korean market for key industrial products such as autos and textiles.

With South Korea's current capabilities as a major producer and exporter of industrial products, its close proximity to China, and its traditional hostility to imports, KORUS will hurt U.S. manufacturers and exacerbate our trade deficit.

No wonder the Economic Policy Institute predicts the KORUS agreement will increase the total U.S. trade deficit with South Korea by about \$16.7 billion annually and displace approximately 159,000 American jobs within the first seven years after it takes effect.

(2) KORUS'S TEXTILE CHAPTER HURTS U.S. TEXTILE MANUFACTURERS

The United States International Trade Commission (USITC) estimates that U.S. textile and apparel output will decline by the largest percentage of any sector as a result of KORUS and cites expected increases in U.S. imports from South Korea as the driving factor.

According to the U.S. International Trade Commission's initial analysis of entering into an agreement with South Korea, "The largest gains for Korean exports to the United States are anticipated in textiles, apparel, and leather goods, and other manufacturing (e.g., chemicals and allied products, electronics, and transportation)." Various studies cited in the 2007 USITC report on KORUS uniformly predict declines in U.S. textile and apparel output ranging from 0.4 to 1.5 percent.

AMTAC estimates that 9,300 to 12,300 U.S. textile and apparel manufacturing jobs are expected to be lost in the first seven years after implementation as result of flaws in the textile chapter of KORUS. Moreover, because U.S. government figures show that approximately three additional jobs are lost to the U.S. economy for each textile job that is eliminated, the total estimated job loss climbs to nearly 40,000. It is also important to note that these figures do not account for job losses as a result of a likely surge in illegal Chinese transshipments via South Korea, which we expect to be significant.

One highly sensitive market where South Korea competes head-to-head with U.S. producers in the U.S. market is in industrial textiles, a sector with employment of more than 25,000.

U.S. industrial textile manufacturers are particularly concerned about this agreement and its impact on the extended domestic supply chain for coated and laminated membranes used in industrial and military applications such as fuel cells, oil booms, rapidly deployable shelters/tents, radar attenuating covers, safety and protective gear, and many more advanced applications, including automotive fabrics. Many companies participating in this supply chain also support the military needs of our warfighters. Their ability to innovate and responsively supply the military is dependent on an overall healthy domestic market and industry.

Our principal concerns with the text include (1) accelerated tariff phase-outs that

do not give U.S. producers time to adjust, (2) non-reciprocal tariff phase-outs that favor the South Korean textile industry in key products, and (3) exclusion of certain textile components from the rule of origin.

The aforementioned reasons and others are why, as the auto provisions of KORUS were being reopened, AMTAC and other industry associations made a request to the Obama administration in August 2010 that they also reopen the textile and apparel chapter of the agreement to fix the problems therein. Textile concerns, however, were never raised with South Korea and these damaging provisions remain unchanged.

PROBLEMATIC ACCELERATED TARIFF PHASE-OUTS

Contrary to the precedent established in the NAFTA, 86 percent of textile and apparel product lines are duty free immediately under KORUS and an additional 10 percent will be duty free on January 1 of Year 5 of the agreement. This is the first time a large number of sensitive products from a country with a large, sophisticated textile industry have received immediate access to the U.S. market. Tariff phase-outs for sensitive products have traditionally been a key part of trade agreements in order to give companies time to adjust business models and minimize large-scale potential job displacement. For example, South Korea exports of polyester fiberfill have entered the United States under anti-dumping orders for the past 15 years. This dumping case passed two sunset reviews, the last of which was successfully completed prior to the end of the KORUS negotiations. Nevertheless, KORUS immediately removes the U.S. duty on polyester fiberfill, defeating the purpose of the anti-dumping rule and defying logic of equitable trade negotiations.

In the U.S. technical textile market, South Korea has emerged as the number one exporter of advanced textile reinforcements, and this sensitive tariff line is scheduled for immediate tariff phase out. U.S. industrial textile producers have already lost significant market share to South Korean manufacturers, and this FTA will do significant harm to the industrial textile industry and greatly diminish the sustainability of our fragile domestic supply base.

Socks are another sensitive product where most tariff lines go to zero immediately. South Korea was the 6th largest exporter of socks to the United States in 2010 by volume, shipping more than 152 million pair.

NON-RECIPROCAL TARIFF PHASE-OUTS

The agreement also provides South Korea with a more generous and expedited tariff elimination schedule than what is afforded U.S. producers and exporters for certain products. One example is para-aramid fiber, which is used to produce tough, flame-retardant fabrics for industrial and military applications including body armor. Under KORUS, South Korea will be allowed to export aramids to the United States with immediate duty free treatment. U.S. producers do not get duty free access to the Korean market as South Korea is allowed to phase out its tariff to be duty free on January 1 of Year 5. This puts U.S. manufacturers at a direct disadvantage.

JOB-DESTROYING LOOPHOLES IN RULE-OF-ORIGIN

The rule of origin is a critical element of any free trade agreement because it defines which products qualify for preferential treatment and whether countries not party to the agreement will receive benefits. The KORUS contains a "yarn forward" rule of origin. While we support a basic yarn forward rule, certain specific exemptions to the product origin rules under KORUS are very problematic.

In essence, the rule applies only to the component that determines the tariff classification of the apparel or home furnishing good (in other words, the main or essential fabric) plus certain visible lining fabrics. Applying origin rules in this manner means that key component yarns, threads and fabrics are not adequately covered under the rule of origin and therefore do not have to be of U.S. or South Korean origin. This conflicts with the majority of our recent agreements including CAFTA-DR, Peru, Colombia and Panama which apply the yarn forward rule beyond just the essential character fabric.

Under KORUS, components including sewing thread, pocketing and narrow fabrics, all of which are in plentiful supply from U.S. producers, are allowed to come from anywhere. This allows third parties, such as China, to benefit without making any market concessions of their own. Domestic producers of these types of component yarns and fabrics provide thousands of U.S. jobs, which will be put into jeopardy if KORUS is implemented.

(3) HIGH LIKELIHOOD OF MASSIVE CUSTOMS FRAUD DUE TO INADEQUATE ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS

In addition to the flaws in the textile chapter of KORUS, there is strong evidence that Customs' ability to enforce this agreement will be ineffective.

Due to South Korea's history of transshipment paired with significant cross-border investment with China, upgraded customs enforcement provisions are essential to prevent large-scale customs fraud under KORUS. China already exports nearly \$4 billion annually in textiles and apparel to South Korea, and South Korea was labeled by U.S. Customs as a major transshipment point for Chinese exporters when quotas were in place.

Instead of strengthening enforcement, however, the customs language in KORUS was significantly weakened compared to other high risk agreements such as the Singapore PTA.

Key enforcement provisions that were dropped under KORUS include the ability for U.S. Customs to (1) seize goods from repeat offenders, (2) reduce South Korea's access if it does not enforce the rules of the agreement, and (3) deny fraudulent companies import privileges for several years.

The standard customs provisions in the KORUS leave the U.S. textile industry and its workers vulnerable to large-scale illegal imports from China through South Korea. As a result, the industry fully expects Chinese textile exporters to be a primary beneficiary of KORUS.

In addition to its direct threat to the U.S. market, the specter of increased illegal transshipments likely to be generated by KORUS represents a significant attack on the hemispheric textile production structure encouraged by U.S. policy for the past three decades.

The KORUS threatens to damage the Western Hemisphere because South Korea's textile and apparel exports are expected to surge and displace orders currently being sourced in the region. When finished product orders are lost by manufacturers in the Western Hemisphere, U.S. mills also lose the orders for the yarns and fabrics that go into garments and made-up articles.

The potential loss of business is enormous. As a result of trade preference programs and the NAFTA/CAFTA/Peru FTAs, nearly two million textile and apparel workers in those regions produce garments, home furnishings, and the textile components incorporated into those products. The U.S. textile and apparel industry is a critical link in the supply

chain. We export more than \$12 billion a year to our preferential partners in the Western Hemisphere, predominantly in components such as yarns, threads, and fabrics. This trade accounts for more than 60 percent of total U.S. textile and apparel exports.

CONCLUSION

AMTAC urges Members of Congress to vote NO on KORUS due to the expedited tariff reductions, lack of reciprocity in certain key product areas and overall negative impact on U.S. companies and jobs. Congress should prioritize fixing U.S. trade policy, stopping manufacturing job loss, and closing the trade deficit before considering any new trade deals including KORUS.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

AUGGIE TANTILLO,
Executive Director,
American Manufacturing Trade Action
Coalition.

USIFI,
April 6, 2011.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
Chairman.

Hon. SANDER LEVIN,
Ranking Member, Ways and Means Committee
Office, 1102 Longworth House Office Building,
Washington DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP AND RANKING MEMBER LEVIN: The United States Industrial Fabrics Institute (USIFI) submits the following comments for the record in conjunction with the Ways and Means Hearing on the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

The United States Industrial Fabrics Institute (USIFI) has fifty company members, each with significant U.S. manufacturing. The member companies supply technical textiles and made-up products for advanced industrial and military applications. USIFI is a sub-set of the 2,000 member not-for-profit Industrial Fabrics Association International (IFAI).

The United States technical textile industry (also known as specialty or industrial textiles) continues to be a pawn in the chess game of international trade agreements. Our own government, in its analysis of the pending U.S. Korea Free Trade Agreement, states "The expected increase in imports from Korea will likely be concentrated in goods for which Korea is a competitive, and major supplier, and U.S. tariffs are high, such as man-made fibers, yarns, fabrics, and hosiery, and will likely displace domestic production of such goods and especially imports of such goods from other sources. . . . The expected increase in U.S. imports of textiles and apparel from Korea under the FTA will likely be concentrated in man-made fibers and goods made of such fibers, for which Korea is a major world producer and has a "proven advantage."

In fabrics, the expected growth in U.S. imports from Korea will likely be concentrated in knit and woven industrial and specialty fabrics and will likely displace domestic production of such fabrics. Korea was the third-largest source of U.S. fabric imports in 2006 with 11 percent (\$953 million) of the total, reflecting significant positions in knit fabrics (27 percent import share or \$203 million) and specialty fabrics (13 percent or \$116 million). Korean producers reportedly are expanding output of industrial and specialty fabrics that use information technology and biotechnology for use in tire-cord fabrics and engineering, construction, and medical applications. Industrial fabrics include high-strength reinforcements, textile reinforcements, and laminated sheet goods that use

the textile reinforcements to make them stronger. The fabrics are used in awnings, tents and shelters, signs and banners, tarpaulins, commercial roofing membranes, health-care mattress and seating covers, truck covers, conveyor belting, fabrics for package handling and treadmills, and geotextiles for water-containment linings and erosion control.

Committee Members, these are the products our member companies produce in the United States.

U.S. companies in the specialty technical textile industry manufacture highly specialized products for protection (ballistic, shelter, chemical-biological-radiation-nuclear protection textiles, potable water and fuel fabrics and bladders); partner with our military and academic institutions to develop new textile fibers, fabrics, and finishes; and employ highly skilled workers in almost every state in the Union. The U.S. technical textile industry is a success story—expanding, efficient, and leading the world in innovation. These are the jobs that will disappear if you ratify the U.S. Korea Free Trade Agreement.

A USIFI member, one of the largest U.S. military tent manufacturers, shared this comment:

The technical textile military shelter supply base consists of suppliers of fibers, yarn, woven fabrics, specialty chemical films and technical coatings, all of which are combined by our technical fabric suppliers to our end products manufacturers for use in the manufacture of military tent liners, covers and flooring materials in broad range military tent shelters as well as a large family of related products made from technical fabrics. This supply chain employs unique and highly sophisticated processes that require major capital investments, thus making their sustainability extremely sensitive to the loss of volume.

The severe constriction that has already occurred in the U.S. technical fabrics supply chain has greatly diminished the sustainability of the industry. This proposed FTA will further reduce the sustainability of our extremely fragile domestic supply base upon which our U.S. military relies for shelters and related personal protection products.

—J.C. Egnew, President, Outdoor Venture Corporation, Stearns, KY.

The technical textile segment of the U.S. textile and apparel industry has grown; in 1998, this segment made up 25% of the market by volume. Now it comprises 43% of the domestic market. In contrast, the apparel market in 1998 had 38% share and now is only 20%, directly due to imports and the move to off-shore manufacturing.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are 393,000 textile and apparel jobs left in the United States as of February 2011. Five years ago, this segment employed 617,500 (February 2006), a loss of 224,500 jobs (–36%). Ten years ago, the textile and apparel industry employed 1,028,900 (February 2001), making a cumulative loss of 635,900 good paying, skilled jobs (–62%) in the last decade. It is estimated that U.S. domestic textile mills and finishers producing fabrics specifically for the technical textile market employ approximately 160,000. USIFI member companies account for more than 25,000 of this number. This figure does not include made-up products nor does it include the raw materials like fiber or chemicals for dyes and finishes. The U.S. textile industry predicts that the threat placed on us by the substantial increase in Korean imports if KORUS is ratified will jeopardize 40,000 technical textile and related jobs. The Economic Policy Institute estimates that 159,000 good paying American manufacturing jobs across

all sectors will be lost if the KORUS agreement is passed.

With South Korea's current capabilities as a major producer and exporter of industrial products, its close proximity to China, and its traditional hostility to imports, the Agreement is not in the best interests of American manufacturing. USIFI has been tracking imports from Korea for more than a decade; their data, compiled from the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) and the USITC, shows that Korea is the largest supplier to the U.S. of advanced textiles reinforcements, the second largest supplier of yarns and fabrics, and second largest supplier of coated and laminated membranes.

Specifically, we have three main concerns with the Agreement:

Customs enforcement;
Tariff phase-out schedule;
Product coverage of the rules of origin.
Customs Enforcement: Korea is a known illegal transshipment axis for Asia, especially China. The Agreement as drafted leaves the U.S. and its workers vulnerable to large-scale fraud. The long history between the South Korean and Chinese textile industries and the documented cases of transshipment cooperation between producers in these countries are major sources of concern. Korea's position as a transit hub for Chinese goods will make the enforcement of the KORUS particularly challenging. The Korean port of Busan is the 5th largest container port in the world and is the largest transshipment port in northeast Asia, handling more than 13 million twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) containers annually. The port handles cargo from 500 ports and 100 countries with an expansive feeder vessel operation connecting Busan with China, Japan and Russia. The U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, while its budget has increased, has decreased its commitment to its customs textile enforcement program as priorities have shifted to other areas.

Tariff Phase-Out Schedule: Korean textile products are provided a much more generous phase-out schedule than U.S. products, allowing many Korean products immediate duty-free access to the enormous U.S. market (96% of their products go to zero duty within three years). Access to the much smaller Korean market for those same U.S.-made products will be phased in over ten years. The disparity in the phase-out schedule is particularly concerning because Korea is already the largest supplier to the U.S. of technical textiles and has a sophisticated, government supported technical textile industry, with excess capacity, just waiting for this agreement to pass so they can flood the U.S. market with their products.

Product Coverage of the Rules of Origin: The rules of origin under the KORUS agreement exclude certain components such as sewing thread, narrow fabrics and pocketing fabrics, items that are required under the CAFTA-DR and Panama Agreements and are important to U.S. textile manufacturers. Allowing these inputs to be sourced from countries not party to the Agreement is a departure from recent FTAs and it is illogical that these and other products were excluded in this Agreement.

You have seen the Agreement and studied its analysis. You read in government documents that whole segments of the U.S. economy will not be helped by this Agreement, including technical textiles. We are asking that you address this flaw now with your vote against the U.S. Korea Free Trade Agreement, ending the chess match where U.S. textile manufacturing never wins.

Sincerely,

RUTH A. STEPHENS,
*Executive Director, U.S. Industrial
Fabrics Institute (USIFI).*

Mr. MICHAUD. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request.

(Mr. LIPINSKI asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this job-killing trade bill, and I would like to insert into the RECORD a letter from the International Federation for Professional and Technical Engineers in opposition to the Korea FTA.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS,

Washington, DC, February 7, 2011.

Hon. HILDA L. SOLIS,
U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC.
Hon. RON KIRK,
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY SOLIS AND AMBASSADOR KIRK: The International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) applauds the Obama Administration, most notably the Department of Labor (DOL) and the office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) for your willingness to include labor in last year's discussions preceding the Administration's announced agreement on the US-South Korea (KORUS) Free Trade Agreement. That said, and after a long review and analysis of this FTA, I am writing to express IFPTE's concerns with the final proposal. While some improvements compared to the Bush Administration negotiated KORUS FTA were achieved, IFPTE continues to believe that the proposed agreement falls short in several key areas and fails to put US workers and businesses in a better position to compete.

First and foremost, KORUS does not include enforceable labor protections. Granted, the language urges the United States and South Korea to adhere to the International Labor Organization (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. However, like the 2007 Bush Administration negotiated Korea deal, as well as the Panama, Peru and Colombia FTAs, the practical implication of this provision is the exclusion of any enforceable ILO labor protections. The fact is that the ILO Declaration itself has no teeth and is not enforceable. Instead, it is the eight ILO Conventions themselves that are enforceable. Yet, and despite the urging of labor to include the ILO Conventions, they are not included in KORUS. The resulting compromise allows potential FTA panels the flexibility to ignore, or even weaken through misguided interpretations, the true labor protections called for by the ILO.

It is IFPTE's long-standing position that any trade framework should be reflective of a broader US industrial policy whose foundation is enhancing the rights of workers not only here in the US, but worldwide. Consequently, the mere fact that the ILO Conventions are absent from this agreement is reason enough for IFPTE to oppose the KORUS FTA.

We have many other concerns as well, including our skepticism with claims of a limited negative impact on American workers. The basis for these claims stems from an analysis of KORUS by the United States International Trade Commission (USITC), which attempts to predict the impact that specific trade agreements will have on the US economy. The USITC suggests that KORUS will have no negative impact on US jobs, and will have a limited impact on the US trade deficit with South Korea over the

first seven years. However, USITC estimates have historically underestimated the damage that past trade agreements have had on US workers and the economy. For example, when China sought membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO), the USITC predicted that our trade deficit with China would increase by \$1 billion, and it would have a negligible impact on jobs. Instead, from the time China entered the WTO in 2001, through 2008, our trade deficit with China ballooned to \$185 billion annually and resulted in the loss of 2.4 million American jobs. In other words, IFPTE warns against relying on the USITC metric.

We at IFPTE believe that a more reliable, and realistic, estimate of the impact of KORUS is outlined by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI). Contrary to the USITC findings, EPI found that over the first seven years of implementation, KORUS will result in 159,000 lost American jobs and increase the US trade deficit with Korea by \$16.7 billion. To put this into practical terms, an analysis by the United Steelworkers of America (USW), for example, suggests that KORUS will only enflame our trade deficit with Korea. In expressing their opposition to KORUS, the USW issued a statement saying, "auto parts, petroleum products, tires and iron and steel, for example—have contended with fast growing imports from Korea this year, and the FTA will only ensure a continuation of the negative impact of this import flood on domestic production and employment."

Equally troubling is that KORUS mirrors NAFTA when it comes to foreign investor privileges and Buy America policies. Among the foreign investor problems with this bill are the following:

Gives foreign investors the right to enforce FTA privileges by suing the U.S. government in foreign tribunals for violations of FTA rights;

Opens up U.S. environmental, health, zoning and other policies to challenge by foreign investors in foreign tribunals;

Requires that foreign based companies in South Korea, like those in all FTA nations, have the same access to state and federal government contracts as that of U.S. based companies; and,

Forbids the reinvestment of U.S. taxpayer dollars back into the domestic economy by governments at the state and federal levels through, "Buy America" policies.

It is worth noting that the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), South Korean Farmers organization, and civil and human rights groups have also lined up in opposition to KORUS. Indeed, our national experiment with free trade agreements has been negative for workers in America, as well as those around the world. There has been enough suffering from one sided trade deals that are great for business, but are disastrous for American and foreign workers alike. Therefore IFPTE opposes the KORUS FTA and will encourage Congress to reject it.

I thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me, or IFPTE Legislative Director Matt Biggs.

Sincerely,

GREGORY J. JUNEMANN,
President.

Mr. MICHAUD. I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request.

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD a state-

ment from the National Council of Textile Organizations in opposition to the Korea free trade agreement.

TEXTILE WORKERS DELIVER 27,000 PETITIONS
URGING "NO" VOTE ON U.S.-KOREA FTA
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE VIRGINIA
FOXX (R-NC)

2,584 PETITIONS SIGNED

The U.S. textile industry has witnessed firsthand the damage that poorly constructed trade agreements inflict on textile and apparel producers in our country. The industry requested that the Obama Administration renegotiate the textile and apparel chapter of the Korea FTA and was ignored.

At a time when our country's unemployment rate remains at record high levels, the industry would like to count on you to stand up for textile jobs and vote NO when this poorly negotiated agreement comes up for a vote.

The textile industry is creating jobs in the United States. Exports have increased more than 16 percent this year alone. The industry is experiencing a shift of sourcing by brands and retailers out of China and into the Western Hemisphere in order to take advantage of the hemisphere's unique trading relationship and its ability to quickly supply major retailers in the U.S.

Enacting the Korea FTA will reverse this positive trend. The reality is that this agreement benefits China and a select group of Korean exporters while it hurts U.S. textile workers.

PLEASE VOTE NO ON H.R. 3080, THE U.S.

KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. MICHAUD. I yield to the Congresswoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request.

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD a letter from the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades and a letter from the National Farmers Union in opposition to the Korea FTA.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS
AND ALLIED TRADES, AFL-CIO,
Hanover, MD, June 30, 2011.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 140,000 active and retired members of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT), I am writing you regarding the proposed Free Trade Agreement between the United States and the Republic of Korea (KORUS FTA). I have serious concerns about duty free construction materials entering the United States and the devastating effect that this and all free trade agreements have on the manufacturing sector.

The IUPAT represents men and women working in the finishing trades as commercial and industrial painters, drywall finishers, wall coverers, glaziers, glass workers, floor covering installers, sign makers, display workers, convention and show decorators, and many more occupations. Our union is made up of over 400 local union halls throughout the United States. While the IUPAT is working overtime to make sure our membership has the ability to provide for their families through this time of chronic and crippling unemployment, I find it unimaginable that this job killing trade agreement would even be considered. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 13,700,000 Americans remain unemployed and nearly 2.5 million Americans have given up on finding work because job loss is so rampant in their communities. The United State Inter-

national Trade Commission (ITC) report from March 2010 projects that implementation of the Korea Free Trade Agreement would increase the U.S. goods trade deficit. This predicted increase in the U.S. trade deficit under the Korean FTA would risk the jobs of millions of Americans, including IUPAT members, employed in our industries.

Even the White House has ceded the point that this Free Trade Agreement will cost jobs when they demanded on May 16, 2011, that Trade Adjustment Assistance be a prerequisite to the ratification of any of the three pending Free Trade Agreements. While the IUPAT is supportive of the president's promise to provide burial insurance to thousands upon thousands of Americans who will lose their jobs due to the Korean Free Trade Agreement. A better policy would be to focus on rebuilding the frail U.S. economy by investing in American workers instead of workers from North Korea, Korea, China or any other country that imports component parts through Korean ports.

