

ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER  
ACCOUNTABILITY

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

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed light on Attorney General Eric Holder's less than glamorous tenure as Attorney General.

As the chief law enforcement officer of our Nation, Mr. Holder is expected to govern by the principle of seeking justice. As a sworn Federal official, he has one primary job: to enforce the laws of the United States fairly and impartially. It is for that reason that Lady Justice wears a blindfold. The blindfold represents objectivity and that justice should be dealt out without fear, favor, or impartiality.

How come Mr. Holder dispenses his version of justice impartially? How come the Attorney General overlooked injustices and with disregard for the rule of law?

As Supreme Court Justice Brandeis said:

In a government of laws, the existence of the government will be imperiled if it fails to observe the law scrupulously. If government becomes a lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for law: it invites every man to become a law unto himself. It invites anarchy.

I ask you then, has the Attorney General invited anarchy?

I will continue to make my case here in the people's House at the people's pulpit. Folks, I will be back.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 30th anniversary of National Night Out. "America's Night Out Against Crime" began those 30 years ago to encourage community-based crime prevention.

I've participated in many National Night Out events throughout my district over the years, meeting people who are committed to reducing crime in their neighborhoods and promoting community spirit by building relationships with their local civic leaders and law enforcement officials.

This year, I look forward to celebrating National Night Out in Stockton, California, a city in my district. National Night Out has made a difference in my district by bringing people together and making them more aware of how to keep their neighborhoods safe.

National Night Out has grown to over 37 million Americans participating in 15,000 communities across North America. National Night Out illustrates how partnerships between community members and local law enforcement can prevent crime. I encourage my colleagues to participate in National Night Out events in their own districts.

PIONEER DAY

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

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, like you, as a fellow Utahn, this week my heart is back in my district and my State as we celebrate our great pioneer heritage.

On July 24, 1847, Brigham Young stood over the great Salt Lake Valley, which was nothing but a desert, devoid of any green meadows, and uttered those famous words, "This is the place."

After traveling more than 1,300 miles crossing the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains, the pioneers settled to begin a new life. Throughout this, they suffered great hardships: hunger, fatigue, cold, disease, and exhaustion. During their journeys, they quickly called Utah home as they reached this great valley, where they planted their crops and went to work building beautiful communities that grew into the wonderful city and State that we now know.

Our State has much to be proud of. We have the greatest snow on Earth. Our National Parks are truly magnificent. Our State is consistently rated among the top in job creation, education, and quality of life. Utah truly has some of the most honest, hard-working, and friendly people in the country.

Pioneer Day is celebrated to honor everyone who immigrated west to Utah during this pioneer era and who aided in creating this great State, which I'm proud to call my home.

KEEP COLLEGE AFFORDABLE

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

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, just last week, I had the privilege of speaking to students who attend Florida International University in my district. These students included Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. But their message was clear: it is time for Congress to help keep college affordable.

That is why I have supported efforts to prevent and reverse the doubling of the Federal student loan rates that took effect on July 1. This issue is too important for us to delay any further.

I was very encouraged that the Senate yesterday passed a strong bipartisan compromise bill to lower these rates. I urge the House leadership, Mr. Speaker, to bring this bill to the floor and keep college rates affordable for our Nation's students.

RELEASE SAEED ABEDINI

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to cochair the

International Religious Freedom Caucus here in the Congress. In that capacity, it's also my privilege to participate in the Defending Freedoms Project, a bipartisan effort for Members of Congress to adopt a prisoner of conscience.

My office has adopted Saeed Abedini, a Christian pastor and an American citizen from Idaho who is currently imprisoned in Iran for his faith. Iran's tyrannical attempts to, in the words of Ronald Reagan, "stifle the freedom and muzzle the self-expression of the people" were again exposed to the world after the imprisonment of Pastor Abedini, who was sentenced to 8 years in prison while working to build an orphanage in Iran.

Mr. Speaker, Martin Luther King said:

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Pastor Abedini's case is a demonstration to the world of the far-reaching implications of even a single instance of human rights abuse.

I would call again upon Iran to immediately release Pastor Abedini so he can return to Idaho to be with his family.

PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago today, this body unanimously passed PREA, the Prison Rape Elimination Act, which my colleague from Virginia, FRANK WOLF, and I sponsored.

PREA is designed to end sexual violence in our Nation's prisons. One focus of PREA is on reducing assaults on children in our criminal justice system. Youthful inmates are more likely than their adult counterparts to be victimized by prison staff and adult inmates. Under PREA, no youth under 18 years of age can be placed in a housing unit where contact with adult inmates may occur.

Furthermore, children in adult jails and prison are often placed in solitary confinement for their own protection, which turns out to be detrimental to their mental health. Due to this type of confinement and exposure to abuse, youth have the highest rates of suicide amongst all inmates. PREA urges agencies to avoid subjecting children to solitary confinement.

Mr. Speaker, I call on the Department of Justice to redouble its efforts to ensure that every State implements PREA to protect all inmates from sexual violence. The type of sexual violence that has plagued our prisons and jails is cruel and unusual punishment and should not be part of an inmate's prison term.

