our economy and to national security. Republicans would rather cut Medici-
care, education, and medical research than close a single wasteful tax loop-
hole or ask a single millionaire to con-
tribute a little more. The Republicans
should stop protecting millionaires, billion-
aires and wealthy corporations and start working with us to pass an alter-
native to these terrible cuts that protect the middle class. We want to
start to do something to begin chang-
ing this so we protect the middle class.
We must not jeopardize the progress of the last 4 years.

Even though our work to restore eco-

nomic prosperity must continue, we
should take pride in the 33 months of
private sector job growth and 6.1 mil-
on new American jobs. Imagine how
many more jobs could be created with
just a little cooperation from our Re-
publican colleagues.

Now our friends across the aisle have
another opportunity to engage con-
structively. They have a second chance
to work with us to rebuild the middle class by investing in that which
in the past has made Americans strong—world-class roads, bridges,
dams, peerless schools, industrial fac-
tories, and creative entrepreneurs who
are the best in the world.

President Ronald Reagan, in his first
address of a joint session of Congress,
spoke of these building blocks of pros-
perity, Ronald Reagan said:

Substance and prosperity of our Nation is
built not alone from the factories and the
mills, the farms, and the
shops. They are the services provided in
10,000 corners of America: the interest on the
thrift of our people and the returns for their
risk-taking. The production of America is
the possession of those who build, serve, cre-
ate, and produce.

He didn’t say the substance of our
Nation is built on profits gleaned from
the sweat of one’s brow or hired hands.
He didn’t say the prosperity of America is the posses-
sion of investment banks or wealthy
oil companies alone. Rather, he said,
our substance and prosperity are
earned in factories, mills, farms, and
shops. The rewards belong to all those
who build, serve, create, and produce—
not only to the few strong enough or
rich enough to take for themselves.

It is time to return to those roots. It
is time to remember fairness is not just
a principle for which to strive but a
powerful engine of growth and pros-
perity for all Americans.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY
LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tem-
pore. The Republican leader is recog-
nized.

STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I would like to say
a word about last night’s State of the
Union. To me, at least, the occasion
cried out for bold and courageous lead-
ership from a reelected President who
has run his last campaign. It called for
a President who was willing to stare
down America’s challenges, reject the
easy choices, and step outside his polit-
ical comfort zone to unite a deeply di-
vided public behind a common goal.

Sadly, however, for no such moment. An opportunity to bring to-
gether the country instead became an-
other retreat of lip service and lib-
eralism.

For a Democratic President entering
his second term it was simply unequal-
to the moment. Following 4 years of
this President’s unwillingness to chal-
lenge liberal dogma, we have more of
the same. The President spoke about
energy infrastructure but didn’t even
mention the Keystone Pipeline. He
chose the Nation’s biggest stage to pro-
mote something that is inefficient and
costly, such as solar panels, instead of
something that is proven, reliable, and
domestically produced, such as coal.

He advocated tax reform but mostly
as a way to fund government, not as a way
to as a way to increase our competi-
tiveness. He spoke of workers’ mini-
imum wages instead of their max-
imum potential.

In short, with the exception of his
impressive delivery and trademark
style, last night’s speech was pedes-
trian, liberal bollertape that any
Democratic lawmaker could have given at
any time in recent memory. Gun
control, cap and trade, tax increases,
and spending programs are exactly
what we have come to expect from a
liberal President who seems perfectly
content to preside over a divided coun-
try and a stagnating economy.

Of course, everyone recognizes the
President is a very good campaigner.
We all acknowledge his skill in that
area. He will be doing more of that
today down in North Carolina.

A State of the Union Address should
be about something bigger. Instead of
dividing America, he should unite
them. Instead of inflaming passions, it
should show what is possible when the
two parties actually work together.

I am glad he mentioned things such
as expanding trade opportunities with
Asia and Europe. That is an area where
we can cooperate, and I look forward
to working with colleagues from both par-
ties to do just that.

Overall, I am disappointed. I am es-
pecially disappointed he chose not to seri-
ously address the transcendent
issue of our time, which is finding a
way to control our spiraling debt be-
fore it controls us. If we don’t do that,
we will not be able to leave our chil-
dren the kind of country our parents
left us; that is, a goal all of us should share.

Take the Obama sequester as just
one example. The President had a
chance last night to offer a thoughtful
alternative to his sequester, one that
would reduce spending in a smarter
way. That is that Republicans have
been calling for all along, and it is the
kind of thing the House has already
voted to do not once but twice. We
want to work with him to actually
make that happen.

Instead we just heard gimmicks and
tax hikes, just one more plan from the
President that is designed to fail so he
can blame others when it does fail. It is
too bad for the country. It truly is.

The American people, in their collec-
tive judgment, decided to send divided
government to Washington. I am sure
the President wishes that wasn’t so,
but as the reality is Republicans look to him to use forums such as the
State of the Union to bring people to-
gether and get things done with the
government we have, not the one
the President wishes he had. That is what
Ronald Reagan did, and he accom-
plished great things. President Clinton
was able to get quite a bit done with
divided government too.

Why is it this President can’t seem
to do you think he would learn the kind of leadership he says he wants balance—bal-
ance. His approach so far has been any-
things but. Just as “investment” has
become a Washington code word for
more spending, “balance” has now be-
come a code word for my way or the
highway.