Approximately 20% of IUPAT members work in the manufacturing sector. They work to maintain factories and manufacture paint, plate glass, and floor covering materials, and fabricating glass systems. According to the ITC, these members' jobs and their livelihood would be directly threatened by the duty free importation of the products they proudly manufacture or fabricate as American made.

IUPAT members working in glass fabrication shops manufacture energy efficient shells for buildings and factories. Their product would be turned away in favor of duty free glass panels shipped from Korea. The ITC report indicates that IUPAT members who manufacture floor covering materials or wall coverings would be told to find a new career when cheap carpets, rugs, and wall covering materials flood the United States duty free. It is clear that duty free will destroy American communities and leave Americans families less.

Beyond the very troubling job loss predicted by the USITC, I am deeply concerned about the weak rule of origin that was negotiated by President George W. Bush in this Free Trade Agreement. In 2009, millions of pounds of toxic drywall entered the United States. That lack of oversight put thousands of IUPAT members and an estimated 60,000 families at risk. This was the direct result of allowing uninspected products from an under-regulated country. The weak rule of origin opens the United States, the members of the IUPAT, and American property owners up to the strong possibility that subpar and possibly dangerous building materials will enter the United States and be used in our homes and businesses.

In the interest of the United States economy and all of the families who wish to be working again, including the membership of the IUPAT, I strongly urge you to stand up for American made products and jobs by voting against the Republic of Korea/United States Free Trade Agreement.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. WILLIAMS,
General President.

JULY 7, 2011.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: As the House Ways and Means Committee conducts mark ups of the three pending Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), National Farmers Union (NFU) urges members of Congress to oppose these FTAs unless changes are made to make sure that the FTAs are fair for each party involved. As described in a policy resolution NFU's membership passed in the spring of 2011, in order for NFU to support the FTAs negotiated with South Korea (KORUS), Colombia and Panama, inequalities stemming

from lack of market access, weak labor standards, extraordinary foreign investor rights and currency manipulation must be addressed.

The U.S. International Trade Commission has released their analysis of the KORUS agreement. Losers under the agreement include all oilseeds (which include soybeans), wheat and specialty crops (which include forages, sheep, goats and horses). The report predicts that the agreement would lead to an increase in the overall U.S. good trade deficit of \$308 to \$416 million because seven U.S. industrial sectors will see net losses. The Economic Policy Institute projects the agreement will cost the U.S. 159,000 jobs in the first seven years. At a time of high unemployment, it would be irresponsible to pass this job-killing FTA.

The U.S. Treasury declared South Korea a currency manipulator in 1988 and 1999. In February 2011, the Treasury issued a warning that South Korea was taking the same steps as it did before past devaluations. Devaluing their currency could wipe out any gains achieved in any sector of the agreement. The KORUS agreement does nothing to address currency manipulation, which puts U.S. producers at an economic disadvantage.

Although U.S. agriculture has a substantial net trade surplus with the world as a whole, U.S. agriculture is currently running a net trade deficit with countries that have FTAs with the U.S. In fact, U.S. agriculture has actually done worse after FTAs have been entered into.

As your committee considers the pending FTAs, given our concerns, we strongly urge members to vote against the agreements.

Sincerely,

ROGER JOHNSON,
President, National Farmers Union.

Mr. MICHAUD. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request.

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD a letter from the hardest-working workers in America—the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers—in opposition to this Korean free trade agreement.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF
BOILERMAKERS, IRON SHIP BUILDERS,
BLACKSMITHS, FORGERS &
HELPERS,

Kansas City, KS, December 16, 2010.

*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers, I write to express our opposition to the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA). This misguided agreement fails to address the long-standing concerns of American workers, will result in more lost American manufacturing jobs, and fails to establish an appropriate model for sustainable global trade. At a time when so many Americans are struggling in our weak economy, the KORUS FTA is the last thing our nation can afford to pursue.

We continue to be disappointed the U.S. Trade Representative has failed to negotiate positive changes in core aspects of this agreement. The provisions on investment, procurement, and services continue to constrain both governments' ability to regulate in the public interest, promote domestic job creation through responsible procurement

policies, and provide public services. The agreement's rules on procurement have the potential to restrict policy goals of vital importance to our union, including domestic sourcing requirements. It is inappropriate for trade agreements to restrict the ability of governments to invest tax dollars in domestic job creation and promote legitimate social objectives. In addition, the investment provisions of the agreement include provisions that allow foreign investors to claim rights above and beyond those granted to domestic investors.

With respect to the labor chapter, no effort was made to improve and strengthen the labor provisions with the Korean Government. Contrary to popular belief, Korean labor laws fail to conform to norms established by the International Labor Organization (ILO). In fact, dozens of trade unionists have been imprisoned for exercising basic labor rights. Further, the Korean Government passed legislation several years ago weakening basic labor protections, contrary to the recommendations of the ILO.

This trade agreement—the most significant in over a decade—fails to live up to the standards workers in both countries deserve. During the 2008 Presidential campaign, then candidate Obama promised to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Instead, two years later, the Obama administration is asking American workers to once again turn a blind eye to yet another unfair and unbalanced trade agreement. It is time to abandon the flawed model on which the KORUS FTA is based, and move toward a new policy that creates good jobs, benefits the U.S. economy as a whole, and protects fundamental rights.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

NEWTON B. JONES,
International President.

Mr. MICHAUD. I yield to the congresswoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request.

(Ms. SUTTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD a letter from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in opposition to the free trade agreement.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS,
Washington, DC, July 13, 2011.

DEAR SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the approximately 725,000 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I write to express my strong opposition to the proposed trade agreements with South Korea, Columbia, and Panama. All three are North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)-style pacts originally negotiated by President Bush. I urge you to vote no when they are considered by Congress.

As I stated in a letter I sent you in December, 2010 regarding the South Korea agreement: "It is long past due that common sense be applied to the issue of international trade. For the better part of two decades Americans have been told that free trade is good for workers and consumers. In reality, trade policies promulgated by both Democratic and Republican administrations have benefited multi-national corporations and their top executives. Although these policies have allowed consumers access to cheap (though sometimes toxic) products, they have come at a tremendous cost in the form of lost jobs, a shrunken tax base, diminished

access to health care, and a reduced quality of life." Now, in addition to the South Korea agreement, the Columbia and Panama pacts will perpetuate the same job-killing provisions that gained their greatest traction in NAFTA.

The problems with these agreements are well-documented. Adoption of the South Korea agreement will lead to the loss of approximately 159,000 jobs and expand our trade deficit with this country by \$16.7 billion during the first seven years of implementation. Additionally, South Korea is a proven currency manipulator having been declared so by the U.S. Treasury in 1988 and again in 1999. Unfortunately, the South Korea agreement does nothing to address currency manipulation.

Like South Korea, the Columbia agreement is another NAFTA-style pact, but in Columbia more is being lost than jobs. Columbia is the most dangerous place in the world for trade unionists. In 2010, 51 labor leaders were killed in Columbia, an increase over 2009. This is more than in the rest of the world combined. The government of Columbia has been unable to effectively guarantee the rule of law to allow workers to exercise their legal rights.

The last of the nations being considered for a NAFTA-style agreement, Panama, is a known "tax haven" with a history of attracting money launders and tax dodgers. Although the Tax Information Exchange Treaty that Panama recently signed looks to combat these issues, it does not go into effect for another year and may be too weak to fix the problems. Additionally, Panama has a history of failing to protect workers and enforce labor rights.

"Free trade" has proven to be a job-killer in the good-paying manufacturing sector. Lay-offs, closed factories, and lost tax base have been the legacy of NAFTA, CAFTA, and their associated trade agreements. This is why I urge you to vote no on the South Korea, Columbia, and Panama free trade agreements when they are brought to a vote in Congress.

Sincerely yours,

EDWIN D. HILL,
International President.

Mr. MICHAUD. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CRITZ) for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request.

(Mr. CRITZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD a letter from the International Longshore and Warehouse Union in opposition to the Korea free trade agreement.

INTERNATIONAL
LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION,
San Francisco, CA, Dec. 13, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
*House of Representatives, Cannon House Office
Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: President Obama has reached a trade agreement with South Korea. That agreement must now be submitted for Congressional ratification. We anticipate that the President will aggressively shepherd this pact through Congress.

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) represents approximately 14,000 full time dockworkers and 14,000 part time dockworkers on the West Coast of the United States and in Hawaii and Alaska. Our members are in the business of moving cargo. By all accounts, the Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) will increase trade between South Korea and the United States, which

will result in an increase in cargo movement between the two countries. An increase in cargo movement is good for dockworkers. However, this fact alone is insufficient to overcome the vast deficiencies of the KORUS FTA.

The KORUS FTA will cost jobs, lower environmental, labor, food and product quality standards, and empower corporations from the United States and South Korea to challenge public interests in both countries. The labor standards provision of the agreement only provides that each country enforce its own laws to adhere to the core labor standards identified by the International Labor Organization. The United States and South Korea's laws and enforcement in this area are completely inadequate and must be amended prior to the implementation of the agreement.

Labor supported President Obama and numerous other democratic candidates two years ago. In exchange for this support, we were promised a return to policies and practices that maintain, restore, and strengthen the middle class and working people across the United States. For two years, we have watched campaign promises be broken, one after the other, on this relentless march down the road of business as usual. Now, despite his campaign promise that he would only support trade agreements that "put workers first," the President is pushing a trade agreement, the largest since the NAFTA debacle, that undeniably puts workers in South Korea and the United States in jeopardy.

On December 10, 2010, the International Executive Board of the ILWU voted unanimously to oppose the KORUS FTA. The ILWU will not support trade policy that exacerbates inequities, awards special rights to foreign investors, allows banks to practice the same disastrous policies that resulted in the current economic downturn, opens domestic environmental laws to foreign challenge, increases the trade deficit, and costs jobs. We urge Congress to support the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act, which outlines a way forward to a new trade and globalization agenda that would be better for labor, the environment, the economy, consumers, and our trade partners.

If my letter serves but one purpose, let it be to communicate this basic message: we have had it. Today, we join the growing chorus of labor unions who oppose the KORUS FTA. We also ask that our representatives in the Democratic Party stand up, discard meaningless oration, and remind us, with action, what the Democratic Party stands for because we have forgotten.

The Democratic Party needs to reject the KORUS FTA and stop taking its base for granted.

Sincerely,

ROBERT MCELLRATH,
International President.

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 8 minutes.

Mr. LEVIN. This is an important discussion, and I want to be clear what is really at stake here. It's the automotive industry of this country, but it's more than that. There's a basic principle involved in the Korea FTA issue, and that is whether we will replace one-way trade with two-way trade.

When this was negotiated by the Bush administration, it failed to take the most important step relating to Korea. They were shipping hundreds of thousands of cars to the United States. We were shipping, at that time, less than 10,000. So this, indeed, while it mainly involved automotive—and that was 75 percent of our deficit—it was even more than that, opening up markets for our goods produced in the United States of America. This was a Make It in America issue. And there was a Korean iron curtain against our products—by the way, not only automotive, but refrigerators and others.

The number one priority of the Koreans was to eliminate the 2.5 percent U.S. tariff, because if you ship 600,000 to 700,000 cars, that's a lot of money. We said to the administration, no way, we were not going to let the Korea free trade agreement be approved if it continued to embody one-way trade.

□ 1630

The Korean Ambassador met with Mr. RANGEL and me often, and the Trade Minister, and they said, We aren't going to talk about it. And we said, Well, if you don't talk, there will be no agreement.

And then what happened was that the new administration came into being, the Obama administration, and it began to work on this issue. And what happened was there were major changes in the agreement. Instead of the elimination of the tariff on most vehicles, immediately it was delayed to the 5th year, and on trucks it was delayed for 8 years to give time to make sure that the one-way street became a two-way street. That has been accomplished, and to make entirely sure of this, there were provisions to make sure that they could no longer use their tax provisions and their environmental standards to keep out our products.

And to make it even safer, we made sure that there was a safeguard, so if there's a surge of automotive products into the United States, we could defend ourselves. That was unique.

And that's why the big three are saying the following: "As representatives of the largest exporting sector, this FTA will help open up an important auto market for Chrysler, Ford, and GM exports. Our companies make the best cars and trucks on the road, and we are excited for the export opportunity this agreement represents." And that's why the UAW has indicated its support, because workers making their cars will now be able to see that their cars can be shipped to Korea. And Ford has said they're going to use Korea as a base to penetrate, with American products, the markets of the rest of Asia.

So that's what this is all about. No, it won't be China getting into the U.S. It will be the U.S. getting into Korea. That's really what this is all about.

I want to say a word about the issue relating to issues of transshipment. We

insisted in the FTA that there be provisions relating to transshipment, and I want to quickly refer to them.

If Customs has any doubt about a shipment, it can require Korean exporters to provide documentation showing that the goods qualify for FTA treatment. If a Korean exporter refuses or the document is not acceptable, Customs can deny FTA treatment to the good.

U.S. Customs can also do site visits—this is something different—to Korean factories to verify information. And if our Customs officials are denied access or the visit shows problems, they can deny entry to the Korean goods. And exporters who intentionally or repeatedly make false claims are subject to penalties.

I have a letter embodying this from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection that I would like to insert in the RECORD. I would also like to insert in the RECORD the letter that I referred to from the automobile association and from the UAW.

I also want to quote the statement from the Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association. It says as follows: "The pending FTAs offer real opportunities for parts manufacturers and our employees in two of the fastest growing regions: Asia Pacific and South America. We can ill afford to neglect these and other markets as key competitors."

I would like to insert this letter from MEMA into the RECORD.

So that's what the issue is here today. We faced a one-way market with impenetrable barriers. These are now being torn down.

This is a jobs bill. This is a jobs bill. We have to be able to compete, and our auto industry can now compete. In order to be able to compete effectively, we have to tear down the markets of other countries and make sure that our markets are not only open to them, but their markets are open to us.

We worked very hard to make this happen. It wasn't an easy job. There were times when the administration, perhaps, the new one, the Obama administration, was going to settle for something less than was necessary. We pressed. We pressed effectively.

The Obama administration rose to the occasion and, in the end, said to Korea, You must agree to open the market or we will not send this agreement, this revised agreement to the U.S. Congress.

This revised agreement has now been sent here. I urge its support.

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
U.S.-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT: CBP'S
ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) plays an integral role in the implementation and enforcement of free trade agreements, which provide duty-free or reduced duty access to the U.S. market for qualifying merchandise. CBP is responsible for assessing and collecting duties, taxes, and fees and ensuring compliance with all import laws. CBP works to ensure that the benefits afforded by

Trade Agreements accrue only to eligible importations.

CBP will utilize its layered trade enforcement approach to ensure compliance with the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement's (KORUS) provisions. If CBP finds violations, CBP will take action to recover duty losses, pursue penalties when necessary, and establish enforcement criteria to prevent future potential fraudulent claims.

CBP will use the various enforcement mechanisms listed below to implement KORUS. Many of these mechanisms are used in the enforcement of all Trade Agreements, but will be tailored to take into consideration factors that are unique to Korea and the provisions listed in KORUS.

Targeting High-Risk Imports

CBP will conduct trend analysis to spot unusual trade patterns such as U.S. imports of products that South Korea does not produce.

CBP will monitor the emergence of new importers or changes in importer behavior.

CBP will review intelligence provided by other governments or industry.

Under KORUS, CBP can also take several other courses of action, including but not limited to: conducting comprehensive cargo exams or importer audits and performing laboratory analysis on the contents of imports.

Trade Agreement Verifications

Under KORUS, CBP will conduct extensive verifications as warranted of imports that seek preferential duty treatment to ensure that they legitimately qualify under the agreement.

CBP will request documentation from importers to substantiate their preference claims, as needed. If an importer cannot substantiate its preference claim, CBP will bill the importer for the duty amount owed, as well as other associated fees.

Under KORUS, CBP can visit South Korean factories to validate a factory's production capability as well as compliance of the goods with the requirements of KORUS. If a factory does not have the facilities to produce goods or documentation to support a KORUS claim, CBP can deny duty-free treatment under KORUS on future shipments.

CBP can also visit South Korean exporters or any other individuals or companies that may have evidence relative to the verification of a KORUS claim.

CBP can deny the preferential treatment granted under the agreement to any good when verification can not be completed because of a lack of cooperation from the foreign entity.

Textiles and Apparel Goods

KORUS includes provisions similar to other Trade Agreements that allow CBP to address major concerns of the U.S. business community, such as the transshipment of textile or apparel goods from China or other countries to take advantage of the duty preference.

Under KORUS, CBP can visit South Korean textile factories to validate a factory's production capability as well as compliance of the goods with the requirements of KORUS. If a factory does not have the facilities to produce goods or documentation to support a KORUS claim, CBP can deny duty-free treatment under KORUS on future shipments.

CBP can also visit South Korean exporters or any other individuals or companies that may have evidence relative to the verification of a KORUS claim.

CBP can deny the preferential treatment granted under the agreement to any textile or apparel good when verification can not be completed because of a lack of cooperation from the foreign entity.

Korea is required to provide CBP with an annual report detailing those factories that are involved in textile and apparel production. This information will be used to validate legitimate yarn, fabric, and apparel producers to assist CBP with their targeting.

AMERICAN AUTOMOTIVE POLICY COUNCIL AAPC STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF THE U.S.-KOREA FTA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The American Automotive Policy Council (AAPC)—representing its member companies Chrysler Group LLC, Ford Motor Company and General Motors Company—strongly supports the passage of the U.S. free trade agreement with South Korea (U.S.-Korea FTA). AAPC and its member companies worked closely with the United States Trade Representative (USTR) throughout the negotiations to ensure that the agreement provides the opportunity for our companies to compete and succeed in the Korean auto market. Our full support for this agreement was secured through this ongoing collaboration and the important improvements made to the auto provisions late last year.

“As representatives of the largest exporting sector, this FTA will help open an important auto market for Chrysler, Ford and GM exports. Our companies make the best cars and trucks on the road and we are excited for the export opportunity this agreement represents,” AAPC President Matt Blunt said.

AAPC and its member companies support the agreement's automotive rule of origin (RoO), which is required to be met for auto products to receive the benefits of the FTA. When the high-level of integration of the North American auto market and the very narrow subset of costs that can be counted under the strict methodology used is considered, AAPC believes the automotive RoO content level maximizes its members' export opportunities from the United States, and allows America's automakers and its workers to fully benefit from the FTA.

“This agreement will help open a major Asian market that has been largely closed to U.S. auto exports. I urge members of Congress to vote for the U.S.-Korea free trade agreement. Not only is it good for the American auto industry and its workers, but it is good for the nation,” Blunt said.

The Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA) represents over 700 companies that manufacture motor vehicle parts for use in the light vehicle and heavy-duty original equipment and aftermarket industries. Motor vehicle parts manufacturers are the nation's largest manufacturing sector, directly employing over 685,000 American workers. MEMA represents its members through four affiliate associations: Automotive Aftermarket Suppliers Association (AASA), Heavy Duty Manufacturers Association (HDMA), Motor & Equipment Remanufacturers Association (MERA) and the Original Equipment Suppliers Association (OESA).

On behalf of this industry, I urge you to vote in favor of the free trade agreements (FTA) with Colombia, Panama and South Korea. These agreements are critical to helping America maintain its leading role in the world economy while promoting democratic and free market values.

The global economy has drastically changed, bringing greater competition which requires us to more actively engage our trading partners, be it through free trade agreements or other trade/investment partnerships, to help grow our economy. The pending FTAs offer real opportunities for parts manufacturers and our employees in two of the fastest-growing regions: Asia-Pacific and South America. We can ill afford to neglect

these and other markets as key competitors, such as the EU and Canada, forge stronger partnerships with key countries.

As manufacturers, MEMA members are ready to take advantage of the pending FTAs, a sentiment expressed in testimony by MEMA in April before the House Small Business Committee. As our members continue to readjust their business operations in response to the recession, the agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea will provide significant business opportunities for the motor vehicle parts industry, creating jobs and helping to restore manufacturing to its rightful place in America's economy.

Thank you for your attention as Congress considers these important agreements.

INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA—UAW

Washington, DC, October 12, 2011.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The House is expected to vote this week on legislation to implement pending free trade agreements and renewal of the 2009 Trade Adjustment Assistance program (TAA). The UAW urges you to vote for the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) and TAA, and to oppose the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

The automotive provisions of the original 2007 trade agreement with South Korea were substantially renegotiated by the Obama administration in 2010. The revised agreement creates the opportunity to address our Korean trade imbalance by providing greater market access for American exports and stronger safeguards to protect our domestic markets from harmful surges of Korean automotive imports.

The revised KORUS FTA keeps the 2.5 percent U.S. tariffs on automobiles and most auto parts in place until the fifth year after the agreement goes into effect. It also allows the U.S. to maintain the full 25 percent tariff on light trucks until the eighth year, and then phases this tariff out over three years. Korea will immediately reduce its electric car tariffs from 8 percent to 4 percent, and will phase out the tariff by the fifth year of the agreement. American automakers believe that the delayed tariff reductions will give them sufficient time to enhance their ability to compete in the historically-closed Korean market.

The revised KORUS FTA includes an auto-specific safeguard provision to protect against drastic increases in imported Korean vehicles that harm the domestic auto industry. The remedy for a finding of injury is the “snapback” to the original tariff levels prior to implementation of the FTA. The new agreement also addresses the pervasive use of Korean non-tariff barriers (NTBs). The KORUS FTA includes standards for the protection of worker rights, including obligations for South Korea to respect core International Labor Organization (ILO) labor rights and standards, to refrain from weakening any laws that reflect those rights in any way, and to effectively enforce labor laws designed to ensure a level playing field for American workers to compete. These labor standards are enforceable in the same manner as the commercial provisions of the FTA.

The UAW believes that the revised KORUS FTA will lead to an improvement in our economic relationship with South Korea and help to protect America's domestic auto industry and its workers from South Korea's tradition of engaging in unfair trade practices. Therefore, the UAW urges you to vote for the implementation of the KORUS FTA.

The UAW commends the Obama Administration's efforts to strengthen labor and human rights protections in Colombia through the recently negotiated Action Plan, and we are hopeful that the provisions in the Plan will result in significant changes on the ground in Colombia. We note, however, that the Action Plan is not included in the Colombia FTA. Moreover, we cannot support Congressional action on the Colombia FTA until there is significant progress on the paramount moral issues surrounding the continued violence against unionists and concrete evidence that the perpetrators of these crimes are being brought to justice.

Earlier this month, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) released its new Annual Survey on Trade Union Rights, which confirmed that Colombia remains the most dangerous place on earth for unionists: last year 49 people were murdered for their trade union activities, more than the rest of the world combined; 75 additional individuals received credible death threats; at least 2,500 unionists were arrested; and thousands more fired from their jobs solely due to union membership. The Action Plan is not enforceable under the FTA, and the passage of the U.S.-Colombia FTA would seriously weaken the pressure on the Colombian government to fulfill its human rights obligations. The Colombian government has been unambiguously complicit in the abuse of labor and human rights and the signing of the FTA would be an insult to workers everywhere, and to the basic principles of freedom and justice. Therefore, we urge you to vote against the Colombia FTA.

