

commonsense legislation to help lower fuel prices.

#### HOUSE REPUBLICANS IMPROVE AMERICA'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are committed to strengthening America's energy policies and lowering gas prices for families throughout our country. From supporting legislation to build more refineries to approving environmentally safe energy production, we have proposed commonsense initiatives that will provide a long-term solution to our energy crisis.

While Democrats may demagogue about any positive proposals, House Republicans continue to act on real reforms that will increase America's energy independence. Tomorrow, the House will consider the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act, introduced by Congressman BOBBY JINDAL, which empowers States to protect their coastlines by restricting energy production to the deep seas more than 100 miles away from our shore. Additionally, this bill allows more of America's massive energy resources to be produced on the Outer Continental Shelf.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

#### MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express support for an increase in the minimum wage.

We should show the Nation that we understand it has been too long since we increased the minimum wage. We should be ashamed it takes a full day's pay at minimum wage to fill up your car at the pump.

Congress has not raised the \$5.15 minimum wage since 1997. We are approaching a decade since we have addressed perhaps the most important issue for hardworking, low-income Americans.

This Congress has given billions of dollars in tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans, and we should help people who are working to make ends meet.

#### POINT OF ORDER

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I know it has gotten to be a habit. I would like to raise a point of order that a lot of Members from the Republican side seem to come up and stand at the podium when we are speaking, and I would hope we would not do that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct. Members should not traffic the well while another Member is under recognition.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has given billions of dollars in tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans. We should help people who are working to make ends meet.

Under this administration, costs for everything are up. Housing, health care and college tuition have all become more expensive and continue to rise. Yet a minimum wage earner can at best earn \$10,700 a year.

I look forward to voting on a minimum wage increase in the near future, and I hope our leadership has the courage to bring this important issue to the floor. Let's increase the minimum wage now.

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#### SUPPORT THE WARN ACT

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. First of all, Mr. Speaker, let me apologize to my colleague. I have been doing this for 9 years, and I am just trying to be efficient. That is all.

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, along with my colleagues, Representatives WYNN, BONO, ENGLISH, and MELANCON, I introduced the House version of the Warning, Alert and Response Network Act, also known as the WARN Act. The Emergency Alert System has not kept pace with our increasingly wireless and mobile society.

The WARN Act will help bring the Emergency Alert System into the 21st century by ensuring that, regardless of where an individual is or what kind of communication technologies they are using, they will receive a life-saving alert. Some examples of instances where they would receive an alert would be in response to all threats to public safety, including natural disasters, man-made accidents, and terrorist incidents.

The act also establishes a network for transmission of alerts across a broad variety of communication technologies, including wireless communication devices like cell phones and BlackBerrys; also things such as the Internet, digital, analog, cable, and satellite television, and satellite and terrestrial radio, as well as nontraditional media such as the public warning sirens.

This is in response to the recommendations of the White House on the Katrina report. I encourage all my colleagues to join me in supporting the WARN Act.

#### REPUBLICAN DO-NOTHING CONGRESS REFUSES TO ADDRESS OUR NATION'S ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, at the end of this week, the House Republican leadership will once again leave town for another recess without seriously addressing our Nation's energy crisis. House Republicans have trumpeted this week as Energy Week. You would think if they were really serious about tackling this crisis we would spend the entire week debating a comprehensive energy proposal that would end our reliance on foreign oil and foster new energy technologies.

Instead, we get more of the same from the Republican leadership. Energy Week has turned into Energy Day, a debate on one bill that would allow oil and gas companies to drill on the Outer Continental Shelf off both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Drilling off our coasts is not only environmentally and economically risky, but it is not possible for another 7 years. How is that supposed to help consumers today? The answer is that it is not.

House Republicans are only interested in lining the pocketbooks of the oil and gas companies. If House Republicans were serious about addressing our energy crisis, the House would debate my legislation that would reduce the price of a barrel of oil by \$20. Instead, we spend 1 day on a bill that does nothing to assist Americans with the high cost of energy.

#### CONGRATULATING ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of St. Cloud, Minnesota, as it celebrates its sesquicentennial.

In 1856, three settlements along the Mississippi River formed the City of St. Cloud. Bolstered by the area's rich granite deposits, St. Cloud's local economy grew quickly, and it remains today the largest metropolitan area in central Minnesota.

Home of St. Cloud State University and nearby St. John's University and the College of Saint Benedict, as well as a multitude of parks, community organizations, and thriving businesses, St. Cloud has built a reputation as a positive place for families and a community that works together.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone for St. Cloud, a city that has brought 150 years of pride to the State of Minnesota.

#### REPUBLICAN RX DRUG PLAN IS ACTUALLY DRIVING UP PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to highlight two new reports out over the last week that once again demonstrates how the pharmaceutical industry is benefiting from the new prescription drug plan, while American seniors and the American taxpayers are paying even larger bills.