Remember, the President already re-
ceived the additional revenue he want-
ed in January. He didn’t agree to a sin-
gle cut in spending then, just revenue.
Obviously, the balanced thing to do
now would be to look at cuts. Last
night the President didn’t propose any
real cuts; he just demanded more and
more taxes. With a $16 trillion debt, he
has finally called for more spending too,
although he didn’t say how he would
pay for it or even how much it would
cost. Pretend, for a moment, the Re-
publicans agreed to go along with all
those taxes and all that spending. What
would American families be able to
afford?

I want to end on a positive note, so I
would like to point out that there were
areas of agreement last night, and I
particularly appreciate the Presi-
dent’s reference to Burma. And Sen-
ator RUBIO did a great job with the Re-
publican address. I hope the President
will actually listen to some of the things Senator Rubio said, and I hope he will come back to Congress with some different ideas. We can get important things done in his second term, and if he is ready to come to the center, to the political center, we will.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to peak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes and the majority controlling the second 30 minutes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHANNES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

A CASE OF AMNESIA

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, after listening to President Obama’s State of the Union speech last night, I was left scratching my head. Essentially, the President wants us to pretend the last 4 years never happened. He wants us to pretend his economic policies have delivered a strong recovery. They have not. He wants us to pretend his administration has made real progress on reducing the national debt; and he wants us to pretend that more taxes, more spending, and more debt are the key to middle-class prosperity. In other words, the President is hoping we will have a case of amnesia.

He wants us to forget about $5.8 trillion in new debt that was racked up during his first term—$5.8 trillion. He wants us to forget our gross national debt is now larger than our entire economy—100 percent of our gross domestic product. He wants us to forget the debt is projected to grow even further, to $26 trillion, by 2025; and he wants us to forget the health care bill that will increase taxes by $1 trillion over the next 10 years. He wants us to forget America’s credit rating has been downgraded for the first time in our history. He also wants us to forget we have been sleeping through the recovery. The economic recovery since the Great Depression, as well as the highest, longest period of high unemployment since the Great Depression.

He wants us to forget that nearly 4 out of every 10 unemployed Americans have been jobless for at least 6 months. He wants us to forget that the average family median income has fallen by nearly $2,500 since the official end of the recession. He wants us to forget that the cost of health insurance for the average American family has increased by more than $2,300. And he wants us to forget that as part of the fiscal cliff negotiation, the payroll tax went back up, taking an additional bite out of the check of middle-class workers.

Last night President Obama said we should ask ourselves three questions every day—those of us with the privilege of serving here in the Nation’s Capital and in the administration. He said: No. 1, how do we attract more jobs to our shores? No. 2, how do we equip people with the skills they need in order to get those jobs? And No. 3, how do we make sure hard work leads to a decent living? I may have my differences with President Obama on a number of policies, but I actually think those are really good questions.

If the President is truly serious about answering those questions, this may not surprise my colleagues, but he need look only to the model reflected in my home State of Texas.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record an article entitled “The Texas Growth Machine” at the end of my remarks.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. CORNYN. The fact is our State relies on a simple economic model the Federal Government could emulate if it would like to have similar positive results: lower taxes, limited government, sensible regulations, and pro-growth energy policies. I know the occupant of the chair comes from a State that I believe is the second largest producer of oil and gas in the country—second only to Texas—and I know the Presiding Officer has so often seen that is is created when we unleash our potential when it comes to our energy resources. These are policies that recently helped Texas turn a $5 billion deficit during the recession into an $8.8 billion surplus. These are the policies that made our State a robust engine of job creation that is attracting Americans from all across the country. The total number of jobs in Texas since 1995 has increased by more than 32 percent. When we compare that with the rate of growth of jobs in America nationwide, we see it is 12 percent—32 percent to 12 percent. That is not an accident.

Texas is also a leader in the creation of high-paying jobs. Between 2009 and 2012, our State accounted for close to one-third of all U.S. private sector job growth in industries that pay more than 150 percent of the average wage, even though we have only 8 percent of America’s total population.

Last night the President talked about, How do we get middle-class wages up? His prescription was an increase in the minimum wage, but I say why don’t we look at ways to achieve a maximum wage by creating private sector, high-paying, good jobs, as we have been successful in doing in Texas and as a few other States have done as well.

After 4 years of trillion-dollar deficits and historically high unemployment—right now our unemployment rate is roughly 7.9 percent, but that doesn’t really account for all of the people who have since given up looking for work, and it is estimated that more than 32 percent of those that are out of work or they are working part time when they would like to work full time, but they can’t find those kinds of jobs.

I believe it is time for the President and this Congress to try a new approach. The great thing about our system of government—of shared sovereignty between the States and the National Government—is that we have essentially laboratories of democracy all around our country where we can try different things to see what works and what does not work. I only hope the President and Congress will look at those places around the country where the policies actually work in creating jobs and economic growth.

I believe it is time for the President to embrace policies that will encourage private entrepreneurship, private sector job creation, income growth, and greater domestic energy production. In short, it is time for him to embrace the Texas model.

EXHIBIT 1

THE TEXAS GROWTH MACHINE

(By Wendell Cox)

The American economy has had little to cheer about since the 2008 financial meltdown and the resulting recession. Recovery has been feeble, and many states continue to struggle. One bright spot in the general gloom, however, is Texas, which began spinning back around before 2008. Not long before the recession, Texas created jobs at a stunning rate; it has also—pace critics like the New York Times’s Paul Krugman—created lots of good jobs. Indeed, this is one of the nation’s most important Lone Star State as a model for dynamic growth, as a close look at employment data shows.