The 2009 enhanced TAA program expired in February of this year. Since that time, tens of thousands of service workers and manufacturing workers whose jobs were shipped to China and India have been ineligible for TAA retraining benefits, and workers who have been certified for TAA have received reduced benefits. The UAW urges you to vote for legislation already passed in the Senate to reinstate the provisions of the 2009 TAA so that workers whose jobs have been offshored have an adequate opportunity to find reemployment.

Accordingly, the UAW urges you to vote for the KORUS FTA and TAA, and to vote against the U.S.-Colombia FTA. Thank you for considering our views on these very important matters.

Sincerely,

BARBARA SOMSON,
Legislative Director.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 3½ minutes.

Mr. CAMP. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROYCE. I thank the gentleman.

This agreement will break down trade barriers. Frankly, it will level the playing field for 19,000 small and medium-sized businesses here in the United States and the farmers here who export into this market. It means 280,000 new American jobs and, frankly, it means \$10 billion in new exports.

And let's remember this: Europe has this trade agreement. It went into effect on July 1. They've seen a 17 percent increase in their exports into the market in South Korea at our expense. Why? Because, frankly, U.S. exports to Korea currently face an average tariff of 12.2 percent, and it's, frankly, 49 percent for agricultural products. If we

can bring that down—their tariffs are higher than ours. If we can bring that down, we can get that market share. We can increase that trade and develop these jobs.

And the agreement also removes the barriers and provides transparency. It provides property rights. It has rules on competition that make U.S. businesses much more competitive in Korea, that gives them access into that market.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I do want to just touch on some points raised by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN). We did work closely together on the supplemental agreement last year with the administration, with automakers, with autoworkers, and that is incorporated in the legislation before us today.

It does address, as the gentleman from Michigan pointed out, key tariff and nontariff barriers, including numerous provisions to ensure that South Korea cannot use a regulatory system or process to block our exports.

The International Trade Commission estimates that the removal of nontariff barriers alone will add an additional between \$48 million and \$66 million in new exports. That's in addition to the \$194 million dollars in new exports expected from lower Korean tariffs on autos alone.

Inaction on the Korean trade agreement has allowed the European Union and other competitors to step in and take our market share. That's diminished our leadership in Asia. The Korean trade agreement is key to our engagement in Asia, and it will be a critical counter to Chinese influence in the region.

We've heard a lot about China today, but how do we counter Chinese influence in the region through this agreement?

□ 1640

This agreement, also, I think, is critically important because it deepens our ties with a strong and important ally. The United States and South Korea have had a 60-year history of standing together. This agreement is really a step forward in our bilateral relationship, and it is an important step that we need to take today.

I would urge passage of this agreement. It has been endorsed—and I have a 4-page list of organizations and associations, including the American Farm Bureau, the Business Roundtable, Heritage, and other groups, a 4-page list—by many organizations supporting the passage of this agreement.

[From The Committee on Ways and Means]
THE SUPPORT FOR JOB CREATING TRADE
AGREEMENTS IS LARGE . . . AND GROWING

Aerospace Industries Association, Agri Beef Co., American Apparel & Footwear Association, American Automotive Policy Council, American Chamber of Commerce in Korea, American Chemistry Council, American Council of Life Insurers, American Farm Bureau Federation, American Feed Industry Association, American Forest & Paper Association.

American Frozen Food Institute, American International Automobile Dealers Association (AIADA), American Iron and Steel Institute, American Meat Institute, American Peanut Product Manufacturers, Inc., American Potato Trade Alliance, American Seed Trade Association, American Soybean Association, Americans for Tax Reform, Animal Health Institute, Asia-Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce.

Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America, Association of Equipment Manufacturers, Blue Diamond Growers, Business Roundtable, Business Software Alliance, California Cherry Export Association, California Date Commission, California Dried Plum Board, California Fig Advisory Board, California Pear Growers.

California Strawberry Commission, California Table Grape Commission, California Walnut Commission, Campbell Soup Company, Cargill Incorporated, Club for Growth, Coalition of Service Industries, Commodity Markets Council, Computer & Communications Industry Association, ConAgra Foods, Inc., Corn Refiners Association.

Dairylea Cooperative Inc., Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, Dow Chemical Company, Emergency Committee for American Trade, Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association, Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America, FreedomWorks, Grocery Manufacturers Association.

Heritage Action, Hormel Foods Corporation, Idaho Barley Commission, Idaho Grain Producers Association, International Dairy Foods Association, International Intellectual Property Alliance, JBS USA, Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association, Kraft Foods.

Land O'Lakes, Inc., Latin America Trade Coalition, Montana Grain Growers Association, Motion Picture Association of America, National Association of Manufacturers, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Barley Growers Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Chicken Council.

National Confectioners Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, National Fisheries Institute, National Foreign Trade Council, National Grain and Feed Association, National Grape Cooperative Association, Inc., National Meat Association, National Milk Producers Federation, National Oilseed Processors Association.

National Pork Producers Council, National Potato Council, National Renderers Association, National Sorghum Producers, National Sunflower Association, National Taxpayers Union, National Turkey Federation, North American Equipment Dealers Association, North Dakota Grain Growers Association, Northwest Dairy Association/Darigold.

Northwest Horticulture Council, Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc., Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association, Outdoor Industry Association, Pet Food Institute, Produce Marketing Association, Recording Industry Association of America, Retail Industry Leaders Association, Seaboard Foods, Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association.

Smithfield Foods, South Dakota Wheat Inc., SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association, Sunmaid Growers of California, Sunsweet Growers, Inc., Sweetener Users Association, TechNet, Texas Wheat Producers Association, The Financial Services Roundtable, Third Way.

Travel Goods Association, Tyson Foods, Inc., U.S. Apple Association, U.S. Canola Association, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Council for International Business, U.S. Dairy Export Council, U.S.-Korea FTA Business Coalition, U.S. Meat Export Federation, U.S. Premium Beef.

Unilever United States, United Egg Association, United Egg Producers, United Producers, Inc., US Dry Bean Council, US Wheat Associates, US-Colombia Business Partnership, USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council, USA Poultry & Egg Export Council, USA Rice Federation, Valley Fig Growers, Washington State Potato Commission, Welch Foods Inc., Western Growers Association.

I urge passage of this agreement, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 425, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

EXTENDING THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Speaker may postpone further proceedings on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2832 as though under clause 8(a)(1)(A) of rule XX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2832) to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

Mr. CAMP. At this time, Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS).

Ms. JENKINS. I thank the chair for yielding.

Three and a half trade deals that we have taken up today have bipartisan support, the three pending free trade agreements and the GSP extension within this bill. Both parties in both Chambers agree that these important trade pacts will grow our economy, create jobs, and make America more competitive in the global marketplace.

Sadly, however, the bipartisan, bicameral approval of the merits of these trade deals did not keep the Washington gamesmanship at bay. For nearly 10 months, as they pushed for an expanded and enlarged TAA program, our colleagues in the Senate allowed the GSP to lapse, holding American jobs

hostage until their political allies could be pacified with a sufficient payoff.

This delay wasn't simply an intellectual exercise either. It hurt real businesses, real families, and cost us real jobs in my home State of Kansas. Take the Berger Company in Atchison, Kansas. The family-owned Berger Company manufactures leather goods for sale across the United States. But due to the increased cost of materials caused by the lapse in the GSP, Berger has lost customers to foreign competitors like China, causing lower profit and placing real Kansas jobs at risk.

I'm voting for this bill because we need GSP to be reauthorized immediately, but I'm extremely disappointed that Senate Democrats have again risked the continued lapse of this important program all for a TAA program that does not work.

The results of Washington brinksmanship have real life impacts across this country. So while I'm hopeful that we will finally extend the GSP package today, I'm disappointed Washington political games made our small businesses, like the Berger Company, wait so long.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise to express my strong support for H.R. 2832, which is extending what have been historically two programs that have received strong bipartisan support. Beginning in 1962, the TAA bill was originally put in under the Kennedy administration, and it has been extended for all these years. And the Generalized System of Preferences has also been there for a long time. Our importers and exporters have been using it as ways of getting things into the United States that have made real differences not only for our people but for people in developing countries.

Now, TAA provides critically needed assistance to workers who lose their jobs as a result of trade. It would be hard to find anybody on the floor of the House who wouldn't say that trade causes displacement of workers. There are jobs that move here, move there, and this is a recognition of that and a statement that we care about what happens to workers and that we give them some kind of help. It provides them with support, education, and training so that they can obtain new jobs in growth sectors. In my State, we used to do log exports. Logging was a big issue. Then it went away. Well, you have to retrain people, and community colleges have trained a lot of people in this kind of thing.

In 2009 Congress made some much-needed reforms in TAA, many of which addressed past criticisms of the program. These reforms included extending TAA to cover service workers and more manufacturing workers, offering long-term training and increasing training funds, and increasing the health care coverage tax credit.

This was probably the most important of the reforms. When people lose

their job, they have no health care. And everything that you have in your life can be wiped out by an illness or an injury. So the idea that you can get COBRA is a nice idea, but you've got to have money to do that. Most of the unemployment checks in this country don't make it possible for people to take advantage of the COBRA. So when we had this increase in support from the Federal Government for workers, we were really looking at the real problems that people face.

Now, unfortunately, last winter the House leadership let the 2009 reforms lapse, leaving a lot of workers just hanging out there. The Generalized System of Preferences was also permitted to expire, which harmed businesses that rely on the program both in developing countries and in the United States. While it's long overdue, I'm pleased to see we're finally moving the legislation to expand both of these programs.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2832, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding.

Madam Speaker, it's taken a long time for us to get here. We've had hours and hours of debate, last night and today, and literally years and years and years of discussion and of negotiation, and a lot of anguish and a lot of pain, but we have finally gotten here.

I want to begin by expressing my great appreciation to a man with whom I've been pleased to partner in cochairing what has been a long-standing group known as our Trade Working Group. It's sometimes partisan, sometimes bipartisan. It began two decades ago when Bill Archer was chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and Phil Crane chaired the Trade Subcommittee, and with every chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and the Trade Subcommittee, I've been privileged to join with them in working to build these coalitions for the very important goal of breaking down barriers to ensure that we can have access to consumer markets for union and nonunion workers in this country. And this is what it's all about.

DAVE CAMP has done a phenomenal job in negotiating these trade agreements and the issue which is before us today, which is trade adjustment assistance. Now I know that there's a lot of concern about it. I'm frankly not a huge enthusiast, but I recognize that while there is a net gain—a net gain—when it comes to the issue of global trade, there are some workers who are displaced.

□ 1650

While some people have been saying that those of us who are enthusiastically supporting the Korea, Panama, and Colombia free trade agreements are greatly exaggerating the positive impact of this, I've got to say that I recognize that there are some people who are going to be going through challenging economic times as a by-product of this agreement. That's why, as we look at this 21st century economy, it is critically important for us, Madam Speaker, to do everything that we can to ensure that our fellow Americans, U.S. workers, have the kind of training and expertise necessary to deal with this global economy in the 21st century. That's exactly what the Trade Adjustment Assistance package is all about. It's a modest package of \$300 million.

I know that last night, as he has just informed me, Mr. CAMP outlined the details of this to the House. He worked with the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Mr. BAUCUS, and with others to get this to the point where we are.

But we are now winding down this debate, and I think about the fact that, when Ronald Reagan on November 6 of 1979 announced his candidacy for President of the United States, in that speech, it was seen as heresy. I mean, it was almost a joke, Madam Speaker. Ronald Reagan said that he envisaged an accord of free trade among the Americas so that we could allow for the free flow of goods and services and capital. He was laughed at here in the United States, and he was laughed at throughout the hemisphere. Madam Speaker, since that time, we have seen tremendous, tremendous changes taking place.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CAMP. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. DREIER. It has been almost 32 years since Ronald Reagan made that announcement; and last Monday, a week ago Monday, on October 3, Democratic President Barack Obama sent these agreements for us to consider, and here we are now doing this.

There are so many people who have been involved in this. One of the things that has really impressed me, Madam Speaker, has been the involvement of the 87—now, I guess, 89—new Members on our side of the aisle who have brought about a change in the makeup of this institution. There are people who have stepped to the forefront—TOM REED, RICK BERG, TIM GRIFFIN, BOB DOLD, QUICO CANSECO, and many others—who have felt strongly about the need to get our economy growing and who know that, in so doing, we will be able to create jobs for U.S. workers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. CAMP. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DREIER. Let me just close by saying, over that 5-year period of time,

Madam Speaker, we have seen so many tremendous changes that have taken place. Five years is half the life for a child who was born on September 11. There have been changes in our economy—and in the global economy—in dealing with issues that weren't even addressed then. The iPad didn't exist 5 years ago when these were put into place. There are issues like encryption, cross-border dataflow, things like intermediary liability, privacy. Those were barely discussed then. Today, these are critical, important issues. This is a very small first step towards regaining our position as the world's global leader.

I thank my friend for his support, and I thank all of our colleagues who have been involved in this.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I rise in support of H.R. 2832, the Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011.

This legislation continues vital coverage of the TAA program while it expands the Generalized System of Preferences, a key trade and development program.

We have a responsibility to ensure that our workers, communities, and economy can adjust to a rapidly globalizing economy. As Congress advances international trade opportunities for our firms, it has an opportunity to ensure that American workers can also compete.

Since 1962, the TAA has expanded to respond to the continual changes to the economy and the global system. Among the most significant changes were those that we made when the Democrats were in charge just in 2009, which expanded the program to include service workers as well as to improve the coverage of reemployment benefits, job search benefits, relocation and health care benefits. It produced tangible results. The coverage in 2008 certified 125,000 workers. As a result of the changes we made in 2009, 280,000 workers were certified.

The expansion of the program appropriately reflects the challenges trade poses to our service economy, and continues our commitment to the manufacturing sector. In my State alone, in 2010, the coverage reached over 10,000 workers and directed \$30 million in Federal funds to carry out those efforts and to support our economy as it adjusted to competition from international trade.

It's interesting to see the broad range of supporters. The Communications Workers of America say that TAA is a critical lifeline in providing retraining and education, helping service workers to pull themselves back up and find good new jobs. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce will score the vote on TAA, writing that this legislation is a thoughtful compromise that preserves the more effective elements of the five-decade-old TAA program.

I am also pleased that we are dealing with the Generalized System of Pref-

erences. I think my good friend from the State of Kansas may have been confused. I was, frankly, frustrated that it had been held up. We passed it in the last Congress. There was nothing to have prevented my Republican friends from bringing it forward at the beginning of this Congress. In fact, I wished that they would have, but they didn't get around to it until September. I don't know why, but I think the criticism is misplaced.

Regardless, each day without action on GSP costs American companies \$1.8 million in extra, unnecessary import tariffs. I've watched as the expiration of GSP has cost Evergreen Container in Portland, Oregon, \$50,000 already this year—\$10,000 for this company, \$70,000 over here, another \$5,000 here. It adds up. \$1.8 million a day.

But it's more than just a trade agreement and helping American companies. Under the GSP program, we will judge our trading partners on the protection of American commercial interests, such as the protection of intellectual property and preventing the seizure of property belonging to U.S. citizens or businesses. We judge them on the protection of individual rights, the protection of commonly accepted labor rights, and the elimination of child labor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. We ought to add the protection of the environment to this criteria. I raised it in our Ways and Means hearing. The thought was we were going to go ahead and not adjust the status quo, but the protection of the environment exerts tremendous influence on international trade. The trade in illegally logged timber, for instance, costs the U.S.-based legal timber industry billions of dollars a year. If we truly expect trade to be a tool of development, trade must support environmental protections in our partner nations as our free trade agreements do.

Concern for the environment is a core element of development. It reflects the appreciation for civil law, for the protection of the rights of individuals, and of a concern for the long-term sustainability of state and society and of the planet. It should have a place in our GSP program. I hope when it comes next before us that we've added environmental protections to the criteria.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY. I rise in strong support of the bill.

I can speak very clearly about the relationship that we have with Korea because, in addition to being a General Motors dealer who sells Chevrolets and Cadillacs, I also sell Hyundais and Kias. I can tell you of the alliance that we have had, of the very strong partner we have had in Korea for so many

years. Since 1949, Korea has fought with us in every military skirmish—side by side, shoulder to shoulder with us. In the United States alone, Hyundai has invested over \$3 billion in bricks and mortar in building two plants—one in Montgomery, Alabama, the other in West Point, Georgia. When we're worried about the number of cars being sold here, let's understand one thing, that over 60 percent of the Korean cars sold in the United States are made by Americans.

□ 1700

There are 60,000 jobs in the United States right now because of Hyundai and Kia's investment between our borders. And when we look at our market, our global opportunity, we have got to pass these trade agreements. We have got to pass the TAA. Why? Because it's good for America in addition to all these jobs and the possibility of 250,000 additional jobs in the country that's looking for a job almost every day.

These jobs are there. They're available to us. We have got to get on with these trade agreements. In addition, let me also state that Hyundai and Hyundai dealers have raised over \$43 million in the fight against pediatric cancer, which is over 10 times what this Congress has invested in that fight against pediatric cancer.

The opportunities are outstanding right now. The opportunity is now, and what better time to pass these agreements than when we're hunting for the jobs that we need the most for our people and also with allies who have stood shoulder-to-shoulder and arm-in-arm with us in every single battle.

I would urge every single Member in this House to please pass the agreements. Let's move on. Let's get America back to work.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. I thank my good friend and colleague from the committee for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, many of us have been rising throughout the course of the debate today talking about the merits of the three pending trade agreements before us and why it's important for us to move forward on them, the reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers, greater market access to the goods, product services that are being made right here in America, a system of rules that all countries have to abide by that are parties to this agreement, according to international labor and environmental standards included in the body of the agreement, fully enforceable with any other provision, protection of intellectual property rights, and on and on and on. That's why I'm supportive of the three bilateral agreements before us.

But to be honest with the American people, and as long as trade remains a two-way street, there will be adverse impacts of trade on companies and workers here in America. When that

occurs, then the workers of that business should not just be left on their own.

That's why the reauthorization of the Trade Adjustment Assistance is important today, to move forward hand-in-hand with those trade agreements so those workers will have an opportunity to upgrade their skills, to go to school, to have a better match in the job market and find placement as quickly as possible. Since 1962, the TAA program has assisted those workers who lost their position as a result of international trade, helped them retrain and acquire skills needed for them to be more competitive in the global marketplace.

In Wisconsin alone in 2010, we had an estimated 10,359 workers who were covered by this program, and my State's not alone. In fact, the three largest TAA State recipients were Michigan, Ohio, California.

In 2010 in Wisconsin, 52 percent of the TAA participants were successfully employed within 3 months of leaving the program, and 88 percent of those participants continued that employment over the next few quarters. The benefit of this program not only helps workers in my State, but also those specifically in western Wisconsin that I represent.

In 2010, again, when Chart Energy & Chemicals in La Crosse moved some of its production line to China, approximately 230 employees were laid off, but they were able to receive reemployment and training services under the Federal TAA program. When Northern Engraving Corporation shut down its Luxco division tool shop in La Crosse, 27 workers were laid off; and they too qualified for assistance so that they could get reintegrated in the regional economy.

There are many more examples of that throughout Wisconsin and, I am sure, throughout the country. And that's why it was a bit discouraging that it took so long for us to reach an agreement on TAA reauthorization when there's wide bipartisan support and great support on the outside, from the Chamber of Commerce to the AFL-CIO, saying this is the right and decent thing to do for America's workers if we are going to move forward in a proactive trade agenda.

I want to take a moment and commend my good friend and colleague, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. CAMP, for the work that he did with Senator BAUCUS in order to get the TAA reauthorization in the place that it is today. I think it was very helpful.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. KIND. I thank my friend.

As I mentioned in committee last week during the markup, I think it would make sense if the committee, Ways and Means that had jurisdiction,

were to hold some hearings as we move forward on ways that we can improve the efficiency and the outcome of the TAA program. Any program is worthy of change and improvements. I think this is right for that.

My concern is this is only a 3-year reauthorization. I hope we can continue bipartisan support that continues beyond 3 years so it's not having to be linked to other trade agreements, but I think our committee has some work to do to improve a very successful program.

I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I would advise the gentleman from Washington that I have no other speakers and am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I thank the Ways and Means Committee for their excellent work on the trade agreements and, most importantly, on Trade Adjustment Assistance; and I agree with the comments of my colleague from Wisconsin about why this program is so important.

I mean the bottom line is the TAA and the trade agreements themselves are part of figuring out how to help American workers and the American economy compete in a very, very difficult global economic situation. The amount of skills that our workers need now are vastly beyond what they needed in previous generations, and the need to update them constantly in order to continue to be competitive, to continue to be employable are a significant challenge for American workers.

This program is one way to give them help, to help give them the training and the skills that they need to continue to be employable. It is incredibly important for our workers, and we have heard the statistics about the number of workers in our country who have benefited from these programs.

But I also submit to you that it is critically important to our economy. Our economy needs a skilled workforce in order to compete. Trade Adjustment Assistance is one way to help our workers get those skills that they need. Certainly it helps them, but it also helps our businesses and our overall economy.

I, along with my colleague from Wisconsin, support all three trade agreements. I believe trade is critically important to growing our economy as well, and it's simple math. Ninety-five percent of the people in this world live someplace other than the United States of America, but the United States of America is responsible for 20 percent of the world's consumption.

If we're going to grow, we need access to other markets. Korea, Colombia, and Panama are good steps in that direction to give us access to those other markets so that our businesses can

have the possibility of growing their businesses and taking advantage of the growing economy.

It has been Asia and other parts of the world that are growing the most. We need access to those markets. Trade agreements like this give us that opportunity.

But as I have said for the entire 15 years I have been in Congress, that alone is not sufficient to protect American workers in our economy. Access to overseas markets on its own isn't enough to take care of our workers as they should be taken care of.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. They need training. That's the other critical piece of these trade agreements that I want to emphasize.

For the first time—not the first time, actually we did it in Peru—thanks, actually, to the leadership of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and Mr. RANGEL and others, we have enforceable workers' rights in all three of these agreements.

There have been justifiable criticisms, for instance, in Colombia of the ability of workers that organize and collectively bargain. But this agreement will give us the enforceable ability to make sure that they do. If Colombia or any one of these countries doesn't live up to the ILO standards and requirements, this agreement now gives us the ability to use trade sanctions to make sure that they do.

That is an incredibly important step forward to protect the workers in this country. It needs to work together, access to overseas markets, to trade agreements and adequate protections for our workers so that they can compete in that environment with TSA, with the workers' rights provisions in these trade agreements. I believe that all three trade agreements and this TAA bill do this.