The first study, done by AARP, concluded that wholesale prices on the most popular drugs used by American seniors increased by 3.9 percent over the first 3 months of the year. Pharmaceutical companies promised drug prices would go down when the Republican plan took effect, but now it is clear they have actually increased at four times the rate of inflation.

The second study was conducted by Families USA, which found that American veterans are paying 43 percent less for their drugs than their counterparts under the Republican prescription drug plan. Our veterans get cheaper rates because the VA negotiates to get better deals from the pharmaceutical companies.

Contrast that with the Republican drug plan that restricts Medicare from negotiating on behalf of the American seniors.

#### NATIONAL SECURITY LEAKS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, last week newspapers disclosed the details of a secret program used to track terrorist financial activity. Some newspaper editors make vague references to the public interest as their justification for publishing national security secrets. The greater public interest is protecting our homeland from another savage terror attack.

Our terrorist enemies are crystal clear about their intention. They seek the death not of hundreds or thousands but tens of thousands of innocent Americans. The program revealed last week by the media had been successful in stopping the terrorists from achieving their murderous aims. But now, thanks to the media, one more tool used to protect each and every one of us has been compromised.

Should this disclosure contribute to another attack on America, I wonder how the media will explain itself to the husbands, wives, sons, and daughters of those killed.

Mr. Speaker, the media got it wrong in this case. Because of them, we are in greater danger today than we were yesterday. In a time of war, this is truly disgraceful.

#### DO WHAT YOU CAN WITH WHAT YOU GOT WHERE YOU ARE

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, FDR once said, "Do what you can with what you got where you are."

We have west coast salmon fishermen that can't fish because of the government's stupidity. The administration released water in the Upper Klamath Basin to water intensive crops that killed the downstream fish, the breeding stock of wild salmon. The result is that fishermen can't fish.

The governments of the States have asked the administration to call for an emergency declaration to aid these fishermen. They have refused.

Today, the House of Representatives will hear about the plight of the fishermen and the failure of the GOP leadership to help them. We will do what we can with what we got where we are.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN BURSON

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a brave and giving man from my district, Dr. John Burson.

Dr. Burson is the CEO of Chattahoochee Healthcare in Carrollton, Georgia; and he was recently honored with a Healthcare Hero award for his selfless efforts on behalf of injured civilians in Iraq.

As a physician myself, I know many doctors but few with the tenacity of Dr. Burson. At age 71, he packed his bag for Baghdad, where he worked all during the day at the United States Embassy clinic and by night at the Combat Support Hospital treating injured Iraqi citizens. He even treated ABC news anchor Bob Woodward after he was injured by a roadside bomb.

Dr. Burson is a retired Lieutenant Colonel from the United States Army Reserves, where he spent 30 years serving our country. Thankfully, his retirement from the Reserves has not ended his commitment to service. In fact, Dr. Burson traveled to Iraq last November so he could relieve younger military doctors who wanted to spend the Christmas holidays with their families.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Burson has used his skill and passion to improve the lives of patients from Georgia and Iraq; and I ask you to join me in saluting this brave American.

#### KEEP IMMIGRATION ISSUE ALIVE

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to keep the immigration issue alive today. In spite of extraordinary efforts by our President and the Senate, the House majority is stalling any real negotiations by insisting on time-consuming hearings aimed at taking the temperature of the American public.

We know a clear majority of Americans want action and reform. Should we attempt border security first, which I believe we should, we still need to face the fact that comprehensive reform is necessary. This must include a guest worker program and dealing with the 11 million people who are here today that are contributing to our economy.

Need I remind my colleagues of the difficulty we had in just moving a few hundred thousand people from the gulf coast during the Katrina hurricane? Let us convene now the conference committee on immigration and deal with the issue and develop a bipartisan solution.

Delaying the conference committee with this proposed dog and pony show does the Nation no good. Further discussions need to begin. Delaying the difficult decisions will not make it go away. The American public wants and deserves action, not the politics of division.

#### REPUBLICAN PRINCIPLES ON IMMIGRATION

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week, House Republicans outlined five principles that we want included in any immigration reform legislation before it is sent to the President. They are:

Republicans want to put a premium on border security and provide the resources necessary to strengthen our Border Patrol.

Republicans want to strengthen the enforcement of immigration laws and stiffen the penalties for those who break those laws.

Republicans want to hold employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens accountable and strengthen the penalties on them.

Republicans oppose any and all efforts to reward those who break our immigration laws.

And last, Republicans believe that immigrants must come here legally, obey our laws, and assimilate into American society by learning English.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans passed a bill last December that incorporated these principles. Unfortunately, some of our colleagues in the Senate are pushing for legislation that would actually weaken our borders.

Mr. Speaker, this is neither what the American people need nor want.

#### RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, in one week House Republicans have shown where their priorities lie, who they are willing to help, and who really gets left behind.