

the target elevation. We just lower the target elevation 6 feet; it's still higher than the average of what Fort Peck was. That's also true of each of the dams in the top three, which are the only ones they wanted to adjust because they're the largest.

So that's the effect of the bill, but it also has the effect of protecting us from flooding, serious flooding downstream. And I'm asking my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to sign on to this bill, particularly those who represent the Missouri River bottom area, those of us who have been affected by the flood, those of us who represent Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri. And by the way, all the delegation in Iowa, Democrats and Republicans, have signed on and endorsed the bill. Most of Nebraska has. A lot of the Missourians that are affected have.

I'd ask the others, take a look. This isn't complicated. The red herrings that have been dug across the trail have been addressed and corrected. And the meeting last night in Omaha was, I will say, volatile and dynamic with people that have suffered all summer long. They want to be able to make plans on whether they should be investing in trying to put their farms back in shape. They can't do that, Mr. Speaker, unless we give them some assurance that we're going to manage the river to protect them from serious downstream flooding.

And while that's going on, we just set that highest priority up. Congress has the authority, in fact, we have the obligation to set the standards for the Corps of Engineers. If we fail to do that, they are, then, whip-sawed by all of the litigation that comes of all the special interests. Those special interests can be taken care of below the level that I'm suggesting, and they can have those same levels of priorities that they had within that—irrigation, barge traffic, electrical generation, recreation, fishing. All of those things can work at that level without hardly even noticing it upstream. But you notice it downstream, and the billions of dollars that it takes to put this back together from the damage can never be matched by the recreational investment that goes on upstream. They'll have it anyway. It won't be diminished in any appreciable way. We need to have the protection.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that's H.R. 2942. I have trouble remembering that bill number. I could be wrong. It's the King bill, and I appreciate all those that have cosponsored it; and I'm hopeful that the rest of the Missouri River Representatives will take a look at it. I'm under the understanding that there will be a companion bill introduced in the Senate. Hopefully, it will be bipartisan. That will give us some more incentive to get this done this fall while there's still time to address this issue. If we fail to do so, this river will be managed for another year the same way it was in this past year.

Could I inquire as to the amount of time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 2 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will then just conclude this discussion on the river and not address any other subject matter.

We have not, as a Congress, looked at this Missouri River issue. It's a natural disaster that has been, to some degree, mitigated by the Corps of Engineers. Some of those decisions were awfully tough on a lot of people, and I believe we have an obligation to manage this river system, to protect us from serious downstream flooding, to set that priority and to set the levels, not at 16.3 million acre-feet anymore, that was 1881, but to increase those million acre-feet, not all that much, but enough to protect us from that serious downstream flooding.

If the Members of Congress that represent those areas come together unanimously, we can move a piece of legislation through this Congress, and I would think we could do it under suspension. It's a no-cost piece of legislation. It is a commonsense piece of legislation. It really isn't all that tricky, although we went through all 450 pages of the master manual, and it was hard to write; but now it's a pretty simple solution to a complex problem. I would urge my colleagues to take a look.

I would thank all of those involved for their public statements last night in Omaha and all the meetings that will be taking place up and down the river. I thank the Corps of Engineers for their cooperation in getting me accurate data to work with. And I look forward to resolving this issue, at least for the long term, while we help put people back together in an individual basis in the short term.

With that, Mr. Speaker, thank you for your attention, and I yield back the balance of my time.

JOB CREATION AND THE AMERICAN DREAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Ms. SUTTON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm happy to be here on the floor in a way tonight because it gives me a chance to speak up for so many Americans, so many Ohioans that I have the great privilege to represent from Ohio's 13th Congressional District. The people that I have the honor to serve are hard-working folks, people who want nothing more than a government that works with them and not against them.

In recent days we've seen and, frankly, for weeks now we've seen a number of Americans out in the street. The Occupy Wall Street movement has grown. It has spread throughout the country, and we still hear some people say that

they're confused about what it is, that those who are out there protesting, what is their message.