I thank the Ways and Means Committee, both Republican and Democrat, for their work in making this happen.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ 1710

Mr. LEVIN. I rise in strong support of this proposal, this bill. It restarts TAA and the GSP program. You know, this should have happened long ago. The Republican decision to let it lapse over 8 months ago was very wrong. And as a result, and we're not sure of the exact numbers because that isn't public, but hundreds of service workers were completely shut out. Fewer manufacturing workers became eligible, and those who did qualify for TAA received less assistance and support. So now we're taking action today that's long overdue.

I heard last night somebody said that the trade agreements were being held "hostage" to the TAA program. They just got it 180 degrees wrong. It was the TAA program that was being held hostage to trade agreements, and that never should have happened.

Well, now we can act. I just want to say, some people, I think, look upon TAA as kind of the teaspoon of sugar to make the trade agreements go down. That could not be more incorrect. What TAA does is to help those who are thrown out of work because of trade, through no fault of their own. And if we're going to have a competitive workforce, people need to be able to be retrained. And interestingly enough, if you go to any place where TAA operates, you'll see a wide variety of people who have become eligible and who are being helped.

So I very, very much support this bill which preserves the integrity, although not all, of the TAA program, and the 2009 reforms.

I close by saying I also support the GSP provisions in this bill. I think there is a misconception. It does help, indeed, developing countries who rely on the GSP. But as our ranking member knows from all of his work, it also benefits American companies and the workers they employ. In fact, the majority of GSP imports are inputs used to support U.S. manufacturing, including raw materials, parts and components, and machinery and equipment. So not only did failing to extend GSP hurt developing countries, it hurt American businesses and their employees.

A wide spectrum supports this bill, and I hope all of us on this side of the aisle will vote in favor of it.

Mr. CAMP. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington has 5½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Michigan has 13½ minutes remaining.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker and Members of the House, I think it's important that we are passing this TAA today. But it is just the tip of the iceberg of the problems faced by workers in this country. I think that we are picking one group and saying, well, if you can qualify for having lost your job because of international trade adjustment of one sort or another, you're eligible for some benefits. But I think that in the much larger sense the House faces a problem. We're seeing it in the streets. We're seeing it on Wall Street. We're seeing it on my Central Plaza. We're seeing it here in Washington, DC. We're seeing it in Atlanta. The workers of this country are very upset, and there's a long agenda that is sort of dealt with here for one small group of workers that ought to be available for all workers.

Now, we're going to have to extend unemployment benefits at the end of this year unless, like last year, at Christmastime, we'll be saying to peo-

ple, You know what? We don't care about you; you're done. We haven't extended unemployment benefits. We ought to be doing it right now. It will be caught in the crush of all what happens at the end of the year, but it needs to happen.

Foreclosure relief. We continue to have foreclosures in this country with no way out for the workers of this country, including these. We didn't do anything for foreclosure problems for somebody who's lost their job because of trade. We make no adjustment. We don't say that you can lower the amount of your loan or the banks must negotiate. We don't do anything for people who are struggling with foreclosures in this country.

Health care. Health care in this bill makes it possible for people to get health care coverage. But there are thousands and thousands and thousands of workers, 14 million of them walking around in this country, with no health care, and we have done nothing this session to implement the Affordable Care Act.

Finally, I would just say there is one last issue that needs to be thought about. What happens to a worker who, training or not, exhausts all their unemployment benefits, and they have a family and they have a house? Now in the 1930s what people did was backed the car up to the house, put the furniture up on top, and drove off and got a job in California. You have got millions of people today who are tied to a house in Flint, Michigan, or Toledo, Ohio, or a thousand places. They can't drive off to Florida and get a job, or to California. They're stuck. And so they find themselves with no access to any kind of way to pay their mortgage. They're going to get foreclosed. Then they can leave, of course.

Or we've got to find some way to make it possible for workers in this economy as it recovers to somehow get by. If we don't care, if we just care about the workers who are lost because of trade—that's nice and we ought to do that. We're doing the right thing, but we ought to be thinking much broader than that if we're serious about coming out of the problems we have in this economy.

I urge everyone to vote for this bill and begin the drumbeat for the unemployment insurance extension and a couple of other things.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I support H.R. 2832, the bill that renews the Generalized System of Preferences, known as GSP, and also contains the Trade Adjustment Assistance, also called TAA.

This bill really is the cornerstone of the carefully crafted bipartisan and bicameral agreement that then prompted the President to send the three trade agreements to the Congress last Monday. So this has allowed us, this legislation today, has allowed us to move forward on a long-stalled trade agenda.

The bill renews GSP, which the House passed last month, and that is the largest trade preference program and is estimated to account for 82,000 U.S. jobs that are directly or indirectly related to that program.

The second portion of this bill, the bill that reauthorizes Trade Adjustment Assistance, is absolutely critical because it is one of the core items that has allowed these trade agreements to come forward. And this legislation really does ensure smaller government and less spending on an important program in these difficult economic times where we have a growing debt and deficit.

This program was streamlined and scaled back, and just quickly I'll note some of the highlights. There is no TAA for public sector workers. The number of weeks was reduced from 156 in the 2009 law down to 117 weeks. Also, there is no double-dipping. These benefits run concurrently with current unemployment insurance, or UI benefits, and the health care subsidy was reduced in this legislation.

We also eliminated half of the allowable justifications for the program's training waivers to ensure that those who are eligible for TAA are in those training programs with only limited exceptions.

We also consolidated and reduced all the non-income support expenditures. We reduced funding for the TAA for firms, and also added enhanced performance measures. Now, no worker will qualify for this unless certified by the Department of Labor. This is an important attempt to bring some reform and integrity to our unemployment programs, particularly by strengthening the job training provision where 80 percent of the waivers were used to waive people out of the requirement they job train.

□ 1720

This is an important reform; and it's going to be an important reform in this bill to make sure we implement it so as we move forward on the employment insurance debate later this year, as the gentleman from Washington State alluded to, we actually have a track record on some of these items and can see how they're at least beginning to work.

So I urge my colleagues to support not only all three trade agreements, but also what really was the cornerstone for bringing those three trade agreements to the floor, H.R. 2832.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 425, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion that the House concur in the Senate amendment.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the order of the House today, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3078) to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. LEVIN. I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. LEVIN. I am.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Levin moves to recommit the bill H.R. 3078 to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendments:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE VII—CURRENCY REFORM FOR FAIR TRADE ACT

SEC. 701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act".

SEC. 702. CLARIFICATION REGARDING DEFINITION OF COUNTERAVAILABLE SUBSIDY.

(a) BENEFIT CONFERRED.—Section 771(5)(E) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(5)(E)) is amended—

(1) in clause (iii), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the end and inserting ", and"; and

(3) by inserting after clause (iv) the following new clause:

"(v) in the case in which the currency of a country in which the subject merchandise is produced is exchanged for foreign currency obtained from export transactions, and the currency of such country is a fundamentally undervalued currency, as defined in paragraph (37), the difference between the amount of the currency of such country provided and the amount of the currency of such country that would have been provided if the real effective exchange rate of the currency of such country were not undervalued, as determined pursuant to paragraph (38)."

(b) EXPORT SUBSIDY.—Section 771(5A)(B) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(5A)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "In the case of a subsidy relating to a fundamentally undervalued currency, the fact that the subsidy may also be provided in circumstances not involving export shall not, for that reason alone, mean that the subsidy cannot be considered contingent upon export performance."

(c) DEFINITION OF FUNDAMENTALLY UNDERVALUED CURRENCY.—Section 771 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(37) FUNDAMENTALLY UNDERVALUED CURRENCY.—The administering authority shall determine that the currency of a country in which the subject merchandise is produced is a 'fundamentally undervalued currency' if—

"(A) the government of the country (including any public entity within the territory of the country) engages in protracted, large-scale intervention in one or more foreign exchange markets during part or all of the 18-month period that represents the most recent 18 months for which the information required under paragraph (38) is reasonably available, but that does not include any period of time later than the final month in the period of investigation or the period of review, as applicable;

"(B) the real effective exchange rate of the currency is undervalued by at least 5 percent, on average and as calculated under paragraph (38), relative to the equilibrium real effective exchange rate for the country's currency during the 18-month period;

"(C) during the 18-month period, the country has experienced significant and persistent global current account surpluses; and

"(D) during the 18-month period, the foreign asset reserves held by the government of the country exceed—

"(i) the amount necessary to repay all debt obligations of the government falling due within the coming 12 months;

"(ii) 20 percent of the country's money supply, using standard measures of M2; and

"(iii) the value of the country's imports during the previous 4 months."

(d) DEFINITION OF REAL EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE UNDERVALUATION.—Section 771 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677), as amended by subsection (c) of this section, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(38) REAL EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE UNDERVALUATION.—The calculation of real effective exchange rate undervaluation, for purposes of paragraph (5)(E)(v) and paragraph (37), shall—

"(A)(i) rely upon, and where appropriate be the simple average of, the results yielded from application of the approaches described in the guidelines of the International Monetary Fund's Consultative Group on Exchange Rate Issues; or

"(ii) if the guidelines of the International Monetary Fund's Consultative Group on Exchange Rate Issues are not available, be based on generally accepted economic and econometric techniques and methodologies to measure the level of undervaluation;

"(B) rely upon data that are publicly available, reliable, and compiled and maintained by the International Monetary Fund or, if the International Monetary Fund cannot provide the data, by other international organizations or by national governments; and

"(C) use inflation-adjusted, trade-weighted exchange rates."

SEC. 703. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TITLE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of the amendments made by this title.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include a description of the extent to which United States industries that have been materially injured by reason of imports of subject merchandise produced in foreign countries with fundamentally undervalued currencies have received relief under title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.), as amended by this title.

SEC. 704. APPLICATION TO GOODS FROM CANADA AND MEXICO.

Pursuant to article 1902 of the North American Free Trade Agreement and section 408 of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act of 1993 (19 U.S.C. 3438), the amendments made by section 702 of

this Act shall apply to goods from Canada and Mexico.

Mr. CAMP (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. CAMP. I reserve a point of order. The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEVIN. I want everybody to know what this is. This is a bill on currency. This is the opportunity for people to once again stand up and be counted. This is the bill that passed last year 349-79, with 99 Republicans supporting it. This is the House bill that has 225 cosponsors. More than 60 are Republicans.

It's clear that China's currency manipulation is a major cause of hundreds of thousands of lost manufacturing jobs, and imports from China are about half of that. So we're talking about 1 million jobs, at the least. What is also clear is that the manipulation of currency tilts the playing field in favor of China at least 25 percent, and it's not getting better.

China's currency manipulation isn't the only cause of that deficit and loss of jobs. But because it's not the only cause doesn't mean we should address it. It's a major one. It's clear we haven't been effectively confronting China on this issue, and China pushes ahead.

So in a few words, the time has come for action. Eight years of talk have yielded very meager results.

As said, this has broad bipartisan support. And to make it utterly clear, last night the Senate passed a bill on currency by 63-35. Sixteen Republican Senators supported it.

This will not kill the bill. It will not send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately go to passage.

So, as I said, now is the moment for all of us to be counted, to stand up and be counted. No excuses. As Robert Samuelson said in The Post last weekend, there's already a trade war between them and us, but only one side is fighting. Now we'll make sure that both sides are in this effort.

I now yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania who is so active on this issue.

Mr. CRITZ. I appreciate the gentleman from Michigan for yielding, and I thank him for his leadership on this important issue.

"As the Chamber closest to the people, the House works best when it is allowed to work its will." Those aren't my words. They're a direct quote of Speaker BOEHNER.

Since China's 2001 entry into the World Trade Organization, we have lost nearly 3 million manufacturing jobs, and our overall trade deficit with

China has grown to over \$237 billion. Our manufacturers are hurting. The American people are hurting.

We were sent here to lead. Here is our chance.

We're talking about creating over 2 million American jobs and reducing our annual trade deficit by over \$70 billion. The Speaker warns of a "trade war." You want to talk about a trade war? Ask the workers in industries like steel tubing, tires, and solar panels who have lost their jobs because of China's unfair trade practices. At some point, we have to stand up and do what is right for the American people.

You gain respect through strength. This is our moment of truth. This bill has broad bipartisan support. We must send a strong message the United States will not stand idly by while foreign currency manipulators destroy American manufacturing jobs. It's time to stand up and be leaders for the American people and defend their interests over all others.

At any rate, Madam Speaker, it's time to stop being part of the problem and become part of the solution. Lead, follow, or get out of the way, and as the Speaker said, "Let the House work its will."

I urge my colleagues to stand up for America, to level the playing field with China. Support this motion to recommit.

Mr. LEVIN. How much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 15 seconds remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. That's all it will take.

The issue is clear: Act. Act. You must stand up and be counted. This is the moment on currency for every Member of the House.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I withdraw the point of order, and I rise in opposition to this motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The point of order is withdrawn.

The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, the implementing bill before us reflects a carefully negotiated agreement that involved the White House, the U.S. Trade Representative, and bipartisan staffs and members from both Ways and Means and Finance. All four offices were consulted at every step of the process and all sides were fully involved. This provision was not part of that negotiation. In fact, it was not even raised during negotiations. This threatens to undue the carefully negotiated terms of this compromise and set our trade agenda back.

This motion is a true poison pill. Any change, even moving a single comma, would strip the bill of fast-track protections under Trade Promotion Authority in the United States Senate. Thus, this motion really isn't about Chinese currency practices. It's an effort to kill the Colombian free trade agreement. In fact, the irony is that the only reason the minority is even

allowed to offer this motion is because then-Speaker PELOSI took the unprecedented step of turning off the clock on TPA 3 years ago on the Colombian free trade agreement. Passing this or any other motion would reward that decision to put our trade agenda on ice—a decision that hurt our economy, cost us jobs, as U.S. farmers and exporters lost out on opportunity in that fast-growing country.

□ 1730

Finally, with respect to the substance of this motion, everyone agrees that China's currency is undervalued. China must let its currency appreciate and commit to allowing market supply and demand to determine its value. But at the same time, we need to recognize that currency is not the only barrier that U.S. businesses face in China and that legislation on currency is not a silver bullet.

I plan to hold a hearing in the Ways and Means Committee this month on all of these issues, including currency; but this is the wrong vehicle for such legislation and would kill the very important Colombian trade agreement. I therefore urge defeat of this motion and passage of this important trade agreement.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of H.R. 3078, if ordered; passage of H.R. 3079; passage of H.R. 3080; adoption of the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2832; and the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2433.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 192, nays 236, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 780]

YEAS—192

Ackerman	Capps	Costa
Altmire	Capuano	Costello
Andrews	Cardoza	Courtney
Baca	Carnahan	Critz
Baldwin	Carney	Crowley
Barrow	Carson (IN)	Cuellar
Bass (CA)	Castor (FL)	Cummings
Becerra	Chandler	Davis (CA)
Berkley	Chu	Davis (IL)
Berman	Cicilline	DeFazio
Bishop (GA)	Clarke (MI)	DeGette
Bishop (NY)	Clarke (NY)	DeLauro
Blumenauer	Clay	Deutch
Boren	Cleaver	Dicks
Boswell	Clyburn	Dingell
Brady (PA)	Cohen	Doggett
Bralley (IA)	Connolly (VA)	Donnelly (IN)
Brown (FL)	Conyers	Doyle
Butterfield	Cooper	Duncan (TN)

Edwards Lee (CA)
 Ellison Levin
 Engel Lewis (GA)
 Eshoo Lipinski
 Farr Loeb sack
 Fattah Lofgren, Zoe
 Filner Lowey
 Frank (MA) Lujan
 Fudge Lynch
 Garamendi Maloney
 Gonzalez Markey
 Green, Al Matheson
 Green, Gene Matsui
 Grijalva McCarthy (NY)
 Gutierrez McCollum
 Hahn McDermott
 Hanabusa McGovern
 Hastings (FL) McIntyre
 Heinrich McNerney
 Higgins Meeks
 Himes Michaud
 Hinchey Miller (NC)
 Hinojosa Miller, George
 Hirono Moore
 Hochul Moran
 Holden Murphy (CT)
 Holt Nadler
 Honda Napolitano
 Hoyer Neal
 Inslee Oliver
 Israel Owens
 Jackson (IL) Pallone
 Jackson Lee (TX) Pascarell
 Johnson (GA) Pastor (AZ)
 Johnson, E. B. Payne
 Jones Pelosi
 Kaptur Perlmutter
 Keating Peters
 Kildee Peterson
 Kind Pingree (ME)
 Kissell Platts
 Kucinich Price (NC)
 Langevin Quigley
 Larsen (WA) Rahall
 Larson (CT) Rangel
 Reyes Woolsey
 Yarmuth

Richardson Mulvaney
 Richmond Murphy (PA)
 Rohrabacher Myrick
 Ross (AR) Neugebauer
 Rothman (NJ) Neom
 Roybal-Allard Nugent
 Ruppertsberger Nunes
 Rush Nunnelee
 Ryan (OH) Olson
 Sanchez, Linda Palazzo
 T. Paulsen
 Sanchez, Loretta Pearce
 Sarbanes Pence
 Schakowsky Petri
 Schiff Pitts
 Schrader Poe (TX)
 Schwartz Polis
 Scott (VA) Pompeo
 Scott, David Posey
 Serrano Price (GA)
 Sewell Quayle
 Sherman Reed
 Shuler Rehberg
 Sires Reichert
 Smith (WA) Renacci
 Speier Ribble
 Stark Rigell
 Sutton Rivera
 Thompson (CA) Roby
 Thompson (MS) Tierney
 Tonko Bachus
 Towns Giffords

Roe (TN) Stivers
 Rogers (AL) Stutzman
 Rogers (KY) Sullivan
 Rogers (MI) Terry
 Rokita Thompson (PA)
 Rooney Thornberry
 Ros-Lehtinen Tiberi
 Roskam Tipton
 Ross (FL) Turner (NY)
 Royce Turner (OH)
 Runyan Upton
 Ryan (WI) Walberg
 Scalise Walden
 Schilling Walsh (IL)
 Schmidt Webster
 Schock West
 Schweikert Westmoreland
 Scott (SC) Wittman
 Scott, Austin Wolf
 Sensenbrenner Wolf
 Sessions Shimkus
 Shuster Shuster
 Simpson Simpson
 Smith (NE) Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ) Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX) Smith (TX)
 Southerland Stearns
 Young (FL)
 Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—5

Bachus Paul
 Giffords Slaughter
 Wilson (FL)

□ 1757

Messrs. FARR, FRANK of Massachusetts, COOPER, PAYNE, ROHR-ABACHER, and Ms. EDWARDS changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was re-jected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I de-mand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-vice, and there were—ayes 262, noes 167, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 781]

AYES—262

Adams Dent
 Aderholt DesJarlais
 Akin Diaz-Balart
 Alexander Dold
 Amash Dreier
 Amodei Duffy
 Austria Duncan (SC)
 Bachmann Ellmers
 Barletta Emerson
 Bartlett Farenthold
 Barton (TX) Fincher
 Bass (NH) Fitzpatrick
 Benishek Flake
 Berg Fleischmann
 Biggert Fleming
 Bilbray Flores
 Bilirakis Forbes
 Bishop (UT) Fortenberry
 Black Foss
 Blackburn Franks (AZ)
 Bonner Frelinghuysen
 Bono Mack Gallegly
 Boustany Gardner
 Brady (TX) Garrett
 Brooks Gerlach
 Broun (GA) Gibbs
 Buchanan Gibson
 Bucshon Gingrey (GA)
 Buerkle Gohmert
 Burgess Goodlatte
 Burton (IN) Gosar
 Calvert Gowdy
 Camp Granger
 Campbell Graves (GA)
 Canseco Graves (MO)
 Cantor Griffin (AR)
 Capito Griffith (VA)
 Carter Grimm
 Cassidy Guinta
 Chabot Guthrie
 Chaffetz Hall
 Coble Hanna
 Coffman (CO) Harper
 Cole Harris
 Conaway Hartzler
 Cravaack Hastings (WA)
 Crawford Hayworth
 Crenshaw Heck
 Culberson Hensarling
 Davis (KY) Herger
 Denham Herrera Beutler

Ackerman Buerkle
 Adams Burgess
 Aderholt Burton (IN)
 Akin Calvert
 Alexander Camp
 Amash Campbell
 Amodei Canseco
 Austria Cantor
 Bachmann Capito
 Bachus Cardoza
 Barletta Carter
 Bartlett Cassidy
 Barton (TX) Castor (FL)
 Bass (NH) Chabot
 Benishek Chaffetz
 Berg Coble
 Berman Coffman (CO)
 Biggert Cole
 Bilbray Conaway
 Bilirakis Connolly (VA)
 Black Cooper
 Blackburn Costa
 Bonner Cravaack
 Bono Mack Crawford
 Boren Crenshaw
 Boustany Crowley
 Brady (TX) Cuellar
 Brooks Culberson
 Broun (GA) Davis (CA)
 Buchanan Davis (KY)
 Bucshon Denham

Wilson (FL)
 Inslee
 Issa
 Jenkins
 Johnson (IL)
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson, Sam
 Jordan
 Kelly
 Kind
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kingston
 Kinzinger (IL)
 Kline
 Labrador
 Lamborn
 Lance
 Landry
 Lankford
 Larsen (WA)
 Latham
 Latta
 Lewis (CA)
 Long
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer

NOES—167

Altmore DeLauro
 Andrews Deutch
 Baca Dingell
 Baldwin Doggett
 Barrow Donnelly (IN)
 Bass (CA) Doyle
 Becerra Duncan (TN)
 Berkley Edwards
 Bishop (GA) Ellison
 Bishop (NY) Eshoo
 Bishop (UT) Fattah
 Blumenauer Filner
 Boswell Frank (MA)
 Brady (PA) Fudge
 Braley (IA) Garamendi
 Brown (FL) Green, Al
 Butterfield Green, Gene
 Capps Grijalva
 Capuano Gutierrez
 Carnahan Hahn
 Carney Hanabusa
 Carson (IN) Hastings (FL)
 Chandler Heinrich
 Chu Higgins
 Cicilline McKinley
 Clarke (MI) Hirono
 Clarke (NY) Hochul
 Clay Holden
 Cleaver Holt
 Clyburn Honda
 Cohen Israel
 Conyers Jackson (IL)
 Costello Jackson Lee
 Courtney (TX)
 Critz Johnson (GA)
 Cummings Johnson, E. B.
 Davis (IL) Jones
 DeFazio Kaptur
 DeGette Keating

NAYS—236

Huelskamp
 Huizenga (MI)
 Hultgren
 Hunter
 Hurt
 Issa
 Jenkins
 Johnson (IL)
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson, Sam
 Jordan
 Kelly
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kingston
 Kinzinger (IL)
 Kline
 Labrador
 Lamborn
 Lance
 Landry
 Lankford
 Latham
 LaTourette
 Latta
 Lewis (CA)
 LoBiondo
 Long
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Lummis
 Lungren, Daniel
 E.
 Mack
 Manzullo
 Marchant
 Marino
 McCarthy (CA)
 McCaul
 McClintock
 McCotter
 McHenry
 McKeon
 McKinley
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 Meehan
 Mica
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller, Gary