NO SUBSIDIES WITHOUT  
VERIFICATION ACT

(Mrs. BLACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, over the July 4th holiday, the Obama administration updated the Federal Register. And buried in more than 600 pages of new regulations was a controversial decision to delay verification of eligibility for ObamaCare's subsidies and instead use the honor system, which more accurately should be described as an open invitation for fraud and abuse.

In a desperate attempt to try to save the President's failing health care law, the administration is willing to give out billions of dollars in fraudulent payments, racking up even more debt for current and future generations. This is indefensible.

That is why I have introduced H.R. 2775, the No Subsidies Without Verification Act. My bill would stop this irresponsible action by requiring verification systems be put in place before any subsidy is paid with taxpayer money.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this fight and support H.R. 2775.

□ 0915

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, every day a member of the Safe Climate Caucus has come to the floor to raise concern about climate change, and we know about climate change from hurricanes and tornadoes and droughts and all of the other things that we're seeing.

But yesterday, the prestigious science journal, *Nature*, published an analysis of the cost of the rapid warming in the Arctic. That analysis found that the cost could range from \$10 trillion to over \$200 trillion. The mean cost is \$60 trillion. I'm not misspeaking. It's not \$60 million, it's not \$60 billion, but it's \$60 trillion.

These enormous costs are the consequence of the release of 50 gigatons of methane now trapped in the Arctic ice shelves, which experts believe will be released into the air within the next 50 years, if not sooner, if we don't stop spewing carbon pollution into our atmosphere.

The Arctic is pivotal to the functioning of the Earth's systems, such as the oceans and the climate, but we're recklessly endangering it. We need to stop acting like members of the Flat Earth Society and start listening to the urgent warnings of the scientists.

RE-REFERRAL OF H.R. 2315, PRESERVING ACCESS TO ORPHAN DRUGS ACT OF 2013

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 2315,

Preserving Access to Orphan Drugs Act of 2013, be re-referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and, in addition, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

COAL RESIDUALS REUSE AND  
MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 315 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2218.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0917

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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 2218) to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to encourage recovery and beneficial use of coal combustion residuals and establish requirements for the proper management and disposal of coal combustion residuals that are protective of human health and the environment, with Mr. BISHOP of Utah in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, we have spent much time talking about the need for Congress to consider jobs legislation. This is a piece of pro-jobs legislation. This bill is unique because it is also a pro-states' rights legislation and pro-environment legislation.

But focusing on jobs for a minute, let me explain why a "no" vote is anti-jobs, placing anywhere from 39,000 to 316,000 jobs at risk at a time when we can least afford it.

We are here because over 3 years ago the EPA put out three proposals on coal ash, including regulating coal ash as a hazardous waste. This caused massive uncertainty in the marketplace and created an unnecessary stigma on legitimate recycling of this product, and I have a piece of shingle that's made and produced by coal ash.

And the States agree. As highlighted in a letter from the State of Michigan in support of H.R. 2218:

Enactment would end the regulatory uncertainty that has hindered our efforts to promote the beneficial use of coal combustion residuals.

EPA announced in litigation proceedings recently that it will not have

a final coal ash rule before 2014. The fact that EPA continues to leave a "hazardous waste" designation on the table even though three decades of science and fact point the other way, that coal ash is not hazardous, it directly is contributing to the loss of current and future recycling.

Coal ash is not an abstract substance. It is used in important infrastructure in this country. The American Coal Ash Association informed us that uncertainty in the marketplace caused by EPA's proposal to regulate coal ash as hazardous waste is diminishing their economic prospects down to just 40 percent of eligible coal wastes—and they support this bill.

This bill establishes a solid framework for regulation of coal combustion residuals in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment, or the State environmental regulators—including the Environmental Council of States, ECOS, and the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management officials—would not be endorsing this bill.

Coal ash makes concrete stronger, more durable, and cheaper. A "no" vote against this bill means that you support less durable, more expensive highways, schools, and green buildings. Don't take my word for it. The American Road and Transportation Builders Association and many other road and bridge builders, and also the Building and Construction Trades Union, want this bill because they want high-quality construction material for buildings, roads, and bridges.

For Members concerned about wall board from China, coal ash is a stable, domestic source for wall board and will control costs. Don't take my word for it. The American Forest and Paper Association supports this bill.

Mine workers across this country need a stable way of having America's energy future secured. This bill accomplishes that. Don't take my word for it. Ask the United Mine Workers, who supports this bill.

Coal ash is recycled and used as a raw material in making cement. Voting "no" means you choose to put coal ash in landfills rather than putting it back into roads and building projects. Don't take my word for it. Organizations like Portland Cement Association, the Phoenix Cement Company, the Wisconsin Ready Mix Concrete Association, and the Washington Aggregates and Concrete Association all support this bill.

A vote against this bill is a vote for prolonged regulatory uncertainty. A vote against this bill is a vote to increase costs on the Federal, State, and local governments and infrastructures. A vote against this bill is a vote to increase costs on all Americans and to dare unemployment to go even higher. A vote against this bill is a direct message to career State employees in States across this country that you do not trust them to do the right thing regarding regulation of coal ash.