Well, a few weeks ago I traveled to Wall Street and joined the protesters to see what it was that brought them there. And while there are a number of voices, there was one theme that was extraordinarily consistent; and, really, what that theme was is there are so many people out there who are struggling. And they are just begging to be heard, heard by those of us who come here to represent them. And they want to be heard, not just their voices, but they want to see their voices reflected in policies that will improve their lives and their opportunities in this great country.

We are a great country because we have a strong middle class. We have upward mobility that allows people who are willing to work hard, it's that American Dream, that if they're willing to work hard, that there will be a chance for them to take care of themselves and their families and find a way to live in a comfortable manner. But that dream is slipping away from so many; and so we see them gathered, sometimes at these protests, and we see them when we go home to our communities, because we know that American families have been suffering under the effects of this recession.

And at the same time American families, so many workers and others are suffering, we're seeing some here in this body, and beyond the House of Representatives, we see them continuing to look out just for those who are at the very top of the heap. And so thus comes the phrase, "we are the 99 percent" that we hear echoed on Wall Street and throughout the United States, because they want to be recognized. They want to be heard, because the top 1 percent, those who control so much of the wealth and so much of the power in this country, they have a lot of money to speak with. They can speak through campaign contributions, and they do. And they can speak through sometimes secret committees that impact elections and impact policy, and they do.

But who will speak for the rest of the people, for policies that will make sense to the American people, those who I have the privilege, as I said, to represent in Ohio? Those hardworking folks who just want a job, who just want a fair shake, who just want an opportunity?

I believe in them. I believe in the American people, and I believe that if given a chance, they will take that chance and they will climb that ladder of opportunity. That's why we see kids, see students out in those protests. We see them, who have done everything we've asked them. They've gone to school, they've gone to college, and now they're trying to pay off that college debt, and there's no job.

□ 1820

And instead of being focused on jobs here in this body, here we are at the

end of October and the Republican majority has not brought any jobs agenda forward. Oh, yeah, we hear about—what do we hear about? We hear about the need for more deregulation. Well, the very thing that brings some of those to Wall Street, the fact that we had deregulation. Deregulation. It wasn't the college students that I speak of who drove our economy off the cliff, it wasn't the kids on Head Start, and it wasn't our seniors; and yet it is those groups that are being targeted here for cuts instead of those who drove our economy off the cliff.

All that people want is for everybody to pay a fair share and for people in this country to have the chance, for those who are in the middle class to stop getting squeezed, and for those who aspire to the middle class to be able to reach for that dream that has served us so well.

So that is why I come to the floor tonight, to speak up for those who are out there who are begging to be heard, not only their words, but to have their words reflected in a better way and a better day.

So here tonight I'm very honored to see my colleague, Representative TONKO, who is a great leader, a man of great compassion and thoughtfulness, a problem solver, somebody who's looking for solutions for the people. The most innovative and capable people in this country have joined me tonight. Thank you, Representative TONKO, for being here.

Mr. TONKO. My pleasure, Representative SUTTON, and thank you for bringing us together into a format of thoughtful discussion on the House floor.

You're very right. It's about the American Dream, pursuit of the American Dream. And I believe what many people across America are espousing right now is take a look at the problem from its broadest perspective in order to propose the solution. And if we are just going to do an instant snapshot and not really deal with the facts at hand, it will get us in trouble. It will be wasted energy. We'll be spinning our wheels.

What they've suggested is looking back at how we came to the problem. We borrowed totally for a millionaire-billionaire tax cut. We borrowed from China and Saudi Arabia to give everyone in that category a tax break. Now, borrowing has happened throughout the course of government and there are oftentimes societal needs that get met. So I would ask: What was the good that was bought here? And it translates into a loss of 8.2 million jobs. So we borrowed from millionaire-billionaire tax cuts and from foreign economies in order to get a result of 8.2 million jobs lost. That's the starting point.

And this Presidency, the Obama Presidency, has been about growing jobs, providing the reforms that are essential. And so today, people are speaking out. They're speaking out about the fundamental unfairness that exists

out there, and they want that transformed into fairness.

They know, they acknowledge, and we agree that people struggle to find a job. They are struggling, as we speak, to find a job. They struggle to keep a job. They struggle to make ends meet. This is the fight. This is the concern. It's about empowering the middle class and empowering the purchasing power of the middle class, which serves all income strata tremendously well.