Kildee
 Kissell
 Kucinich
 Langevin
 Larson (CT)
 LaTourette
 Lee (CA)
 Levin
 Lewis (GA)
 Lipinski
 Fattah
 Filner
 Frank (MA)
 Fudge
 Garamendi
 Green, Al
 Green, Gene
 Grijalva
 Gutierrez
 Hahn
 Hanabusa
 Hastings (FL)
 Heinrich
 Higgins
 Hinchey
 Hirono
 Hochul
 Holden
 Holt
 Honda
 Israel
 Jackson (IL)
 Jackson Lee
 (TX)
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Jones
 Kaptur
 Keating

Payne Sánchez, Linda Sutton
 Pelosi T. Thompson (CA)
 Perlmutter Sanchez, Loretta Thompson (MS)
 Peters Sarbanes Tierney
 Peterson Schakowsky Tonko
 Pingree (ME) Schiff Towns
 Quigley Schrader Tsongas
 Rahall Schwartz Velázquez
 Rangel Scott (VA) Vislosky
 Reyes Scott, David Walz (MN)
 Richardson Serrano Waters
 Richmond Sewell Watt
 Rothman (NJ) Sherman Waxman
 Roybal-Allard Shuler Welch
 Ruppberger Speier Woolsey
 Rush Stark Yarmuth
 Ryan (OH) Stearns Young (AK)

Herrera Beutler Meeks Ryan (WI)
 Himes Mica Scalise
 Hinojosa Miller (FL) Schiff
 Hoyer Miller (MI) Schilling
 Huelskamp Miller, Gary Schmidt
 Huizenga (MI) Moran Schock
 Hultgren Mulvaney Schrader
 Hunter Murphy (PA) Schwartz
 Hurt Myrick Schweikert
 Insee Neal Scott (SC)
 Issa Neugebauer Scott, Austin
 Jenkins Noem Scott, David
 Johnson (IL) Nugent Sensenbrenner
 Johnson (OH) Nunes Sessions
 Johnson, E. B. Nunnelee Sewell
 Johnson, Sam Olson Shimkus
 Jordan Olver Shuster
 Kelly Owens Simpson
 Kind Palazzo Sires
 King (IA) Pascrell Smith (NE)
 King (NY) Paulsen Smith (TX)
 Kingston Pearce Smith (WA)
 Kinzinger (IL) Pelosi Southerland
 Kline Pence Stearns
 Labrador Peterson Stivers
 Lamborn Petri Stutzman
 Lance Pitts Sullivan
 Landry Platts Terry
 Lankford Poe (TX) Thompson (CA)
 Larsen (WA) Polis Thompson (PA)
 Larson (CT) Pompeo Thornberry
 Latham Posey Tiberi
 Latta Price (GA) Tipton
 Levin Price (NC) Tipton
 Lewis (CA) Quayle Tsongas
 Long Quigley Turner (NY)
 Lowey Rangel Turner (OH)
 Lucas Reed Upton
 Luetkemeyer Rehberg Van Hollen
 Lummis Reichert Walden
 Lungren, Daniel Renacci Walsh (IL)
 E. Ribble Wasserman
 Mack Richmond Schultz
 Maloney Rigell Watt
 Manzullo Rivera Waxman
 Marchant Roby Webster
 Marino Roe (TN) Welch
 Matheson Rogers (AL) West
 Matsui Rogers (KY) Westmoreland
 McCarthy (CA) Rogers (MI) Whitfield
 McCaul Rohrabacher Wilson (SC)
 McClintock Rokita Wittman
 McCotter Rooney Wolf
 McDermott Ros-Lehtinen Womack
 McHenry Roskam Woodall
 McKeon Ross (AR) Yoder
 McMorris Ross (FL) Young (AK)
 Rodgers Royce Young (FL)
 Meehan Runyan Young (IN)

Serrano Sutton
 Sherman Thompson (MS)
 Shuler Tierney
 Smith (NJ) Tonko
 Speier Towns
 Stark Velázquez

NOT VOTING—4

Giffords Slaughter
 Paul Wilson (FL)

□ 1810

So the bill was passed.
 The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

NOT VOTING—4

Giffords Slaughter
 Paul Wilson (FL)

□ 1804

So the bill was passed.
 The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.
 A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES-PANAMA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 3079) to implement the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 300, nays 129, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 782]

YEAS—300

Ackerman Capito Fattah
 Adams Cardoza Fincher
 Aderholt Carney Fitzpatrick
 Akin Carter Flake
 Alexander Cassidy Fleischmann
 Amash Castor (FL) Fleming
 Amodei Chabot Flores
 Austria Chaffetz Forbes
 Bachmann Clyburn Fortenberry
 Bachus Coble Foxx
 Barletta Coffman (CO) Franks (AZ)
 Bartlett Cole Frelinghuysen
 Barton (TX) Conaway Gallegly
 Bass (NH) Connolly (VA) Gardner
 Becerra Cooper Garrett
 Benishek Costa Gerlach
 Berg Cravaack Gibbs
 Berman Crawford Gibson
 Biggert Crenshaw Gingrey (GA)
 Bilbray Crowley Gohmert
 Bilirakis Cuellar Gonzalez
 Bishop (GA) Culberson Goodlatte
 Black Davis (CA) Gosar
 Blackburn Davis (KY) Gowdy
 Blumenauer DeGette Granger
 Bonner Denham Graves (GA)
 Bono Mack Dent Graves (MO)
 Boren DesJarlais Griffin (AR)
 Boustany Diaz-Balart Griffith (VA)
 Brady (TX) Dicks Grimm
 Brooks Doggett Guinta
 Broun (GA) Dold Guthrie
 Buchanan Dreier Hall
 Buchson Duffy Hanna
 Buerkle Duncan (SC) Harper
 Burgess Duncan (TN) Harris
 Burton (IN) Ellmers Hartzler
 Calvert Emerson Hastings (WA)
 Camp Engel Hayworth
 Campbell Eshoo Heck
 Canseco Farenthold Hensarling
 Cantor Farr Herger

King (IA) King (NY) Kingston Kinzinger (IL) Kline Labrador Lamborn Lance Landry Lankford Larsen (WA) Larson (CT) Latham Latta Levin Lewis (CA) Long Lowey Lucas Luetkemeyer Lummis Lungren, Daniel E. Mack Maloney Manzullo Marchant Marino Matheson Matsui McCarthy (CA) McCaul McClintock McCotter McDermott McHenry McKeon McMorris Rodgers Meehan
 Altmire Edwards Loeb sack
 Andrews Ellison Lofgren, Zoe
 Baca Lujan Luján
 Baldwin Frank (MA) Lynch
 Barrow Fudge Markey
 Bass (CA) Garamendi McCarthy (NY)
 Berkeley Green, Al McCollum
 Bishop (NY) Green, Gene McGovern
 Bishop (UT) Grijalva McIntyre
 Boswell Gutierrez McKinley
 Brady (PA) Hahn McNeerney
 Braley (IA) Hanabusa Michael
 Brown (FL) Hastings (FL) Miller (NC)
 Butterfield Heinrich Miller, George
 Capps Higgins Moore
 Capuano Hinchey Murphy (CT)
 Carnahan Hirono Nadler
 Carson (IN) Hochul Napolitano
 Chandler Holden Pallone
 Chu Holt Pastor (AZ)
 Cicilline Honda Payne
 Clarke (MI) Israel Perlmutter
 Clarke (NY) Jackson (IL) Peters
 Clay Jackson Lee Pingree (ME)
 Cleaver (TX) Johnson (GA) Rahall
 Cohen Jones Reyes
 Conyers Costello Richardson
 Costello Keating Rothman (NJ)
 Courtney Keating Roybal-Allard
 Critz Kildee Ruppberger
 Cummings Kissell Rush
 Davis (IL) Kucinich Ryan (OH)
 DeFazio Langevin Sanchez, Linda
 DeLauro LaTourette T.
 Deutch Lee (CA) Sanchez, Loretta
 Dingell Lewis (GA) Sarbanes
 Donnelly (IN) Lipinski Schakowsky
 Doyle LoBiondo Scott (VA)

NAYS—129

Edwards Lofgren, Zoe
 Ellison Lujan Luján
 Frank (MA) Lynch
 Fudge Markey
 Garamendi McCarthy (NY)
 Green, Al McCollum
 Green, Gene McGovern
 Grijalva McIntyre
 Gutierrez McKinley
 Hahn McNeerney
 Hanabusa Michael
 Hastings (FL) Miller (NC)
 Heinrich Miller, George
 Higgins Moore
 Hinchey Murphy (CT)
 Hirono Nadler
 Hochul Napolitano
 Holden Pallone
 Holt Pastor (AZ)
 Honda Payne
 Israel Perlmutter
 Jackson (IL) Peters
 Jackson Lee Pingree (ME)
 Johnson (GA) Rahall
 Jones Reyes
 Richardson
 Keating Rothman (NJ)
 Keating Roybal-Allard
 Kildee Ruppberger
 Kissell Rush
 Kucinich Ryan (OH)
 Langevin Sanchez, Linda
 LaTourette T.
 Lee (CA) Sanchez, Loretta
 Lewis (GA) Sarbanes
 Lipinski Schakowsky
 LoBiondo Scott (VA)

UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 3080) to implement the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 278, nays 151, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 783]

YEAS—278

Ackerman Crawford Heck
 Adams Crenshaw Hensarling
 Akin Crowley Herger
 Alexander Cuellar Herrera Beutler
 Amash Culberson Himes
 Amodei Davis (CA) Hoyer
 Austria Davis (IL) Huelskamp
 Bachmann Davis (KY) Huizenga (MI)
 Bachus DeGette Hultgren
 Barletta Denham Insee
 Bartlett Dent Issa
 Barton (TX) DesJarlais Jenkins
 Bass (NH) Diaz-Balart Johnson (IL)
 Becerra Dicks Johnson (OH)
 Benishek Dold Johnson, E. B.
 Berg Dreier Johnson, Sam
 Berman Duffy Jordan
 Biggert Emerson Kelly
 Bilbray Eshoo Kind
 Bilirakis Farenthold King (IA)
 Black Fincher King (NY)
 Blackburn Fitzpatrick Kingston
 Blumenauer Flake Kinzinger (IL)
 Bonner Fleischmann Kline
 Bono Mack Fleming Labrador
 Boren Flores Lamborn
 Boustany Forbes Lance
 Brady (TX) Fortenberry Landry
 Brooks Franks (AZ) Lankford
 Broun (GA) Frelinghuysen Larsen (WA)
 Buchanan Gallegly Larson (CT)
 Buchson Gardner Latham
 Buerkle Garrett Latta
 Burgess Gerlach Levin
 Burton (IN) Gibbs Lewis (CA)
 Calvert Gibson Long
 Camp Gingrey (GA) Lowey
 Campbell Gohmert Lucas
 Canseco Gonzalez Luetkemeyer
 Cantor Goodlatte Lummis
 Capito Gosar Lungren, Daniel
 Carney Granger E.
 Carter Graves (GA) Mack
 Cassidy Graves (MO) Maloney
 Castor (FL) Griffin (AR) Manzullo
 Chabot Grimm Marchant
 Chaffetz Guinta Marino
 Chandler Guthrie Matheson
 Clyburn Hall Matsui
 Coffman (CO) Hanabusa McCarthy (CA)
 Cole Hanna McCarthy (NY)
 Conaway Harper McCaul
 Cooper Harris McClintock
 Costa Hartzler McCotter
 Cravaack Hastings (WA) McDermott
 Hayworth McKeon

McMorris
Rodgers
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran
Murphy (PA)
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg

Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez, Loretta
Scalise
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schradler
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell
Shimkus
Shuster

Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—151

Aderholt
Altmire
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Barrow
Bass (CA)
Berkley
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (IN)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Coble
Cohen
Conyers
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Cummins
DeFazio
DeLauro
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foxx

Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gowdy
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Hinchev
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Johnson (GA)
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kissell
Kucinich
Langevin
LaTourette
Lee (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeback
Lofgren, Zoe
Lujan
Lynch
Markey
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKinley
McNerney
Michaud

Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Oliver
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree (ME)
Rahall
Reyes
Richardson
Rohrabacher
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Scott, David
Serrano
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Smith (NJ)
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Velázquez
Vislosky
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (SC)
Woolsey
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—4

Giffords
Paul

Slaughter
Wilson (FL)

□ 1817

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

EXTENDING THE GENERALIZED
SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 2832, offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 307, nays 122, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 784]

YEAS—307

Ackerman
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishek
Berg
Berkeley
Berman
Ellison
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fitzpatrick
Forbes
Fortenberry
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heinrich
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinchev
Cohen
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hurt
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Jenkins
Davis (CA)

Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Edwards
Ellison
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeback
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Maloney
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nunes
Olson

Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (NY)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeback
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Maloney
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nunes
Olson

Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Platts
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Rivera
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam

Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schock
Schradler
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Sires
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier

Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Vislosky
Walberg
Walden
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Whitfield
Wolf
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—122

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Amash
Amodei
Austria
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bono Mack
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Campbell
Carter
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Conaway
Crawford
Culberson
Denham
DesJarlais
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Fincher
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett

Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Guinta
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck
Hensarling
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Issa
Jones
Jordan
King (IA)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Labrador
Lamborn
Landry
Lankford
Latta
Lummis
Mack
Manzullo
McCaul
McClintock
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer

Noem
Nugent
Nunnelee
Palazzo
Pearce
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Graves (MO)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Ribble
Rigell
Roby
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ross (FL)
Royce
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Simpson
Southerland
Stutzman
Sullivan
Thornberry
Tipton
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—4

Giffords
Paul

Slaughter
Wilson (FL)

□ 1827

Mr. RIBBLE and Mrs. BLACK changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. PALLONE changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERANS OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2433) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws relating to the employment and training of veterans, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 418, nays 6, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 785]

YEAS—418

Ackerman	Clarke (MI)	Garamendi
Adams	Clarke (NY)	Gardner
Aderholt	Clay	Gerlach
Akin	Cleaver	Gibbs
Alexander	Clyburn	Gibson
Altmire	Coble	Gingrey (GA)
Amodei	Coffman (CO)	Gohmert
Andrews	Cohen	Gonzalez
Austria	Cole	Goodlatte
Baca	Conaway	Gosar
Bachmann	Connolly (VA)	Gowdy
Bachus	Conyers	Granger
Baldwin	Cooper	Graves (GA)
Barletta	Costa	Graves (MO)
Barrow	Costello	Green, Al
Bartlett	Courtney	Green, Gene
Barton (TX)	Cravaack	Griffin (AR)
Bass (NH)	Crawford	Griffith (VA)
Becerra	Crenshaw	Grijalva
Benishek	Critz	Grimm
Berg	Crowley	Guinta
Berkley	Cuellar	Guthrie
Berman	Culberson	Gutierrez
Biggert	Cummings	Hahn
Bilbray	Davis (CA)	Hall
Billirakis	Davis (IL)	Hanabusa
Bishop (GA)	Davis (KY)	Hanna
Bishop (NY)	DeFazio	Harper
Bishop (UT)	DeGette	Harris
Black	DeLauro	Hartzler
Blackburn	Denham	Hastings (FL)
Blumenauer	Dent	Hastings (WA)
Bonner	DesJarlais	Hayworth
Bono Mack	Deutch	Heck
Boren	Diaz-Balart	Heinrich
Boswell	Dicks	Hensarling
Boustany	Dingell	Herger
Brady (PA)	Doggett	Herrera Beutler
Brady (TX)	Dold	Higgins
Braley (IA)	Donnelly (IN)	Himes
Brooks	Doyle	Hinchey
Broun (GA)	Dreier	Hinojosa
Brown (FL)	Duffy	Hirono
Buchanan	Duncan (SC)	Hochul
Buchson	Duncan (TN)	Holden
Buerkle	Edwards	Holt
Burgess	Ellison	Honda
Burton (IN)	Ellmers	Huelskamp
Butterfield	Emerson	Huizenga (MI)
Calvert	Engel	Hultgren
Camp	Eshoo	Hunter
Canseco	Farenthold	Hurt
Cantor	Farr	Inslee
Capito	Fattah	Israel
Capps	Fincher	Issa
Capuano	Fitzpatrick	Jackson (IL)
Carnahan	Fleischmann	Jackson Lee
Carney	Fleming	(TX)
Carson (IN)	Flores	Jenkins
Carter	Forbes	Johnson (GA)
Cassidy	Fortenberry	Johnson (IL)
Castor (FL)	Foxo	Johnson (OH)
Chabot	Frank (MA)	Johnson, E. B.
Chaffetz	Franks (AZ)	Johnson, Sam
Chandler	Frelinghuysen	Jordan
Chu	Fudge	Kaptur
Ciçilline	Galleghy	Keating

Kelly	Nadler
Kildee	Napolitano
Kind	Neal
King (IA)	Neugebauer
King (NY)	Noem
Kingston	Nugent
Kinzinger (IL)	Nunes
Kissell	Nunnelee
Kline	Olson
Kucinich	Olver
Labrador	Owens
Lamborn	Palazzo
Lance	Pallone
Landry	Pascrell
Langevin	Pastor (AZ)
Lankford	Paulsen
Larsen (WA)	Pearce
Larson (CT)	Pelosi
Latham	Pence
LaTourette	Perlmutter
Latta	Peters
Lee (CA)	Peterson
Levin	Petri
Lewis (CA)	Pingree (ME)
Lipinski	Pitts
LoBiondo	Platts
Loebsack	Poe (TX)
Lofgren, Zoe	Polis
Long	Pompeo
Lowe	Posy
Lucas	Price (GA)
Luetkemeyer	Price (NC)
Lujan	Quayle
Lummis	Quigley
Lungren, Daniel	Rahall
E.	Rangel
Lynch	Reed
Mack	Rehberg
Maloney	Reichert
Manzullo	Renacci
Marchant	Reyes
Marino	Ribble
Markey	Richardson
Matsui	Richmond
McCarthy (CA)	Richmond
McCarthy (NY)	Rigell
McCaul	Rivera
McClintock	Robby
McCollum	Roe (TN)
McCotter	Rogers (AL)
McDermott	Rogers (KY)
McGovern	Rogers (MI)
McHenry	Rohrabacher
McIntyre	Rokita
McKeon	Rooney
McKinley	Ros-Lehtinen
McMorris	Roskam
Rodgers	Ross (AR)
McNeerney	Ross (FL)
Meehan	Rothman (NJ)
Meeks	Roybal-Allard
Mica	Royce
Michaud	Runyan
Miller (FL)	Ruppersberger
Miller (MI)	Rush
Miller (NC)	Ryan (OH)
Miller, Gary	Ryan (WI)
Miller, George	Sanchez, Linda
Moore	T.
Moran	Sanchez, Loretta
Mulvaney	Sarbanes
Murphy (CT)	Scalise
Murphy (PA)	Schakowsky
Myrick	Schiff

NAYS—6

Amash	Filner
Campbell	Flake
Bass (CA)	Hoyer
Cardoza	Lewis (GA)
Giffords	Matheson

NOT VOTING—9

□ 1834

Mr. WELCH changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1380

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 1380.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION EXTENSION ACT OF 2011

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table the bill (H.R. 2944) to provide for the continued performance of the functions of the United States Parole Commission, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

On page 2, line 12, strike “‘27 years’ or ‘27-year period’” and insert “‘26 years’ or ‘26-year period’”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and 11:30 a.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 822

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 822.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

EPA REGULATORY RELIEF ACT OF 2011

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2250.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 419 and rule

XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2250.

□ 1838

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2250) to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers, process heaters, and incinerators, and for other purposes, with Mr. DUFFY (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, amendment No. 3 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. COHEN

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, line 18, strike “and” after the semicolon.

Page 7, line 19, strike “impacts.” and insert “impacts; and”.

Page 7, after line 19, insert the following subparagraph:

(F) potential reductions in the number of illness-related absences from work due to respiratory or other illnesses.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My amendment is a very simple amendment. It should get unanimous support here. It simply requires the Environmental Protection Agency administrator to consider increases in illness-related absences from work when establishing a compliance date for the boiler rule.

Last week, I offered similar language as an amendment to the Cement Sector Regulatory Relief Act, which, unfortunately, didn't pass. I don't think it was clearly understood by both sides of the aisle. However, I believe my amendment is more applicable to this legislation since boilers and incinerators pose an even greater health threat to the American people. In fact, EPA's analysis demonstrates that for every year this rule will be in effect, it would prevent up to 320,000 missed work- or schooldays.

During the debate on my amendment last week, the majority conceded, which I appreciated, that the amendment would do no harm because the majority thought that the language was already in the bill and that it would be duplicative and unnecessary.

□ 1840

The reality is that there's nothing in the underlying legislation that re-

quires the administrator to consider illness-related absences from work when setting a compliance date. Now, indeed, it should have been in there—and I can understand why the other side thought it would be in there because it should have been in there—but it wasn't in there, and that's why I offered this amendment. But this factor is critical, and any establishment of a compliance date that does not consider the health of the American workforce is fundamentally flawed and inadequate.

As the majority correctly stated last week, the EPA already knows how many work days will be missed as a result of delaying the boiler rule, so my amendment will not hinder the EPA's decisionmaking process. Additionally, as the majority admitted last week, at worst, my amendment does no harm—or, as kind of the NBA rule, no harm, no foul. However, at best, my amendment ensures that EPA's decision is based on a more complete analysis of the economic impacts of the rule. And given the economic consequences of 320,000 days of missed work or school a year, it's imperative that EPA factor this information into its compliance date decision.

I ask the majority to recognize that if the United States is going to retain its status as the world's economic engine, then we need to have the world's healthiest and most productive workforce—and children. But that will not happen if we continue to let polluting boilers and incinerators undermine the health and well-being of millions of American workers and children.

I encourage my colleagues to understand the importance of a healthy workforce and support my amendment. On behalf of the millions of American workers and schoolchildren who have been forced to miss work or school because of sickness incurred by breathing toxic pollutants from boilers and incinerators—mercury, no less, which interferes with young people's abilities to think—I ask that you support my amendment. It's time to put partisanship aside and work together to strengthen the American worker and the American school child.

I urge passage of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Kentucky is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. I want to thank the gentleman from Tennessee for offering this amendment. He always does a great job of articulating his position on these issues, some of which are pretty complicated.

In this amendment, he would add illness-related work absences to the considerations when EPA is setting the compliance deadline. And of course that's one of the main purposes of H.R. 2250, to allow additional time for universities, hospitals, and industries in complying with these rather com-

plicated Boiler MACT rules. And in the legislation, we set out six or seven specific items that EPA must consider in setting the compliance deadline. They do have to set it no sooner than within 5 years, but the EPA administrator has additional time after that. And the section of the bill that I'm talking about identifies specific issues relevant to a facility's ability to comply and simply ensures that in setting these compliance dates, plant-focused considerations are taken into account.

