

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

STRENGTHEN CONGRESS' OVERSIGHT OF THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO

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

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced an amendment during the House Natural Resources Committee markup to strengthen Congress' oversight of the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico, specifically addressing net metering policies and the PREPA bankruptcy.

Though the amendment didn't pass, it received bipartisan support from Representatives TOM MCCLINTOCK, NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, DARREN SOTO, and others. It is critical that Congress ensures transparency and accountability in Puerto Rico's financial and energy decisions.

The FOMB's stance on net metering harms our people, and the PREPA bankruptcy remains unresolved. After 7 or 8 years of questionable Federal oversight, it is time to hold the overseers accountable.

I will continue to fight for fairness and transparency for Puerto Rico, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

FEDERAL WORKERS SAVE TAXPAYERS MONEY

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise because many people want to paint Federal workers and contractors as unskilled bureaucrats who waste taxpayer dollars. However, the reality is the opposite. I know this because Virginia is home to hundreds of thousands of our country's Federal workers and contractors, and I have heard from many of them.

These Federal workers actually save taxpayers money, and they keep all Americans safe and healthy, despite all the regulations imposed on them by Congress. That is the bureaucracy. In almost all cases, they bring critical skills or expertise that are hard to replace.

One GSA employee says firings in her department, which is focused on threats to America's crops, could cost us hundreds of millions of dollars down the road.

One contractor who supports anti-terrorism efforts overseas was fired despite his track record of success countering extremism.

These firings even threaten border security. A contractor who vets refugees has to lay off 100 security experts because of the cuts.

No one will want to serve our government if Federal workers and contractors are treated this way. The attacks on Federal civil servants will cost taxpayers money and make all Americans less safe and less healthy.

RIISING UTILITY BILLS

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

Mr. RILEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, working families are getting screwed. Last year, I met a young family in Sullivan County who was struggling to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, do you cut back on the groceries to pay the rent? Do you maybe pick up a couple of extra shifts at work? However, then you have to pay for more childcare.

They are the tough conversations families are having at kitchen tables across Upstate New York.

Then, as if that is not enough, they get a letter in the mail from the utility company saying they are going to jack up rates again. These corporations are raking in billions of dollars, bragging to their investors about it, and now they want to take even more money from families struggling to get by.

Hell no.

Today I am fighting back. I am introducing a bipartisan bill to create good union jobs making homes more efficient. My bill will save families up to \$400 per year on their utility bills.

Mr. Speaker, \$400 is a lot of money for daycare, groceries, and rent because that young family in Sullivan County needs that money a hell of a lot more than the utility monopolies do.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TIM TOOTEN

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

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend, a great journalist, a humanitarian, and a man of faith, Rev. Dr. Tim Tooten.

Tim was an admired journalist having spent more than 35 years reporting at Baltimore's WBAL-TV. He was a distinguished pastor at Harvest Christian Ministries and an accomplished writer.

Tim was also an award-winning filmmaker, a documentary person who believed in reporting and sharing facts, as well as a cherished teacher to so many.

He confronted life with the courage of his convictions and confronted death with the conviction of his faith.

Our condolences across the Baltimore area go out to his wife, Charlene; his loving children; and his grandchildren during this time.

We will miss you, my friend, but we will never ever forget you.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRANK) laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 13, 2025.

I hereby designate the period from Thursday, February 13, 2025, through Sunday, February 23, 2025, as a "district work period" under clause 13 of Rule 1.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S DISMANTLING OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I am a stand-in. This is actually MARCY KAPTUR's Special Order hour. She is tied up in a hearing, so I will try to do my best to lay it out.

She was going to speak for 7 minutes on the issues of the Trump administration's dismantling of the Federal Government and the hiring of, or I guess the acquiescence of, Elon Musk as the principle agent of destruction.

What has happened over the last 17 days is an extraordinary display of contempt for the American Government. If you think about this, Mr. Speaker, in its totality, right off the start, all funding stopped.

What does that mean to the programs that Americans depends upon?

Healthcare, education, research, infrastructure programs, for what purpose was that done?

Perhaps it was in order to set up the next step which is the dismantling of extraordinary important programs for me and for my wife. More than almost 58 years ago, we participated in a USAID program which at that time was just 4 years old set up by Kennedy.

It was a vaccination program, an effort of the United Nations, funded by the American Government through USAID, to eradicate smallpox. We spent 1 month in rural Ethiopia doing vaccinations.

As our life worked on, we continued working to provide the necessary services so that people could survive, the Food for Peace program. Patti actually ran that when she was at the USDA as an assistant administrator.

The famine camps, we were there. We saw the children who were dying of starvation. We saw the American grain arrive. I remember clearly one evening at the famine camp in Ethiopia in the mid-eighties, a woman literally in rags, was picking up individual grains of wheat that had spilled from the bags trying to fill a cup so that there would be enough food that she could take back to her children.