If we have a robust middle class, if we have a purchasing power that is enhanced, people then begin to invest. They begin to share that with the regional economy, State economy, and national economy. It's as plain as that.

People are now connecting the dots. They saw where we went with the policy of the past, they saw the deep hole that drove us into, and now they're saying, we want reform, fundamental reform. It's about providing justice to the middle class.

I am so happy that you're here encouraging this discussion. The dialogue must be carried forth in order to share with the general public exactly what happened and what needs to occur now as we go forward.

Ms. SUTTON. I thank the gentleman.

And you put it so very well, and this chart also helps us begin with the starting point for what people out there are feeling. They know that something is fundamentally unfair. They know that something is very, very out of whack. They know that our economy suffered a Great Recession. They know that they are still suffering a Great Recession.

And do you know what else they know? They know that Wall Street has recovered. They know that in 2009, after receiving trillions in taxpayer-funded bailouts, the top 38 financial firms gave record pay to their employees during that Great Recession. So they're calling on us for some increased fairness, taking some of this and translating it into opportunity. After all, it was the taxpayers who came to their aid.

I am now happy to welcome Representative JOHN GARAMENDI, a great leader, a guy who understands that we need to create jobs in this country, that we need to make things in America.

Representative GARAMENDI, thank you for joining us.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank you very much, Representative SUTTON and Mr. TONKO.

It's good to be back on the floor and to talk to you and to be talking about basic fairness, about the basic fairness of: How is America going to get back on track? How are we going to create the jobs?

I did a town hall in my district on Wednesday this last week, and the subject matter on everybody's mind was the jobs: How are we going to get a job? How am I going to stay in my home?

There is a way to do it. The American Jobs Act that the President has

proposed—I suppose had that actually been proposed by anybody else it may very well have passed the Senate. But the American Jobs Act actually has the ingredients to get Americans back to work.

Just this week, I guess it was actually last week now, the Senate took up a couple of pieces of the American Jobs Act, a bill that would put 200,000, almost 300,000 teachers back in the classroom and about 100,000 police and firemen back on the streets to protect us with a one-half of one—one-half a percent increase in taxes on those who have an adjusted gross income over \$1 million. And the Senate Republicans killed the bill with the filibuster, didn't even allow it to come to a vote. So with the filibuster, they were able to kill a bill that would have put 400,000 Americans back to work in the classroom, on the streets for policing, and protecting us with firemen. I wonder what they are thinking.

There's a basic gross unfairness in that, that middle class teachers lost their jobs because of the recession; lack of tax revenue at the county or State level, they've lost their job, and because the Republicans in the Senate and in this House refused to put a little teeny, tiny tax on millionaires' income, those people can't go to work. Where do you stand in fairness?

And this Wall Street business. OMG—text this, folks. The Wall Street bonuses—you have 2009 on your chart there, Ms. SUTTON, but the Wall Street bonuses in 2010 and 2011 are even bigger. Extraordinary income for Wall Street while teachers cannot get a job, while police and firemen are out of work, where protection in our community is not available. And the Wall Street barons are continuing to make money, and they're not making loans. They're doing this by simply gambling in computerized trading. And it's got to stop. This basic unfairness has got to stop.

Thank you so very much for bringing this to our attention. And you wonder what this Occupy Wall Street, occupy cities across the Nation, that's what it's about. People in their gut know something is wrong and it's just not right.

Ms. SUTTON. You are so right, Representative GARAMENDI. And at a time when all elected officials across all levels of government should be focused on jobs, we see our colleagues across the aisle here, the Republicans, offering nothing by way of jobs, and we see them fixated on protecting millionaires and billionaires and Wall Street banks that helped to drive our economy off the cliff.

At the same time, they look to go after things like Medicare that our seniors depend upon. They look at cuts for nutrition programs that are so desperately needed. They want to take it out of the hide of our workers. It wasn't our workers who drove our economy off the cliff; and, frankly, they are not part of the problem.

Getting them to work, back to work, the American people back to work, is the key to solving our problem. And they want us focused on jobs.