Now, EPA already has the responsibility for considering health impacts in setting its standards. And its unclear exactly how this amendment would be implemented different from what the act already requires the EPA to do. So I'm going to respectfully oppose the amendment and ask that it be defeated. However, if we end up having a vote on this and if it is defeated, either by voice vote or by record vote, if we are successful in getting this into a conference with the Senate, I would specifically make the commitment to the gentleman from Tennessee that I would work with him sincerely in trying to address his concern. And I might say that we've had a lot of amendments, and this is, I guess, the only time we said we would really be willing to do that. I know you're trying to address an issue that's of concern to you. And while I oppose the amendment here, if we are successful in getting to conference, I'd look forward to working with the gentlemen at that time. For that reason, I would formally, at this time, oppose the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee will be postponed.

Mr. WHITFIELD. I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia) having assumed the chair, Mr. DUFFY, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2250) to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers, process heaters, and incinerators, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas

(Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I've been appearing on the floor of this House now for quite a while talking about regulations, but information has come to my attention from a report that was prepared by a group of people in the Texas government about problems that are way beyond anything that many people are perceiving concerning what's going on on the border between Texas and Mexico in this ongoing immigration crisis that we have in America. And quite honestly, it's so concerning that tonight we're going to talk about—I'm going to talk about it, and I hope we will be joined by some of my colleagues—the actual crisis that is going on with the criminal element that has gathered across the border from Texas with the drug cartels in Mexico.

I'm going to have some posters here in a few minutes to talk about some of these things. But I think that everybody is well aware of the fact that we have an issue that is going to have to be addressed by this Congress. And that issue is not only that legal immigration needs to be worked on and fixed so that we can have an immigration policy that actually works in this country, rather than one that seems to be haphazard and in many ways subject to the whims of people's personal opinions rather than the laws that should be established under the rule of immigration law for our country, but this whole issue of illegal immigration is compounded and geometrically compounded by the fact that massive illegal drug cartels have gathered on our border.

First, remember—and I think all people that have dealt with criminology anywhere, anytime will tell you that when you create a criminal environment, you have to expect that environment to grow. At some point in time in the recent past, the cartels that deliver drugs to basically the entire Western World decided to move their operation from South America right to the border of the United States, across the border in Mexico. And these cartels have been battling each other in literally warfare to determine what cartels will dominate the illegal importation of drugs and people into this country—and those people brought in, in many instances, for illicit purposes, such as prostitution.

□ 1850

The most recent count that I have heard is approximately 44,000 Mexicans across the border have lost their lives in this war that's going on in Mexico. That is a number that, when you look at the 10 years of warfare our country has been involved in in other places around the world, is astronomical. And to think that that's happening.

I live in Round Rock, Texas, which is approximately close to 200 miles from the Mexican border. And to think that

there's a war going on in an area where most Texans have, when there was peace upon the border, most Texans visited that area many times during their lifetime because those were our friends across that border. Now they're no longer our friends, they're our enemies, and not only the enemies of all law-abiding people, but they're enemies of mankind because they are bringing poison into our Nation in every form and fashion; and they're killing each other for the right to do so.

One of the things that has concerned members of our Texas delegation and members of other delegations in this Congress has been, will that lawlessness spill over into the United States of America.

The report that was done by Todd Staples and the Texas Department of Public Safety and others in Texas tells us that not only will it spill over into our country, but it has spilled over into our country, and that there is an evil plan by these cartels to actually come in and try to seize control of every border county in Texas that borders on the Rio Grande. Now, that's a big project that they are—and, actually, I would say it is a plan for the invasion of the United States of America.

This is something we honestly have to address in a serious manner. We have a lot of legislation pending. One of the bills that I have that connects to this talk today is a bill that will add further assistance to the border sheriffs in their war against the illegal element on the border.

Our Border Patrol has grown to an enormous body, and they are involved in this war on the border. Currently, the Texas Rangers have a task force on the border. They are the elite law enforcement officers of Texas, and they have a task force which is working up a, hopefully, a counter-plan to stand up to this plan that's coming out of Mexico to start to infiltrate our counties along the border and ultimately, through intimidation, kidnapping, beheading, murdering and bribing and all other types of illegal activity, they are going to try to both buy and intimidate their way into a position of control of these counties.

Some of these counties have large populations, but some of these counties have very small populations and a lot of land mass along the Texas border. And it is a real concern when you're talking about 1,200 miles of border between the United States and Mexico, that someone would have a plan to invade our country and take control of those border counties that are bordering on Mexico.

The first question you would say is, with them fighting to establish their base in Mexico, why would they cross the border?

The report that was given, and when I get that report I'll talk to you about some of the people that were involved in it, but I don't have it in front of me. It was done with the aid of two former

United States military generals who looked at it from the standpoint of strategic and tactical planning that you would have in the case of any other kind of military invasion, to look at what countermeasures we would take in this country and others.

One of the countermeasures that would fall upon the people of Texas would be that we would need to be using every law enforcement officer we could to their maximum benefit; and therefore we have done things to enhance border sheriffs in the past. We're going to do things to enhance border sheriffs in the future; but we have a bill that will add to that enhancement, and I would think that's just the tip of the spear of what's going to be needed if these people get serious about trying to come across the border and create criminal counties along the Texas/Mexican border on the Texas side of the border.

It's almost beyond our belief. And here's the man with my materials. Bring them over here.

That's almost beyond our conception of what will truly happen. But this is a copy of the plan. You want to hand one up there to Judge POE and let him, he's read it, but he might want to have it as a reference. It's "Texas Border Security Strategic Military Assessment," prepared in September of 2011. And some of the funds were provided by Todd Staples, the commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture, assisted by the Texas Department of Public Safety, and four star Retired General Barry McCaffrey and Retired Army Major General Robert Scales, both of whom looked at this from a unique and strategic assessment as they would do with a military project.

General McCaffrey is the former director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy under President Bill Clinton and a former commander of all U.S. troops in Central and South America. Major General Robert Scales is a former commander, United States Army War College.

These two gentlemen have taken the intelligence that has been gathered by the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Border Patrol, special group called the Texas Rangers, and others, to discuss this criminal element on the border.

Now, why would we do this today? Well, it's because of what's on this poster right here. We have had an event in our country where these blatant criminals from the cartels have at least attempted to be—they have been solicited by enemies of our country from Iran to commit an assassination bombing here in Washington, D.C. on behalf of Iran. And they tried to hire Mexican cartel members to do this heinous event here to attack the Saudi Arabian—and I believe potentially the Israeli embassies here in Washington, D.C. in an attempt to kill those ambassadors from those countries.

Now, I have a particular interest in this, above the interest I would have

anyway, having dealt with law enforcement for many, many years now, in that one of these guys that tried to make the deal has a home in my hometown of Round Rock, Texas. This has just come out recently. I haven't seen what neighborhood it's in yet because I haven't seen it on television. But I'm going to call my son as soon as I get through talking here, and he knows everything that goes on in Round Rock because he's the coach, and he'll know where it is.

But this is serious business when you start realizing that there are people trying to set up assassination plots that live in your hometown. And we are one of the most law-abiding—I would argue we are the most law-abiding county in the State of Texas and one of the most law-abiding counties in the entire Nation. And to think that someone would be stupid enough to choose Williamson County as a place for operations for terrorist behavior is almost beyond my belief. But it seems to be, from the indications that are being reported in the news, at least one of these people owned a home in Williamson County.

It shocks me to come up here on the floor and admit that about my hometown; but I can promise you, if we can find anything we can do to him in Williamson County, we'll take care of the boy. I can give you my assurance of that. But that's another story.

But look at these characters and realize we live 200 miles from the Mexican border, and yet operations are being planned by people from a foreign country, Iran, an enemy of our Nation, part of the axis of evil that former President Bush talked about. These guys are trying to make a deal with this criminal element across the border.

So that, coupled with this Texas Border Security Act, is a huge eye-opener, that this issue that we have talked about now for the entire almost 10 years I have been here in Congress is a lot more serious issue, from a national security standpoint, than anything we ever imagined; and I think that's something we really need to start thinking about.

□ 1900

I am joined by another very law-and-order former judge from the State of Texas, my good friend, TED POE. Judge POE and I both served on the bench. We both did our best to put bad guys where they belong, and I think we did more than our share.

I will just yield to Congressman POE whatever time he may wish to consume to discuss this matter.

Mr. POE of Texas. Thank you, Judge CARTER.

The reason Williamson County doesn't have any criminals in it is you sent them all to the Texas State penitentiary when you were judge. But I think this event that has occurred should tell us a lot of things. One, that the country of Iran is so bold they be-

lieve that they can commit a crime of terror on the soil of the United States and get away with it, that the United States wouldn't do anything, or there wouldn't be any consequences, whatever. But the government, and I believe the Government of Iran was in the middle of this, was so arrogant to hurt and kill Americans that they were willing to do this on our homeland.

I think that we have the responsibility to treat this just like it had actually occurred, had they carried out the assault on the Embassy here, killed the Ambassador at a restaurant, apparently, killed the Israeli Ambassador, killed the two Ambassadors of the same countries in Argentina, which was discussed. We should be very concerned about that and not give it a pass because our law enforcement did a good job.

But also, they're willing to recruit the Zeta cartel to bring explosives into the United States. I wonder whether this is the first time they thought they were dealing with the Zeta cartels. We don't know. But the Zetas, to me, are the worst of the worst drug cartels. It reminds me of the old show on television back years ago, "Paladin," where his business card read "Have gun—will travel." And that's what the Zetas are. They've got guns, and they'll travel anywhere to assassinate people to make a little money.

So you've got Iran on one side of the world and the drug cartels in Mexico, two criminal enterprises working together—one for political reasons, one for money reasons—to cause harm to the United States.

Now, that brings us to a question of the real problem, which is the border. The U.S. border with Mexico and its porousness is a national security issue. It is not an immigration issue. That is a completely different issue. It's a border security, national security issue.

Last year, from the, I believe the same report that you have provided, there were 663 individuals from special interest countries that were captured by our law enforcement. Now, special interest countries are countries where terror organizations originate—Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan. That's where these 663 people were from that were captured by our law enforcement trying to come into the United States. And they weren't coming in here looking for work that Americans won't do. They were coming over here for mischief reasons. And that's because the border is open. The world knows if you can get to Mexico, you can get to the United States. And that was the plan in this bold endeavor to commit terror in the United States.

Recently, we did a border forum in Brownsville where we had primarily law enforcement and people who lived on the border testified about violence on the border. There are some places on the border that aren't violent on the United States side. But there are other places that are. It's not all peaceful,

and it's not all violent. It depends on the area of the border.

One of the cattlemen that is a ranger for the Cattlemen's Association testified that he was so concerned about cross-border travel and crime coming into the United States on ranches and nothing was being done about the crime that was being committed on these ranches by people crossing into the United States, primarily drug cartels, that the cattlemen, since they don't feel protected, may end up taking the law into their own hands. And we don't want to get into that situation.

You mentioned trafficking, human trafficking. That's another tremendous problem that the United States needs to be aware of, that young people, young women and girls from all over the world are being smuggled to Mexico, then smuggled into the United States, and then trafficked throughout the United States for sexual crimes. And it's an awful, awful scourge, but they cross the border because it's open in so many places.

In our Judiciary Committee a couple weeks ago, we had testimony that the number one threat to national security of the United States is not al Qaeda but the criminal drug cartels that operate in Mexico. The number one national security threat is the criminal drug cartels that operate in Mexico. That should give us, really, a warning that we really do have a tremendous crisis on our hands, because those people are at war not only with Mexico, but they're at war with the United States.

Lastly, I wanted to point out that there are several things that are being done, but the problem still exists—people are crossing into the United States. Border Patrol is doing the best they can. Of course, local law enforcement, the sheriffs, are doing as good a job as they can, and they mentioned the problem that you have talked about, about how the drug cartels want to infiltrate this side of the border and actually control regions. It's pretty simple what they do. They own land on one side of the Rio Grande River in Mexico, and they want to buy or steal or confiscate land on the Texas side of the Rio Grande River. That way they can move their drugs and smuggling operation from one land they own to another land they own across the river.

And when we get in that situation where the drug cartels are owning land on both sides of the border, we've got ourselves a real problem. And it's not just drugs; it's this problem right here. It seems to me that we need more people to protect the security of the United States. That's one of the things the Federal Government is actually supposed to do is to protect us.

And one piece of legislation I've offered is to put the National Guard on the border, not behind the border, but on the border, 10,000 troops, at the request of the Governors, supervised by the Governors, paid by the Federal Government, but put them on the border. Right now our policy seems to be,

since we can't have enough people on the border, we have them behind the border, and we try to catch them if you can, that's people coming into the United States, everybody, the good, the bad, and the ugly. And once we catch them, they become our problem, our financial problem, and then we have to deal with them and try to send as many as we can back.

If we have the National Guard on the border, they're not going to cross into the United States if we have that presence. And I think it's come to that, where we actually need to do that and talk about the role of the Federal Government is national security.

With that, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. CARTER. Reclaiming the time, thank you, Judge. I also have a bill, and I'm a cosponsor of your bill.

I also believe that we need the National Guard on the border. As this report indicates, you fight wars tactically and strategically. Strategically are big, big issue plans. Tactically is how you do the fighting. Well, they seem to have a plan that has been worked out strategically to seize the Texas border, as much of it as they can get; and then tactically, how to go about doing this with all sorts of criminal activity so they control some of these very rural, very large rural counties. But I'm sure they're even going to try for some of those urban and quasi-urban counties that are along the border with a whole intent that it would enhance their ability to move their products.

There's an anecdote in this bill, and I think I need to read it. This is what one rancher observed: "But the Border Patrol, I can tell you that their hands are tied about a lot of stuff. They have to call Washington. Even if they're having a gunfight down at the river, they're on the phone. They have to call Washington. The Border Patrol have boats on the river. They patrol the river, but they are not allowed to pick up anybody that is in the water unless they are dead.

□ 1910

"If the drug guys are loading drugs, all they have to do is wade out into the water, and the Border Patrol can't touch them. They are not allowed to go into the water. They can't do anything about it."

If that's the policy of the country and if that's what's going on, then they're looking at ways to avoid law enforcement—this is what this plan goes on to say—on both sides of the border. If the Texas authorities are chasing a carload of drugs in Texas, then drive out into the river, and they can't come after you. If the Mexicans are chasing you, then drive out into the river on the Mexican side. It gives them a getaway to get into that international zone.

I'm not sure of the legal ramifications of that policy. It has always been my understanding that the State of

Texas owns to the middle of the river; but there seems to be some policy that says, once you're in the water, you can't make an arrest of these people unless you get your hands on them without going into the water. I don't know how you do that. If that's the policy, then that's a getaway zone on both sides of the river. They can run right back in.

If they get this control of law enforcement and other things—and I'm not in any way besmirching these guys who are working nights, weekends and holidays down there who are trying to stop this invasion; but look what they've done to law enforcement across the border. I mean, I think the life expectancy of a chief of police in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, is about 6 hours before they either kill you or behead you, set you on fire, burn up your family or do something to you.

These are evil people; and the Zetas, they're the worst of the gathering of the evil people over there. They do it for money. They'll do anything for money. Almost anything. Obviously, they didn't do this, but it's only by the grace of God and good intelligence and, quite honestly, good law enforcement work down there that we prevented this. It's almost, arguably, that we got lucky, because there are so many people they could have contacted; and then we wouldn't have known about this. It's kind of frightening.

Another comment by another person who lives on the border: "We see a lot of things, but we keep our mouths shut about it. We just don't want to be on anybody's hit list. I keep to myself. The people who are doing what they're doing; they keep to themselves. If I see something, I ignore it—I look the other way—but there is a problem. It's really bad. Here on the river, you see a lot of stuff, and you don't pay attention to it. You walk away, and you try to stay in an area where they don't see you, so if somebody gets caught they don't say, 'Well, somebody called.' So you try to blend in and not create any waves." This is a citizen.

I can tell you that one of our citizens owns land on the border, and he has told stories of 50-caliber machine gun-armed, mounted Toyota pickups—I don't mean to besmirch Toyota, but that's what they are—that drive all loaded up, with the cartel members telling deer hunters to get off the ranch because they're hunting there that day, which means they're bringing a big load of drugs across the river. There is anecdote after anecdote from the citizens of Texas.

One of the things, I think, that's very important that we explain to people and to everybody who might be paying attention to this is that there is one big difference between Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California, which is: in Texas, we retained our public lands when we came into the United States under treaty.

So the land that they cross the river onto is not Federal land. It's individual

human beings' land. People water their cattle in the Rio Grande off of their ranches, and that Rio Grande is one border of their ranches. They own the land right up to the river. It's different in Arizona, and it's different in California. In most instances, they butt up against federally owned land because, in the other States, all land not owned by the individuals is owned by the Federal Government as part of Federal lands. In our State, we have no Federal lands. We have only State-owned lands and lands owned by individuals. So it's actually State-owned land or it's individual land with the exception of Big Bend National Park. That's the only exception that we have.

Mr. POE of Texas. I just wanted to point out another statement made by Texas ranchers. I think the Texas ranchers are the finest law enforcement organization in the world next to Scotland Yard—the two of them.

Lieutenant Arthur Barrera, whom I met when I was down there about 3 weeks ago, grew up on the border and knows how the life has changed. Here is what he says about what has taken place on the Texas-Mexico border. The people in Washington, D.C., who live in never-never land, thinking there are no problems down on the border, need to listen to some law enforcement officer who has been there for a long time.

Lieutenant Arthur Barrera says: "We are in a war. We are in a war, and I'm not going to sugarcoat it by any means. We are in a war, and it is a war, and we need to understand that." That's exactly what has taken place on the border.

Mr. CARTER. Quite honestly, if they have a plan to seize American soil, I think that's as close to an invasion plan as I can think of, and that concerns me greatly. If it's going to happen in Texas, it's going to happen in other States.

I've had the pleasure twice now to go to the border of the great State of Arizona. To be very honest, at least we've got a river between us and them. With the exception of some of the fences being built in Arizona—and I've seen the old fence. It was a two-strand, barbed wire fence that a young heifer calf could walk through without any problem at all.

Tonight, we're joined by Congressman FRANKS from Arizona. He wants to tell us a little bit about his view of this serious problem on our border with our cartels from the standpoint of our friends in Arizona. I yield to the gentleman whatever time he may wish to use here tonight.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I certainly thank the gentleman very much. I know that Texas and Arizona are kin in a lot of different ways, and I appreciate all the good work that you do; and I certainly thank Mr. POE.

I suppose it's important for us first to just restate the obvious, that the President's most fundamental duty is to protect our country. This recent attempted attack, which could have resulted in an act of war if they'd been

successful, I think reveals two very glaring examples of President Obama's abject failure to adequately fulfill his responsibility to protect our southern borders and the failure to respond to a terrorist regime on the verge of obtaining nuclear weapons.

The main terrorist attempting to organize these attacks on our soil sought to hire members of the Mexican drug cartel known as the Zetas—I'm sure you folks have discussed that already—partly because of their seemingly unfettered access to weaponry. It's an astonishing irony to me, Mr. CARTER, that it was the Obama Department of Justice that was involved in allowing just such weaponry to be walked across the border into the waiting arms of Mexican drug cartels like the Zetas.

Yesterday's foiled plot underscores the serious nature of the allegations surrounding Operation Fast and Furious; and, of course, I think it's very appropriate that Attorney General Holder has now been rightly subpoenaed. Beyond any shadow of a doubt, this momentous event establishes that Iran is committed enough to try to foment an attack upon the United States.

There are really only two fundamental components to any threat to our national security. One is intent. The second is capacity. If this doesn't clarify once again in the starkest terms Iran's intent, I don't know what it will take to wake this administration up. The frightening part about it is that this same regime has gone on unabated for years now, inexorably and inevitably pursuing a nuclear weapons capability. This administration has been asleep at the wheel, and I can't express to you how dangerous I believe that is.

Last year, General David Petraeus announced that Iran was directly assisting al Qaeda. Shortly thereafter, General Raymond Odierno, now Chief of Staff of the Army, said Iran was funding and training insurgent groups in Iraq. Furthermore, in a report last September, he indicated that Iran was also funding Taliban efforts to kill American troops in Afghanistan.

□ 1920

This is a pattern here; and if they are committed enough to try to foment an attack here and literally try to blow up the Israeli embassy here or to kill the Saudi Arabian ambassador to the U.S., let me suggest to you that the intent is so clear that our entire focus now should be upon dealing with the capacity.

And this administration should have the courage now to take this moment to stand up and say to the whole world that America will not let Iran gain nuclear weapons with which to threaten the entire human family, even if it means a military response on the part of the United States.

They need to make that very clear, and this is the moment to do that, because I would suggest to you that there is an effort by Iran to create a hegemon-

ony in the Middle East that's causing a lot of the Middle Eastern countries now to flock to Iran's side out of absolute sniveling terror that Iran will gain a nuclear weapons capability.

I would just say to you that if Iran does do this, not only will it change the history of humanity, not only will we all be stepping into the shadow of nuclear terrorism, but history will record that this President was the one that stood by and allowed that to happen. I would suggest to you that that is a complete abrogation of Presidential duty.

Perhaps this President would do better if he were able to focus on the threats of our Nation without being so busy apologizing for America at every opportunity. It's been reported the State Department under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, that they called to express condolences to the family of al Qaeda propagandist Samir Khan, who was killed in the same attack that took out Anwar Awlaki.

It's a difficult thing to say or ask, but I just wonder if the Obama State Department called all of the families of the victims of the terrorism that these two men fomented in the world, especially those perhaps who died at Fort Hood. I am just astonished that this President is so busy apologizing to the families of terrorists that I wonder if he has time to defend this country.

We have an administration that not only refuses to enforce our immigration laws, but then allows weapons to pass to the very criminals from whom they are given charge to protect Americans from, and then they sue the States who step in, like Arizona, and try to enforce immigration laws themselves.

Meanwhile, Mr. CARTER, I just suggest to you that it is just astonishing that we have to sit here and have this conversation while the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism, Iran, is drawing closer and closer to building a functional nuclear weapons capability that they could pass on to their terrorist proxies, some of which are believed to be operating near the same unsecured southern border.

Just the fact that Iran was willing to try to bring in the Mexican drug lords, the Zeta gangs, is proof that they're willing to try to pass some of their deeds off to proxies. Now, if that becomes a nuclear weapons capability, then the world's in trouble and there's just no way I can conjure words strong enough to describe the insanity of this administration's lackadaisical, irresponsible approach to national defense. I wish I could.

Mr. CARTER. You paint a pretty severe picture, which I agree with. Think about this. Part of the contract they were trying to make with the Zetas was to bring into this country explosives, supposedly to set a plant, a bomb, in a favorite eating place here in Washington, D.C. and blow up that place in order to kill the ambassador.

Now, just let's assume for the sake of argument that something like C-4 that

was smuggled in here, if they can smuggle C-4 across the border in from Mexico and transport it across the country to Washington, D.C., once they develop a tactical nuclear weapon in Iran, what's to prevent them from smuggling a tactical nuclear weapon into the United States. I would argue, nothing.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. If the gentleman would yield, I serve on the Strategic Forces Committee and am familiar with some of the designs of our nuclear warheads, and this is certainly open-source material.