So I'm so grateful that you are here, and I'm glad that, Representative TONKO, you are here to stand up for common sense, for a future that is as great as our past.

Representative TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely.

Before I came to the House just 3 years ago, I served as president and CEO of NYSERDA, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

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We saw what small business creation was about from an innovation economy perspective, from a clean energy perspective. We can grow our self-sufficiency for energy supply simply by moving toward an innovation model.

How does it happen?

We know most of the job generation in the last decade, if not the great majority of job creation, was done through small business, through the entrepreneur, through an investment in the ideas economy. If we were going to invest money, should it have been these tax cuts for those high on the perch or should it have been for those start-ups that needed their investments to grow jobs in the local regional economy?

That's what it's all about.

It's what people have told me in their statements as they've gathered in communities. They've said it's about the pursuit of the American Dream, but from their perspective, it's like the evaporation of the American Dream. It's fizzling away from them. They want to be able to embrace that dream. If they play by the rules and if they work hard, they should expect to achieve success, but we're taking that away from the middle class. We should provide the tools—give them the toolkit for job growth via small business, innovation and an ideas economy.

We drove an economy as an infant Nation. We developed the Westward Movement and then an Industrial Revolution, and we impacted the world with our product delivery through all of the factories across America. That pioneer spirit is still alive within us. It's within our DNA. Yet now, as a sophisticated society, we've grown to a new realm of product development and ideas, and we are in the midst of a need globally for all sorts of inventions and innovation for energy solutions, for health care solutions, for communications. We have the technical wizardry. We have the intellect. We have the intellectual capacity that needs to be embraced by this Nation.

The House ought to show leadership in that regard. We ought to tap into that resource and enable it to be the job manufacturing center across this country—small business, entrepreneurs, an innovation economy: moving ideas along from prototype to man-

ufactured concept. That's how you make a down payment and investment in areas that grow an economy, not this rewarding of people simply because they're of an income strata and receive a tax cut at a time when we need it to invest in an innovation economy. If you look at the global race on clean energy and innovation, countries are bulking up in their investments. They're investing in research and development. We're cutting those programs—the advocacy to cut.

The President has said in his American Jobs Act proposal to invest in research, to invest in the small business community, to invest in job creation. That's the sort of investment that gets America to the new realm of job creation. The investment that has been made to this point has been about investing in tax cuts. That's an order of spending that we cannot endure, so we need to go forward with, again, a strong agenda for the middle class.

It has been said over and over through the years: no pain, no gain. The middle class is absorbing all the pain, and they're now questioning: Where's the gain? They can't take the pain of overtaxation. They can't take the pain of unemployment. They can't take the pain of program cuts like Medicare, like Medicaid, like job creation, research moneys. These are the painful measures that have been induced their way, and they say "no." They say emphatically "no" to that. Now they want to know: Where are the jobs? They've asked the right question.

I am very proud of the conference in which we serve. The Democratic Caucus has been about manufacturing, about making it in America, the jobs agenda, tax fairness, policies that take us forward, not backward. So again, Representative SUTTON and Representative GARAMENDI, it is great to add my voice with yours in this House for a legitimate agenda for the middle class. It's about empowering our middle class—the strength of America, the fabric that takes us forward.

Ms. SUTTON. I thank the gentleman for his passion and for his brilliant remarks. There is brilliance in common sense, and we know that the American people get it. This is no secret. That's why they're speaking up. They're standing up for what has always made this country so great.

Mr. TONKO. Representative SUTTON, I've heard you talking on this floor about the plight of Ohio workers. I've heard you speak to the wisdom of sound investment for workers, that it's about empowering the worker. They have a voice in BETTY SUTTON that shows compassion, care and concern. They have a voice in Representative GARAMENDI about being smart about our agenda. We must see it through the eyes of the American worker—people who are being taxed unfairly because they make money through work—and know we're taxing differently those who make money on money. It's a different scenario.

Your advocacy, your passion, your empathy for workers is stated repeatedly from both of you on this floor, and that's what should motivate and inspire us.