But the fact is that a couple of people in a large red wagon can pull a W88 nuclear warhead across the border if they wanted to. Then people say, well, how could they ever do that? How could they ever bring a nuclear warhead across the border? The remark that I think clearly illustrates the significance of the possibility is maybe they could just hide it in a bale of marijuana. That would help them get it across.

So the fact that terrorists are beginning to move in this direction where they're getting so bold that they're willing to try to foment attacks on American soil, let me suggest to you that it's very late in the day, Mr. CARTER, and I think maybe we missed one other point, that is, in blowing up the Israeli embassy, that would be an act of war against Israel, because that would be Israeli soil in terms of our entire architecture for diplomacy.

Yet there was no hesitancy on the part of these terrorists to try to foment exactly that outcome and, again, if it had occurred, if they had been successful, it would have been nothing short of an act of war on the United States. Yet this administration is strangely quiet, and I wonder what this body should do to try to wake up this administration.

Mr. CARTER. I think that what we will hear is this, as what we have heard before in the past, this is a law enforcement matter being handled by the FBI and law enforcement, and it will be handled accordingly. That's what I think we will hear from the administration.

But this is a threat to the national sovereignty of this country, potentially the national sovereignty of our friends from Israel and our friends from Saudi Arabia. This could have been the major incident that set off a chain reaction that could have done who knows what to the future of mankind, and these crazy people would do that using a criminal element that is smuggling horrible drugs and people for illicit purposes into our country every day.

And you're talking about the marijuana loads. They pack hundreds of backpacks across the border loaded with marijuana almost daily, and they march right on into Texas and Arizona. In your case, they go off into the Federal lands, into the reservations and up to the highway and off to the east coast and the west coast. In our case,

they come across the border, off the ranches, get up to the highway, east coast and west coast.

We are the major dispersal route for all this illegal and illicit poison that they're selling, and that's who they would hire to deliver a blow against two of our allies. That's frightening, what could have occurred.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Yes, sir, I agree. Speaking of our allies, I was just in Israel not long ago, and I have to say to you, you understand that a lot of us—and I know including you, Congressman CARTER—believe that Israel is our most reliable, most vital ally in the world.

Mr. CARTER. Yes, sir.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Yet they feel under siege right now because they don't sense that this administration truly has their best interest in mind, partly because the Obama administration has reserved more open rebuke for Israel building homes in its own capital city than it has reserved for people like Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for building nuclear weapons to threaten the entire human family. And I find that lack of priority beyond my ability to articulate.

Mr. CARTER. I agree. And that's the purpose for us being here tonight. There is no reason to scare people. They can make them draw their own conclusions.

But if you're hiring, if you're contracting, this guy who represents Iran is contracting with this creep, who represents the Zetas, that's frightening to think lawlessness being directed by a nation-state to attack innocent people in our country. And when you blow up an area in Washington, D.C., how many Americans are going to get killed besides the Israelis or the Saudi Arabians that are attacked? We don't know.

And then we thought of nuclear, nuclear elements. It's frightening.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I just think that sometimes it's very easy for all of us as Americans. We've grown so used to being the most secure Nation in the world, and we owe that to the greatest military and the greatest men and women wearing the uniform that any nation could ever have.

But we've grown complacent and we, I think, have forgotten the seriousness and the reality of nuclear weapons. And we're living in a world now where countries like Pakistan have a major arsenal. If there is some sort of breakdown in the hierarchy in Pakistan or if Iran gains nuclear weapons, there's a lot of very dangerous circumstances facing this country.

□ 1930

I just think that somehow the lack of priority frightens me because this administration seems so focused on so many other things rather than doing what's necessary.

I haven't heard the outrage from this administration even related to this Iran-Mexican drug cartel effort. I haven't heard the strident outrage that

you hear on a lot of other issues that they put forth. I just suggest to you, Congressman CARTER, I hope that the people of this country will somehow let their Members of Congress and their President understand that the first responsibility we all have to offer them is security.

I know we're all focused on the economy of this country and jobs, and I certainly recognize the significance of that and the importance of it. But do we realize what would happen to our civil laws, to our liberties, do we realize what would happen to our economy if we had a major nuclear weapons attack on this country by terrorists? I mean, I don't think any of us would ever sleep again. The damage that could be caused is almost beyond my imagination, and yet again this administration seems focused on other things.

Mr. CARTER. Reclaiming my time, in fact if that happened, I would argue that we would have the same kind of mental strain that the people of Israel have been living with since the creation of their country. That any day, any minute of any day could be the day a rocket lands in your house, or when a terrorist blows your house up or shoots you. We'd have the same feeling in this country. You think we have economy problems now, who's out there to pick us up? We picked up countries around the world after wars and put them back on their feet for no other reason than because it made good sense. But there is no country that will pick us up and put us on our feet, so it's a crisis.

I don't know if you're aware of this, but there has been a study made, a Texas border security study, a strategic military assessment, and here's an executive summary of the 150 pages. It is much more detailed, but just to read this very quickly: During the past 2 years, the State of Texas has become increasingly threatened by the spread of Mexican cartel organized crime. The threat reflects the change in the strategic intent of the cartels to move their operation into the United States. In effect, the cartels seek to create a sanitary zone inside the Texas border one county deep that will provide sanctuary from Mexican law enforcement, at the same time allow the Mexican cartels to transform the Texas border counties into narcotics transshipment points for continued transport and distribution into the continental United States. To achieve their objective, the cartels are relying increasingly on organized gangs to provide expendable and unaccountable manpower to do their dirty work. These gangs are recruited on the streets of Texas cities and inside Texas prisons by top-tier gangs who work in conjunction with these cartels.

So in addition to this threat from Iran, I mean if you have a plan to seize a part of the United States of America by force, I would call that invasion. And I would argue that if that is a true

statement, Texas has already put together a task force under the leadership of the Texas Rangers. They are setting up stations along the border with a goal of setting up an intense communication system to be prepared for what may be coming from across the river. But they are just a small body of very effective law enforcement people. This could be a major, major intrusion on the United States. Add that to their partners, Iran, trying to make a deal with these criminals, the Zetas, it's frightening.

We learned a long time ago in law enforcement that when you create an environment of lawlessness, it breeds more lawlessness. Quite honestly, that theory is what cleaned up New York City under Rudy Giuliani. Using that theory, they said we're going to go into neighborhoods and we're going to take the street lawlessness out of the neighborhoods so that the big lawlessness will move somewhere else, because if they're in a lawless environment, it just enhances lawlessness. And it worked. And they cleaned up the streets of New York, and it's a much safer place for people to go these days than it was 20 years ago. And it's all because of the concept lawlessness breeds lawlessness.

Because we were allowing laws to be violated on our border, from Brownsville all of the way to San Diego, we basically created, by our own efforts by not enforcing immigration laws and the sovereignty of our country, we created a lawlessness area before the cartels got there. So when lawlessness breeds lawlessness, why wouldn't they go there. There are already people not obeying the laws in that area, why not go in and make it official. And they did. It's frightening.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Well, you know, I couldn't agree with you more. We have to realize that the criminal element reads our intent. They know how serious we are. And terrorists across the world don't really believe that Barack Obama is serious about doing what's necessary, not only to identify clearly the difference between freedom and terrorism. I mean, they're calling the war on terror now overseas contingencies. They're using all these euphemisms. You know, I wonder, maybe now they'll say the drug cartels are merely unlicensed pharmacists. When we use words that don't reflect the truth and reflect the reality, we are undermined from the very beginning.

My concern is that Iran doesn't take this President seriously. They have put explosive form penetrators in the war in Iraq that have killed many of our soldiers. They've sent weapons to Afghanistan. And now they're trying to send drug cartels into our country to help blow up our embassies, and this administration allows them to continue on this inexorable march to gaining nuclear weapons.

And I just want to tell you, I'm afraid of something tonight. Again, it

frightens me, like a lot of other things that we've talked about tonight, and that is that I'm afraid that this administration has embraced the notion that it's too late to stop Iran from gaining nuclear weapons, and that they're going to go ahead and allow them to do that and then pursue a policy of containment when they do. I cannot find the words to express how dangerous that policy is and how it will damn this and future generations if we allow that policy to take hold.

If Iran gains nuclear weapons capability, history itself is divided because for the first time a jihadist rogue nation will have its finger on the nuclear button. And whatever challenges we face to prevent Iran from gaining nuclear weapons, whatever they are, and I know that they are myriad and significant, but they will pale in insignificance compared to the problems we'll have after Iran gains nuclear weapons. It will change the world for all of us.

And I would just join with you and call upon the administration to refocus their efforts on the central duty of the President of the United States and upon this government, which is to protect the lives and constitutional rights of our citizens, and that starts with national security. And whether it's a porous border or whether it's allowing a country like Iran whose leaders have made it clear that they intend to do everything they can to destroy Israel and ultimately the United States, we need to do everything that's necessary again, including military response, to prevent Iran from gaining nuclear weapons. The sooner the President makes that clear, the better chance that we won't have to have a military response. But right now the Iranian administration, the Iranian leaders are simply not convinced that this President intends to hold them accountable and keep them from gaining nuclear weapons capability, and I think it's one of the most dangerous things that we face in the world for that reason.

Mr. CARTER. Reclaiming my time, I agree with everything that you say, and I want to say this further: it's the duty of the President of the United States and the executive branch to enforce the laws of the United States, to protect the borders of the United States against intrusion. It's their duty to protect our Nation from those who would wreak havoc and harm upon our Nation wherever they may be located, Iran being the primary example on the face of the earth today as a threat to our country.

And, quite honestly, jobs are very important in our country, and once we get the government out of the way we'll get some jobs started, but it's time for this administration to do something on the border of this country to protect the citizens on the border. There's no reason why a landowner who lives on the border has to get assassinated like the landowner in Arizona, or has to get run off his land by armed men, as our landowners in Texas

are doing, without the protection of the Federal Government. We are the United States of America, and when they attack one State, they attack all of the States of our Union.

□ 1940

When they attack our border, they attack every State in this Union. By the way, there are many Americans who realize that today. I had sheriffs from the State of North Carolina and the State of Maryland and maybe one other State, I don't remember where it was, but those two I know were in my office telling me, Hey, this violence is all the way in Maryland, it's all the way in North Carolina. They showed me pictures of an assassinated cartel member shot in the back of the head found right outside of a town in North Carolina.

So these guys in their terror tactics come from across that border and are all the way up here on the East Coast dealing terror in smaller doses but just as serious for the future of this country. Meanwhile, we've got Iran contracting with this criminal element, which is a ruthless criminal element, and saying, We want you to do our bidding on our behalf, and here's the money. As Judge POE says, Have gun, will travel. And you'll travel and kill whoever we want you to kill and blow up whoever we want you to blow up in any form or fashion that we see fit. How about a deal? And they were making a deal.

That ought to scare the pants off of everybody, and it ought to wake the Obama administration up that there are serious things being overlooked by their cavalier idea that everything America does is bad and everything other countries do is excusable. That seems to be our policy, to the point where they're willing to let an agency of the United States Government become the biggest gun runner in the history of Mexico in Fast and Furious, which we are investigating right now in the Halls of this Congress. These are things that people ought to wake up and say, My Lord, this is insane. What is wrong with us? Where are those people who stood up for Americans and stood up for freedom and fought for the right ideas? They seem to have disappeared.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. CARTER, I think we forget when we talk about the economy and jobs that the most important thing we can do for the economy and jobs is to make sure that this country is secure and that productivity is allowed unfettered; that it has a secure environment in which to flourish. If the government will get out of the way, this economy will flourish. It will go forward. But if we fail as a government to do what is our duty, which is national security, there's nothing that could damage our economy more.

I remind everyone that we lost \$2 trillion in our economy when two airplanes hit two buildings. It's very easy

to forget the cost of war. Someone said that war devours everything that peace gives. And we need to make sure that we defend this country and make sure that the people who are investing in this country and are trying to work in this country and be productive know that they can do so in a fully secure environment. It is the most important thing that we can do for our national economy.

And I would suggest to you that it's important for us to start asking this administration some key questions. The number one question is: Where do they put the national security of the United States on their priority list? Secondly: What are they willing to do to clarify this dangerous jihadist ideology in stark terms where everyone can understand what we're dealing with and that we're willing to do whatever is necessary to prevent terrorism in this country and protect the American people? And third: What is Mr. Obama willing to do? What is he willing to do to prevent Iran from gaining nuclear weapons with which to threaten the peace of mankind?

With that, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. CARTER. I appreciate you being here, TRENT. You're a good friend, and I value your opinions that you have given here tonight.

This is a problem that has risen its head because of this event. We could talk for days about this because it is so serious to the future and welfare of every American citizen. And to think that any enemy of our country is contracting with a criminal element that has a track record thus far of killing 44,000 people, many of whom were just bystanders, just in an ongoing event of driving their illegal operation. If they get involved in international terrorism, heaven help us. I hope that heaven will. And I hope this administration will take a hard look at where they're going to be willing to draw the line and say, We're not taking this any more. And I would argue at least it ought to be at the borders of our country and at those who would develop a nuclear weapon that could devastate mankind.

I thank both of my friends for joining me tonight, and I yield back the balance of my time.

PUTTING AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. For our hard-working stenographers, it's late into the evening, and we thank you for all the work that you do recording our words, many of which are worth listening to and having written down and some of which are probably not.

I want to thank my colleagues from across the aisle for bringing the issue

of securing our borders to our attention tonight and along with it the issue of immigration. I would just like to remind them that the current administration has done more in the last 2½ years to secure our borders than in the previous 8 years of the George W. Bush administration, putting more Border Patrol to work—significantly more—and also putting on the borders members of the National Guard. It remains a difficult and in very many places a very dangerous situation. Nonetheless, a great deal is being done.

I would also like to remind my colleagues from the Republican side that they control this House. When a certain piece of legislation came here with regard to appropriations, they actually proposed to cut the men and women that are there to protect the border. So I'm not quite sure I understood all of tonight's debate from their side. And also I would remind them that if immigration is such a big issue, they should bring a comprehensive immigration bill to this floor so that we have a rational immigration policy in the United States.

I guess it's easier to talk than it is to take action.

What I would like to spend tonight talking about is putting Americans back to work. Let's go back to work. This is one great country. We're America. We're the people that make things. We're the people that can do things. We're the people that want to go back to work. And this government wants to put people back to work.

About a month ago the President proposed the American Jobs Act, a very comprehensive program that would put Americans back to work. I want to spend this evening talking about the critical and the most important elements of that legislation that he has proposed. Unfortunately, our friends in the Senate—well, maybe they're not America's friends—they killed the American Jobs Act. When it came up for a vote this week, they chose to not allow it to come to a vote. They did one of their little filibuster routines over there, with every Republican voting against putting Americans back to work.

Now, I don't know exactly what they have in mind. I guess they would like the economy to stumble along with millions of Americans out of work. They couldn't possibly want that. They couldn't possibly want a situation where men and women are desperate for a job when there's an opportunity—and I'll explain in a few moments how many people will be able to go back to work if this American Jobs Act were actually to become law. But they voted not even to allow it to come to a vote. They did one of their little filibuster threats and every Republican lined up sufficient in number to block the bill from moving forward.

I must say two of my Democratic colleagues over there also voted on the wrong side of putting Americans back to work. But I'll let them explain that to their constituents.

□ 1950

So what is the American Jobs Act? Well, let's start with the foundation. The foundation of any economy is the infrastructure. It is that part of the structure of an economy that is the foundation. It is the transportation system. Infrastructure is the sanitation and the water systems and the modern communication systems.

In the President's American Jobs Act is \$50 billion, in addition to what we're already spending, to build the bridges, to repair the roads, to add to the transportation systems—the light rail, the heavy rail, the Amtrak systems—to move Americans, and also to move modern communication systems. Fifty billion dollars.

What does that mean to my State of California? Well, it's \$4 billion right off the top. It's 51,500 jobs that could begin the day after this House and the Senate sends to the President the American Jobs Act—\$50 billion, 51,500 jobs for California, building the foundation of economic growth.

In addition to that, the President proposed a \$10 billion capitalization of an infrastructure bank in which pension funds from around the Nation could then invest in that infrastructure bank—more money for those projects that are not earmarks, not political, but rather jobs and programs that are actually needed in communities, that have the ability to repay the loans that the infrastructure bank would make.

Let me just put up a couple of things here that really build an economy, and we will soon come to this issue of making it in America. But before I do, I just want to point out that these are the key elements in creating an economy.

We talked a moment ago about the infrastructure. It's down here at the bottom, not for any reason other than that's the foundation. So the infrastructure. The other thing that's in the American Jobs Act deals with this: education. Now, education is the most fundamental investment that any society must make if it's going to have future economic growth and social justice.

So what has the President proposed in the American Jobs Act for education? How about putting 280,000 teachers back to work the day after this bill passes this Congress and the Senate and is signed by the President; 280,000 teachers in the classrooms teaching our children, preparing them to compete in the world's economy; 280,000 teachers. For California, \$3.6 billion and 37,000 teachers in the classroom immediately.

Now, my daughter is a teacher; my son-in-law is a teacher. Their class size went from 22 or 24 to 35, a very difficult situation for any teacher in the second grade to be able to adequately prepare those children. However, my daughter is a great teacher and she's hanging in there, but this is tough. This is a very, very difficult situation. What would it

mean to her if there's one additional second grade teacher in her school? It would mean her classroom size would come down and her ability to bring those kids along faster would very, very much be in play. 280,000 teachers. So that's the education piece of it.

Let's talk for a moment about the classroom itself. We know here in Congress, all 435 of us, we go back to our districts and we see our schools. The parents out there, they know their schools need to be renovated. They know that many of the bathrooms aren't working. They know the playgrounds are in disrepair. They know the paint is peeling and the roofs are leaking. In the President's bill, 35,000 schools across this Nation are going to be renovated—35,000 schools. In California, that amounts to 2,800 schools being rehabilitated and 36,000 jobs.

This is a big deal. If a kid takes pride in his school, he's going to be a better student. If a kid sees his school and it's in disrepair, bathrooms are not working, he could just lose interest. So let's give them a good environment in which to learn. And so the President has proposed \$25 billion, 35,000 schools across this Nation. This is a big deal for education: teachers, better schools, renovation.

And for community colleges, there's also money in here for community colleges, \$5 billion to upgrade the plant, the laboratories, the science facilities for community colleges across this Nation.

Let's go back to work. Let's put America back to work. Let's pass the American Jobs Act. The Senate, you haven't helped. In this House, in the House of Representatives, the Republican leadership refuses to even bring this bill up for a vote, even bring it to a hearing in any of the committees. They simply say "no." So what's their solution? What's their solution for putting Americans back to work? Well, thus far it's been to cut budgets, to lay people off all across this Nation.

How is this going to get paid for? It's fully paid for. This is not going to be borrowed money. This is not going out and borrowing money to create jobs here in the United States, fundamental investments that we need to grow the economy. This American Jobs Act, just under \$500 billion, is fully paid for. It's paid for by fairness. Finally, some fairness in our tax policies. No longer are the superrich in this Nation going to be able to skip out of their share of carrying the burden of America. No longer are we going to see situations in which the top 1 percent of America continue to acquire more and more wealth at the expense of the rest of this Nation.

The President and the Senate Democrats—and I credit them with this, positively credit them with this—have said, let's allow the millionaires to share in putting Americans back to work. They certainly have benefited significantly over these years. They will have their opportunity to pay their fair share and put Americans back to work.

Now, on tax policy, there's another thing here. Some are going to pay more. Those millionaires who have more than \$1 million of annual income, yes, they will pay more. However, the working men and women of America, the 160 million working men and women in America are going to get a tax break. They're going to see one half of their payroll tax reduced, about \$1,500 per person. This is a big deal. To have an extra \$1,500 in your pocket, you'll be able to pay your mortgage, buy food for your kids, be able to go out, and maybe replace that refrigerator that's broken. 160 million Americans are going to get a tax break when their payroll tax is reduced.

Now, what about the businesses in America? We hear a lot of talk from our Republican friends about protecting small business. The American Jobs Act provides 98 percent of the businesses of America with a 50 percent reduction in their payroll tax, a 50 percent reduction in their payroll tax. What's more, in California, 710,000 businesses will see a 50 percent reduction in their payroll tax. That's a big deal. That's money that those businesses can then use to hire new workers.

And if they hire a new worker, guess what? The President has proposed that if they hire a long-term unemployed worker, they will have a \$4,000 tax credit, a tax credit. That is money right off the bottom line that they don't have to pay to the government, a reduction in their taxes. And if they go out and they hire an injured veteran coming home from the wars in Afghanistan or Iraq, they will get another tax credit. And if they hire a long-term unemployed person, similarly, very strong incentives in this legislation for employers to hire the unemployed, to hire our heroes who are returning from the wars—some injured—giving an additional incentive to hire those people. And let's understand that they do come back with skills, not just skills in war, but skills in communication, skills in repairing machinery. These are vital skills that most businesses in the United States need.

So when we look at the American Jobs Act that the President brought here to this House with the speech, standing right there, a speech to the joint session, he said, Pass this law.

□ 2000

Let's go back to work. Let's go back to work, America. We are a strong, vibrant Nation. We're a Nation of workers. We're not a Nation of slackers. We're a Nation that wants to work. And what we need is a government that's willing to help American go back to work. And that's what the President has proposed in the American Jobs Act.

So where is the American Jobs Act? It died in the Senate early this week.

Did it die? I don't think so. Americans are rising up across this Nation. They are in the streets. We often talked about the "Arab Street" and the "Arab Spring."

Well, this is the "Autumn in America," and Americans are back in the street and they are demanding jobs. They're demanding fairness in their tax policy. They're demanding that Wall Street bankers get with the program of putting Americans back to work. Stop playing your games and all of your derivatives. Stop all of those computerized trading games and make the loans, make the loans to American businesses. That's what the people in the streets are saying. They want fairness in this system. They want a job. They want to be able to get an education, and they want this government to do the kinds of things that the President has proposed in the American Jobs Act: education, teachers in the classroom, renovating the schools, building the infrastructure, putting this Nation back on its feet. That's what we can do, and that's what we must do.

Let's take a look at the other things that are necessary if America is going to make it. If America's going to make it, we must, once again, make it in America. Make it in America. This Nation is still, even though we have lost more than half of our manufacturing jobs in the last 25 years—that's right. In this Nation of manufacturers, in this Nation where we once built the armaments of the world, where we once built the cars of the world, where we once built the great earthmovers, in this Nation that once was the strongest manufacturing Nation in the world, we have lost half of the manufacturing jobs.

How did that happen? It happened with tax laws that encouraged American corporations to go global, to offshore American jobs and get a tax break.

You heard me right. American tax policy, until last December, gave American corporations a tax break for every job they shipped offshore. Before the Democrats lost the House of Representatives in January of this year, we passed a law that repealed those tax benefits. More than \$12 billion returned to the United States Treasury, taken out of the hands of American corporations that were shifting jobs overseas—\$12 billion. Not one, not one Republican voted to end that tax break.