Ms. SUTTON. I hope that everybody will take that approach, and I thank the gentleman for his kind words. Do you know what? You're right. The workers can say it better than anybody.

When I went to Wall Street, when I traveled there to stand with those who were standing up for fundamental fairness and opportunity, that really is the essence of what it is. I've heard from so many people in Ohio, and they've put it so well. I'll just share a couple of remarks they sent my way.

Jessie from Silver Lake, Ohio, says:

A strong working middle class is what drives an economy, not 25 percent of this country's wealth in the hands of the upper 1 percent. In a democracy, all votes should have the opportunity to rise. There will always be some with more money and some with less money, but this disparity now is disastrous for our future.

Debbie from Avon, Ohio, says:

We need to stop corporate greed. The rich are continuing to get wealthier and not pass down opportunities in the form of jobs to the people who are the most needy. People want to work for a living. We need the people who are benefiting the most to give people an opportunity by creating jobs. My fear is that we're creating a society where there is strong resentment.

Alice says:

Many big companies have not created jobs in the U.S. Instead, they've taken many of their jobs to the countries with the cheapest labor, the least regulations and few employee rights. This flies in the face of the Republicans' concern that taxes on the rich mean fewer jobs.

On that point, every day in the United States we are losing 15 factories. Yet, here on this House floor, those on the other side of the aisle are content in trying to protect the loopholes that encourage jobs to be shipped overseas. We don't think that's a good idea. We don't think that's good for America. When I pledge allegiance to the flag, I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America; but when multinationals pledge allegiance to the flag, I don't know who they pledge allegiance to.

I think it's really important that people down here stand up for U.S. manufacturing and U.S. workers. Close those loopholes that continue to help ship our jobs overseas, and make some sense, frankly, of our trade policies. We need to really crack down on unfair trade practices like the currency manipulation. We passed that bill through the House last year, a bill that would have reined in China's currency manipulation. It is ready to go again. It passed in a bipartisan way. If the Speaker of the House would just bring it to the floor, we know that we would

pass it. It's estimated it would create a million jobs. It could make the difference of a million jobs, and would cost us nothing.

Yet, Representative GARAMENDI, there you stand with a plaque that is really important because, instead of going for those million jobs, what do we have?

Mr. GARAMENDI. What we have is the Republican agenda. The Republicans have now been in control of the House of Representatives since January—over 10 months now—and they have not produced one jobs bill.

You were talking about the issue of shipping jobs overseas, and it is true. The American tax system, prior to December of last year, gave a tax break of some \$15 billion a year to American corporations for every job they shipped overseas. The Democrats, by a democratic vote, passed a law that eliminated that tax break. Not one Republican voted to eliminate the tax break that American corporations had when they shipped jobs offshore. Just so you know where people are in this House, the Republicans refuse to end the tax break that American corporations had when they offshored jobs.

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The Republican agenda: no jobs. That's their agenda. They talk about cuts. Every time there has been a cut—and there's been numerous cuts. We've been through this for the last 10 months. Everybody's cut is somebody's job. They've lost that job.

What we need is a different agenda. What we need is a Democratic agenda. What we need is a better deal for America.

And it's this: We'll Make It in America. We will build, we will rebuild those parts of the American economy that create jobs, solid jobs.

You mentioned the China currency bill. Yes, it is true, and they say American businesses can't compete. That was directly from our Republican colleagues. That's not true. Economists say over and over again the American industries can compete on a fair level playing field.

But when China has its currency 25 to 30 percent cheaper, there's no way we can compete. It is unfair; it's unrealistic. It has got to end. The Senate passed that bill. The Speaker of this House has refused to allow the Chinese currency bill to come to the floor for a vote.

We passed it last year when the Democrats ran the House. This year, with the Republicans, apparently they want to make sure China succeeds and America fails.

Bring the bill to the floor, Mr. Speaker. Bring the bill to the floor so that we can vote here in this House on the Chinese currency bill and end the unfairness. And if they want to continue, China wants to continue to undervalue its currency, then we'll put a tariff on their goods coming in here, and we will have a level playing field.

We need a better deal for America. Here's the Republican deal: no jobs, no jobs. That's what they are about.