Let's understand. There's a very different way in which we look at how to make it in America. End the tax breaks that allow corporations to shift jobs offshore.

Trade policy. My view, today is a sad day in American trade policy. Today this House, and yesterday the Senate, passed three trade bills. They were called "free trade." They were certainly not fair trade, in my estimation. Those trade bills are going to cause a loss of American jobs no matter how you look it, and I'll tell you what the proof is.

No sooner had those three trade bills passed out of this House than a fourth bill came up. You know what the fourth bill was? It's called the Trade

Adjustment Act, providing a substantial amount of money, billions of dollars for those workers that lose their jobs as a result of the three trade bills that passed this House today.

Do you get it? What's going on here?

You're telling me these are going to create jobs, and then you turn around not more than 50 seconds later and pass a bill that provides unemployment benefits and educational benefits for the very same workers that lose their jobs as a result of those fair trade acts? Excuse me—free trade, not fair trade.

Anyway, trade's an important issue. This Nation has opened its doors to the world. You send your stuff here and we'll buy it. And the doors around the world only opened a little tiny bit. It's not fair.

Nonetheless, the President will sign it and we'll go on our way.

We talked about tax policy.

Let me talk about one more thing here that's really important. Here we go. I think I'll leave that up there. Again, it's tax policy. I suspect most of you have been offered an opportunity to buy photovoltaic solar systems for your roof, generate your own electricity. And I suspect many Americans have seen the big wind turbines and these wind farms going round and round generating electricity.

This is really important energy policy for this Nation. It is extremely important that we move to these renewable energy sources. However, it is part of the American energy policy to encourage investments in solar and wind and biofuels and other kinds of renewable energy, and we do that in a variety of ways. We do that by loan guarantees. We do that with direct subsidies. We do that with tax credits. All of those are our tax money being used to encourage the appropriate and correct energy policy.

However, there's one thing missing. Where are those pieces of equipment made? Where is our tax money going? Where is it going? Is it going to American-made solar panels, American-made wind turbines, or is it going to solar panels that are made in China or Germany, Korea? Where are those solar panels made, and where is that gigantic wind turbine made with blades that are 300 feet across? Are those made in America? Our tax money is being used to buy it.

This is my legislation, House Resolution 487. It says this: If you're going to use our American tax money, your tax money, my tax money, the American tax money, if you're going to use that tax money to subsidize the purchase of a solar panel, a wind turbine, a bioelectric system, then that tax money's going to be used to buy American-made equipment. We're going to make it in America when we use our tax money to buy American-made equipment. That's what this bill does. And I think we ought to be passing this, along with the American Jobs Act.

If we're going to go out and spend \$50 billion on infrastructure, then it ought

to be American-made concrete. That ought to be American-made steel on those bridges. It ought to be American-made, and we can make it in America if we have the right policies in place.

A couple of more things.

Any of you buy gasoline? Any Americans out there buying diesel fuel for their trucks or their pickups or cars? When you do, you're paying a tax. It's the excise tax on fuel. A little over, what is it, about 16 cents, 18 cents for gasoline and 24.5 cents, 25 cents for diesel fuel. So every gallon you're paying a tax.

Where's that tax money go? It goes to build your highways, to repair your highways. It goes to build your bridges. It goes to buy trains, locomotives for Amtrak. It goes to buy light rails for San Diego, heavy rail or transit systems for Washington, DC.

□ 2010

That's where the money goes. And we need it. We need that money to be spent on our basic transportation systems, whether they are the rails, the concrete for the highways or the steel for the bridges, or for the buses and trains that we travel in. However, is that money being used to purchase American-made concrete and American-made steel for the bridges? Is it used to buy American-made buses, American-made trains, locomotives and light rail systems? Not always. But if my legislation, H.R. 613, becomes law, it will be American made; and, once again, we will make it in America because we're using our tax money to buy American-made equipment.

We can put Americans back to work, and we must put Americans back to work. We can do these things. We can use our government in coordination and cooperation with the private sector to build this Nation once again, to build the infrastructure of this Nation, to educate our children, to do the research that's necessary for tomorrow's innovation. We can do this. We can use our tax money wisely to buy American-made equipment, American-made buses and steel. We can do it.

But we need good laws to do it. We need wise laws to do it. We need to not just abandon the American worker and say there's nothing that can be done, government has to get out of the way, just back up and let it go. It doesn't

happen that way. We wish it did, but it doesn't happen that way. There are no economists out there that are saying, continue to cut government spending and somehow there will be jobs created. If you cut that spending now, then you're going to lay people off.

Surely we have to deal with the deficit, and that's going to take 5 to 10 years to do that. So what we need to do now, in a balanced way, with the American Jobs Act, is to put people back to work, to let those who have prospered so much, those who have made out so well in this economy, the top 1 percent, those whose annual income is \$1 million or more, in fairness, in equity, in what is right for this Nation, let them share the burden. Let them help the 99 percent that have been struggling these many, many years. Let them help with their taxes. They can afford it. They're not going to go belly up, they're not going to be hurting, and they're not going to be out in the street homeless. They're going to continue to do very, very well.

Fairness demands, as the President has proposed and as the Democrats in the Senate have proposed, that the millionaires, those whose annual adjusted gross income is more than \$1 million, that they pay a little extra, that they contribute to the future of this Nation. And in doing so, the American Jobs Act that the President has proposed could become law, not increasing the deficit, but, in fact, reducing the deficit by giving Americans the work, by restarting the great engine of the American economy and by making it in America once again. That's where our future lies, and that's where we must go.

So, as we go about the debates this week, as we talk about those things that are before us, let us think about making it in America, let us find ways to use the wisdom of 535 Members of Congress and the Senate and the administration to reflect the wisdom of the American public. Use our tax money here at home. Put Americans back to work, educate, create a fair and equitable tax system. We can do it. We have no choice but to do it.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

REVISIONS TO THE AGGREGATES AND ALLOCATIONS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR H.R. 2832

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 305 of H. Con. Res. 34, the House-passed budget resolution for fiscal year 2012, deemed to be in force by H. Res. 287, I hereby submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD revisions to the budget allocations and aggregates set forth pursuant to the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2012. Aggregate levels of budget authority, outlays, and revenue are revised and the allocation to the House Committee on Ways and Means is also revised, for fiscal year 2012 and the period of fiscal year 2012 through 2021.

The revision is provided for H.R. 2832, legislation extending the Generalized System of Preferences and Trade Adjustment Assistance. Corresponding tables are attached.

This revision represents an adjustment for the purposes of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended. For the purposes of the Budget Act, these revised aggregates and allocations are to be considered as aggregates and allocations included in the budget resolution.

Section 305 of the budget resolution allows the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget to revise the allocations of spending authority provided to the Committee on Ways and Means for legislation that decreases revenue. The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget may adjust the allocations and aggregates of this concurrent resolution if such measure would not increase the deficit over fiscal years 2012 through 2021.

H.R. 2832 decreases the deficit over this period by \$6 million and is hence eligible for these adjustments.

Section 407(d) of the budget resolution provides an exemption for legislation for which the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget has made adjustments in the allocations or aggregates of the resolution and that complies with such resolution.

This subsection specifically provides that: "Any legislation for which the chairman of the Committee on the Budget makes adjustments in the allocations and aggregates of this concurrent resolution on the budget and complies with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 shall not be subject to the points of order set forth in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives or section 405." The table that follows indicates what these adjustments are.

BUDGET AGGREGATES

(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	Fiscal Year 2012	Fiscal Years 2012–2021
Current Aggregates:		
Budget Authority	2,858,531	1
Outlays	2,947,902	1
Revenues	1,866,402	26,125,311
Changes for legislation to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes. (H.R. 2832):		
Budget Authority	– 28	1
Outlays	– 240	1
Revenues	– 996	– 1,784
Revised Aggregates:		
Budget Authority	2,858,503	1
Outlays	2,947,662	1
Revenues	1,865,406	26,123,527

¹ Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2012 through 2021 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES

(Fiscal Years, in millions of dollars)

	2012		2012–2021 Total	
	Budget Authority	Outlays	Budget Authority	Outlays
House Committee on Ways & Means:				
Current allocation:	1,030,988	1,031,520	13,173,262	13,173,925
Changes for legislation to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes. (H.R. 2832):	-28	-240	-1,709	-1,790
Revised Allocation:	1,030,960	1,031,280	13,171,553	13,172,135

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, October 13, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3445. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tuberculosis in Cattle and Bison; State and Zone Designations; Michigan [Docket No.: APHIS-2011-0075] received September 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3446. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] received September 20, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3447. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, National Broadband Plan for Our Future [CC Docket No.: 02-6] [GN Docket No.: 09-51] received September 13, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3448. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Video Description: Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 [MB Docket No.: 11-43] received September 13, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3449. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Editorial Correction to the Export Administration Regulations [Docket No.: 100325169-0629-01] (RIN: 0694-AE90) received September 20, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3450. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of Monmouth, New Jersey, as a Nonappropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Area (RIN: 3206-AM49) received September 6, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3451. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Noncompetitive Appointment of Certain Military Spouses (RIN: 3206-

AM36) received September 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3452. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2011-12 Early Season [Docket No.: FWS-R9-MB-2011-0014] (RIN: 1018-AX34) received September 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3453. A letter from the Acting Chief, Branch of Foreign Species, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing Six Foreign Birds as Endangered Throughout Their Range [FWS-R9-ES-2009-0084; MO 92210-111F114 B6] (RIN: 1018-AW39) received September 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3454. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Recovery and Delisting, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of Echinacea tennesseensis (Tennessee Purple Coneflower) from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Plants [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2011-0059] (RIN: 1018-AW26) received September 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3455. A letter from the Acting Chair, Federal Subsistence Board, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska — Subpart B, Federal Subsistence Board [Docket No.: FWS-R7-SM-2011-0004] (RIN: 1018-AX52) received September 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3456. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures for Protests and Contracts Dispute [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0840; Amdt. No. 17-1] (RIN: 2120-AJ82) received September 16, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3457. A letter from the Trial Attorney, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Track Safety Standards; Concrete Crosssties [Docket No.: FRA-2009-0007, Notice No. 4] (RIN: 2130-AC35) received September 16, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3458. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2011-75] received September 13, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3459. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 6707A and the Failure to Include

on any return or Statement any Information Required to be Disclosed under Section 6011 with Respect to a Reportable Transaction [TD 9550] (RIN: 1545-BF61) received September 13, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3460. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Announcement of the Results of the 2010-2011 Allocation Round of the Qualifying Advanced Coal Project Program [Announcement 2011-62] received September 13, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3461. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Examination of returns and claims for refund, credit, or abatement; determination of tax liability (Rev. Proc. 2011-45) received September 13, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3462. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — List of Nonbank Trustees and Custodians [Announcement 2011-59] received September 13, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3463. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Air transportation and aviation fuels excise taxes [Notice 2011-69] received September 13, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3464. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Implementation of Form 990 [TD 9549] (RIN: 1545-BH28) received September 13, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of Committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 430. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 358) to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to modify special rules relating to coverage of abortion services under such Act (Rept. 112-243). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Committee on Rules. House Resolution 431. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2273) to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to facilitate recovery and beneficial use, and provide for the proper management and disposal, of materials generated by the combustion of coal and other fossil fuels (Rept. 112-244). Referred to House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following

titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 3154. A bill to amend section 1112 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. QUAYLE, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. CHAFFETZ, and Mrs. LUMMIS):

H.R. 3155. A bill to preserve the multiple use land management policy in the State of Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ (for himself and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 3156. A bill to repeal the debit card interchange price control provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and restore balance to the electronic payments system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. NEAL (for himself and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 3157. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent the avoidance of tax by insurance companies through reinsurance with non-taxed affiliates; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. TERRY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. LATTA, Mr. COLE, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. ROSS of Arkansas, Mr. BERG, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. CARTER, and Mrs. EMERSON):

H.R. 3158. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to change the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure rule with respect to certain farms; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. SIREY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BONNER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. WELCH, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. KELLY):

H.R. 3159. A bill to direct the President, in consultation with the Department of State, United States Agency for International Development, Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the Department of Defense, to establish guidelines for United States foreign assistance programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN of Georgia:

H.R. 3160. A bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to make permanent the E-Verify program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 3161. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for activities

to increase the awareness and knowledge of health care providers and women with respect to ovarian and cervical cancer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. BOUTSTANY):

H.R. 3162. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Labor from implementing certain rules relating to employment of aliens described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BROWN of Florida:

H.R. 3163. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require any State offering an early voting period in elections for Federal office to make the period available for the entire 14-day period that precedes the date of the election, to prohibit States from imposing identification requirements on individuals who wish to vote or register to vote who are not otherwise required to provide identification under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 3164. A bill to require Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to disclose the minimum purchase price that such an enterprise will accept on the short sale of a residence financed by a mortgage purchased by such an enterprise in order to make short sales a viable alternative to foreclosure; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut):

H.R. 3165. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and schools to increase implementation of school-wide positive behavior supports; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DENT (for himself and Mr. ALTMIRE):

H.R. 3166. A bill to add engaging in or supporting hostilities against the United States to the list of acts for which United States nationals would lose their nationality; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 3167. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program under which certain veterans entitled to educational assistance under the laws administered by the Secretary can use such entitlement to start or purchase a qualifying business enterprise, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Small Business, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JONES (for himself, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. BILBRAY):

H.R. 3168. A bill to make payments by the Department of Homeland Security to a State contingent on a State providing the Federal Bureau of Investigation with certain statistics, to require Federal agencies, departments, and courts to provide such statistics to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and to require the Federal Bureau of Investigation to publish such statistics; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 3169. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to di-

rect the Secretary of Education to make grants to States for assistance in hiring additional school-based mental health and student service providers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut (for himself and Mr. PLATTS):

H.R. 3170. A bill to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to provide incentive grants to promote alternatives to incarcerating delinquent juveniles; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut:

H.R. 3171. A bill to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 with respect to juveniles who have committed offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut:

H.R. 3172. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to protect the eligibility of incarcerated youth for medical assistance; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCALISE (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. RICHMOND):

H.R. 3173. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to reform the process for the enrollment, activation, issuance, and renewal of a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) to require, in total, not more than one in-person visit to a designated enrollment center; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 3174. A bill to amend the provisions of title 5, United States Code, relating to the methodology for calculating the amount of any Postal surplus or supplemental liability under the Civil Service Retirement System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 3175. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to suspend temporarily the process of imposing restructuring sanctions on such schools and local educational agencies; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. SEWELL (for herself, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. HANABUSA, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. WATERS, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. WATT, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. HOCHUL, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. NEAL, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. UPTON, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. BONNER, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BASS of California, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. WEST, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr.

YARMUTH, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. RIVERA, Mr. BARROW, and Mr. DESJARLAIS):

H. Res. 432. A resolution celebrating the life and achievements of Reverend Fred Lee Shuttlesworth and honoring him for his tireless efforts in the fight against segregation and his steadfast commitment to the civil rights of all people; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BACHMANN (for herself and Ms. BASS of California):

H. Res. 433. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children in foster care awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, recognizing current programs and efforts designed to promote adoption, and encouraging people in the United States to seek improved safety, permanency, and well-being for all children; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 3154.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18; and including, but not solely limited to the 14th Amendment.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:
H.R. 3155.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:
H.R. 3156.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This law is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 to the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. NEAL:
H.R. 3157.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I and the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:
H.R. 3158.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the enumerated powers listed in Article I, Section 8, which include the power to "regulate commerce . . . among the several States . . .".

By Mr. POE of Texas:
H.R. 3159.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Article I, Section 9, Clause 7.

By Mr. BROUN of Georgia:
H.R. 3160.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution clause 18 (relating to the power of Congress to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:
H.R. 3161.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ALEXANDER:
H.R. 3162.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, which states, "The Congress shall have Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ."

By Ms. BROWN of Florida:
H.R. 3163.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section IV.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:
H.R. 3164.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 3165.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clauses 1 and 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. DENT:
H.R. 3166.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:
H.R. 3167.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JONES:
H.R. 3168.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 4, section 4 of the United States Constitution:

"The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence.

By Ms. LEE of California:
H.R. 3169.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut:
H.R. 3170.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut:
H.R. 3171.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut:
H.R. 3172.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCALISE:

H.R. 3173.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 3174.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 The Congress shall have power * * * To establish Post Offices and post roads.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 3175.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 10: Mr. MARINO, Mr. GRIMM, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 36: Mr. WEST.

H.R. 58: Mr. WALDEN, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 100: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 104: Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California and Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 157: Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 237: Mr. LOEBACK.

H.R. 360: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 363: Mr. FARR.

H.R. 420: Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 452: Mr. WALSH of Illinois.

H.R. 574: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 607: Mr. WOLF and Ms. HAHN.

H.R. 640: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 645: Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. WALDEN, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 674: Mr. KIND, Mr. KINGSTON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. FLAKE.

H.R. 733: Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 735: Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. CULBERSON, and Mr. BERG.

H.R. 835: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 854: Mr. LATHAM, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 883: Mr. HEINRICH.

H.R. 886: Mr. HIMES, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 890: Mr. TURNER of New York.

H.R. 891: Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 930: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 1085: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 1130: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 1161: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 1164: Mr. BUCHANAN and Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 1173: Mr. HARRIS, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 1179: Mrs. LUMMIS and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 1186: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 1195: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.

H.R. 1206: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 1291: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 1307: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 1322: Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 1340: Mr. FLAKE.

H.R. 1367: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.

H.R. 1370: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, and Mr. BERG.

- H.R. 1489: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
 H.R. 1509: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
 H.R. 1513: Mr. NEAL, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. BLUMENAUER and Ms. BERKLEY.
 H.R. 1519: Ms. HOCHUL.
 H.R. 1527: Mr. AMASH.
 H.R. 1558: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin and Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.
 H.R. 1580: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 1588: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.
 H.R. 1653: Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
 H.R. 1681: Mr. HIMES, Mr. HOLT, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 1697: Mr. ALTMIRE, and Mr. CARNAHAN.
 H.R. 1738: Mr. SHIMKUS and Mr. WALDEN.
 H.R. 1746: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 1755: Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina.
 H.R. 1798: Ms. CHU, Mr. GIBSON, and Mrs. MYRICK.
 H.R. 1834: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
 H.R. 1842: Mr. INSLEE.
 H.R. 1876: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. COSTELLO.
 H.R. 1905: Mr. BUCHSHON, Mr. DENT, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. PENCE, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. TONKO, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
 H.R. 1946: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
 H.R. 1974: Mr. AMASH.
 H.R. 2020: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 2042: Mr. CAMP and Mr. BOUSTANY.
 H.R. 2108: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Mr. DESJARLAIS.
 H.R. 2182: Mr. MARKEY.
 H.R. 2193: Ms. BASS of California.
 H.R. 2233: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
 H.R. 2284: Ms. HIRONO.
 H.R. 2304: Mr. FLORES.
 H.R. 2337: Mr. LATHAM, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. STARK.
 H.R. 2418: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.
 H.R. 2437: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
 H.R. 2447: Mr. HIMES, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. ROBY, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. MALONEY, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
 H.R. 2457: Mr. ROSS of Florida and Mrs. HARTZLER.
 H.R. 2471: Mr. DEUTCH.
 H.R. 2479: Mr. BOUSTANY.
 H.R. 2492: Mr. LEWIS OF GEORGIA, Mr. SIREN, and Mr. INSLEE.
 H.R. 2500: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 2513: Mr. BUTTERFIELD and Mr. MCINTYRE.
 H.R. 2514: Mr. MARINO.
 H.R. 2517: Mr. CICILLINE.
 H.R. 2528: Mr. FLAKE, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. CAMPBELL.
 H.R. 2541: Mrs. ROBY.
 H.R. 2559: Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 2602: Mr. FLORES.
 H.R. 2668: Ms. RICHARDSON.
 H.R. 2674: Mr. LONG and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 2679: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 2694: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee and Mr. CANSECO.
 H.R. 2695: Ms. TSONGAS.
 H.R. 2696: Ms. TSONGAS.
 H.R. 2697: Mr. PAULSEN.
 H.R. 2784: Ms. HIRONO.
 H.R. 2799: Ms. HAHN.
 H.R. 2815: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 2829: Ms. HAYWORTH, Mr. LABRADOR, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. MACK, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mrs. MYRICK.
 H.R. 2840: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
 H.R. 2842: Mr. CANSECO and Mr. FLORES.
 H.R. 2876: Mr. KLINE.
 H.R. 2880: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
 H.R. 2885: Mr. LANCE and Ms. GRANGER.
 H.R. 2888: Mr. MCCOTTER and Mr. GRIMM.
 H.R. 2898: Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. FLAKE.
 H.R. 2900: Mr. MARCHANT.
 H.R. 2913: Mr. HARRIS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mrs. LUMMIS, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
 H.R. 2945: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. ISSA, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. GARDNER.
 H.R. 2962: Mr. LANKFORD.
 H.R. 2966: Mr. HIMES and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 2967: Mr. COOPER.
 H.R. 2978: Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. KELLY, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. WEST.
 H.R. 2982: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. SABLAN.
 H.R. 2985: Mr. BUCHSHON, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. PITTS, Mr. FLORES, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. OLSON, Mr. CARTER, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 2993: Mr. TERRY.
 H.R. 2994: Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. DEFazio, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 2998: Mrs. MYRICK, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. PALAZZO.
 H.R. 3009: Mr. JONES.
 H.R. 3029: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina and Mrs. ELLMERS.
 H.R. 3046: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 3048: Mr. TONKO.
 H.R. 3050: Mr. LANKFORD and Mr. NUNNELEE.
 H.R. 3059: Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mr. JONES.
 H.R. 3062: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
 H.R. 3074: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin and Mr. LATTA.
 H.R. 3090: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. PAUL, Mr. FLAKE, and Mr. KLINE.
 H.R. 3094: Mrs. BIGGERT, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. PETRI, and Mr. STIVERS.
 H.R. 3099: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. BUCHSHON, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. FARENTHOLD.
 H.R. 3104: Mr. PAUL, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. FARENTHOLD.
 H.R. 3110: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
 H.R. 3128: Mr. ACKERMAN.
 H.R. 3147: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 3148: Mr. CLAY.
 H.J. Res. 11: Mr. POSEY, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, Mr. FLORES, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
 H.J. Res. 73: Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.J. Res. 80: Mr. CONYERS.
 H. Con. Res. 77: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.
 H. Res. 95: Mr. OWENS.
 H. Res. 111: Mr. TONKO and Mr. TERRY.
 H. Res. 177: Mrs. BIGGERT.
 H. Res. 247: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
 H. Res. 336: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
 H. Res. 364: Mr. REHBERG, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ROSS of Arkansas, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. WATT, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SHULER, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HANABUSA, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LEWIS of California, and Mr. CALVERT.
 H. Res. 367: Mr. LANCE.
 H. Res. 378: Mr. FILNER.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative SHIMKUS, or a designee, to H.R. 2273, the "Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act," does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

- H.R. 822: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 1380: Mr. TURNER of Ohio.