We are about building jobs in America. We're about Make It in America once again, helping our manufacturing sector, creating those middle class jobs; and we can do it with fair tax policy, as Mr. TONKO has so eloquently explained, and for the manufacturing policies that you have, Ms. SUTTON.

Thank you so very much for the opportunity to be on the floor with you and to talk about making it in America, rebuilding the American middle class. We can do it. This is a great country.

Ms. SUTTON. I thank the gentleman. I thank you for laying it out in very simple terms.

I mean, the fact of the matter is we can invest in America. We can put people back to work because we do have a long-term deficit that we're going to deal with, but the biggest deficit we have right now is a deficit of jobs.

And we have no deficit of work. There is much to be done, and we've got a lot of people trying to do it, wanting the chance to do it. We could build our infrastructure; and when we build our infrastructure, we can do it with American iron, steel, and manufactured goods.

Mr. GARAMENDI. And how about the President's proposal, \$50 billion?

Ms. SUTTON. The President's proposal to put people back to work. We can't get rid of the long-term deficit in this country unless people go back to work.

This is a great country that we have the privilege of serving, and we just want to make sure that we do right by the country and by the people who we are here to represent. We have heard it before, we know we have heard those out there who say corporations are people. Well, I say people are people, and those are those people I'm here to support.

Representative TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. Well, Representative SUTTON, you know, I hear people who listen and endorse our concepts, but they'll ask, well, how do we afford these investments? Well, the work done here in the House on the floor, in the United States Senate is all about priorities. So it's establishing the right priorities.

I have a bill that would cap well below the 700,000 that we now allow for contractors to this government, to have that reduced. We need to belt-tighten inefficiency, waste, fraud, outmoded programs. Go after it, but don't cut programs that serve the middle class and invest in job creation. Establish the right priorities.

I know we are running out of time, so thank you for bringing us together on the House floor.

Ms. SUTTON. Thank you, Representative TONKO. Thank you, Representative GARAMENDI. We do need to stand up together, stand up for seniors, push back those attacks on Medicare. We need to stand up for workers.

We need to stand up for jobs, and we need to stand up and make sure that those who have done well in America do well by America. Wall Street and everyone needs to pay their fair share.

I yield back the balance of my time

SOLVING OUR FISCAL PROBLEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RIBBLE) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I come tonight to talk a little bit about our Nation's fiscal problems and work that the supercommittee is going to be doing, and I want to challenge them to think big, go big and try to solve our problems.

Over the next decade, the Federal Government is projected to spend more than \$43 trillion. If the supercommittee only cuts \$1.2 trillion, as required by the Budget Control Act, we reduce Federal spending by only 2.7 percent. If the supercommittee would go big and agree to cut \$4 trillion over 10 years, we are still only cutting the Federal budget by 9.1 percent.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better, and we must do better. We cannot continue to spend our Nation's future away. My children, my grandchildren deserve so much better and so much more.

I'm proud tonight to stand here with one of my colleagues, the gentleman from Oregon, to have a discussion tonight about this very issue. Republicans and Democrats alike, we believe that we must do more, be more and be better for the next generation of Americans.

With that, I would like to yield some time to my colleague from Oregon.

Mr. SCHRADER. Thank you very much. I really appreciate the opportunity to be here on the floor doing a colloquy with a Republican colleague of mine. That's not common these days. Perhaps in the not-too-distant past it was more common, but I think it shows that there's an opportunity for actually good big-picture agreements on what we need to do in general, although we may disagree on some of the particulars.

I'd like to point out some of the real problems that my colleague from Wisconsin alluded to. First and foremost, I have got a chart here that talks about the amount of money we're actually borrowing to make our payments in this country. He's right, we're spending way too much. We're spending almost \$3.6 trillion. Our revenue's only about \$2.2 trillion. We're borrowing almost 40 percent of what we spend.

You can't do that in your household, folks. You can't do that in your small business, and we shouldn't be doing that and can't do that as the greatest Nation on Earth and keep our fiscal balance sheets in play. Right now our debt is almost up to \$15 trillion, and our deficit has been stuck at \$1.3 trillion for the last 3 years.