

The President and his negotiators would be wise to abide by these guidelines today, as any agreement reached in Copenhagen would likely be more devastating to the American economy than Kyoto. But it's not just Copenhagen that Americans have to worry about, the President wants to pursue an environmental agenda in any way he can, including through cap-and-trade. In my view, cap-and-trade, approved by the House of Representatives in June, remains one of the most damaging pieces of legislation ever passed by the House of Representatives during my time in Congress, especially as it affects agriculture and rural America.

□ 1515

The passage of a cap-and-trade bill will increase the cost of doing business in the United States, will force business owners to close their doors, and will cause companies to leave the country for locations where costs are lower.

The respected Heritage Foundation studied the Waxman-Markey cap-and-trade bill. The study showed that the legislation would result in annual losses to GDP of almost \$400 billion and that it would lead to the loss of 1 million jobs.

At a House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research hearing last week, USDA's chief economist and other experts from universities across the Nation all testified that the costs for fuel, fertilizer and other business inputs would increase under cap-and-trade, meaning more harm to business and the people they employ.

For example, one witness cited an Energy Information Administration analysis that showed, in 2030, the Waxman-Markey bill would raise diesel fuel costs by 15 percent, electricity costs by 22 percent and industrial natural gas costs by 26 percent. The last thing we need is another law or treaty that dashes the hope for economic recovery and that destroys more jobs, but the President continues to push for just that.

On Monday, the EPA ruled that carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases are a danger to public health and to the environment. This decision means EPA can impose greenhouse gas regulations without Congressional action. This threat is no reason to pass cap-and-trade. We must defeat cap-and-trade in the Senate and then put an end to the faulty interpretation of the Clean Air Act by the EPA.

The President should refrain from entering into international agreements, and the EPA must be stopped from making decisions that are not supported by science or current law. At a time when so many Americans are without work, the President needs to focus on ways to create jobs and to improve the economy.

A cap-and-trade bill, EPA regulations, or an international treaty, all of which are on the President's holiday wish list, would be devastating to the

U.S. economy. That's a holiday gift that no American can afford. The passage of cap-and-trade, an agreement in Copenhagen, clean air findings by the EPA—we can just as soon leave those presents under the Christmas tree unopened.

President Obama and Speaker PELOSI, don't be the grinch that steals our Christmas. And I hope that is not "just the way it is."

CEREAL NIGHT AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF PAH AWARENESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

CEREAL NIGHT

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special event happening tonight in my district thanks to the efforts of a very special young boy and his family. This evening, the second annual Cereal Night will take place at North Kingstown High School in Rhode Island, which is where hundreds will gather to donate to our local food pantries.

The mastermind behind this event is one of my young constituents, Patrick Gannon, an 11-year-old 5th grader and Cub Scout from North Kingstown. Like all Rhode Islanders, Patrick has seen the devastating effects of the economic downturn in our State, where unemployment has reached 13 percent, where record numbers of foreclosures continue to force people from their homes, where food pantries are struggling to meet the needs in their communities, and where too many of our neighbors are desperate for a hand.

Well, last year, when he was only 10 years old, Patrick came up with a way to help. His idea was that, one night of the year, families could eat cereal for dinner and could donate the money or food they saved to a local food pantry. While encouraged by his parents, Bill and Jackie, he began to organize the first Cereal Night last December. Soon, friends, local businesses, and even our Governor were involved in highlighting this initiative.

On the night before the event, though, a snowstorm hit Rhode Island, making it doubtful that there would be a big turnout. Nevertheless, Patrick was there the next day at one of the drop-off sites, running out to cars through the snow to accept their donations. At the end of the day, three tons of food were donated to the Rhode Island Food Bank, and plans to build on this success were put in motion.

Like any proud mother, Jackie did her best to spread the word—reaching out to nonprofit organizations and even writing to President and Mrs. Obama, telling them about Patrick's work and asking them to make Cereal Night a national event. Well, sadly, she won't be able to see those efforts come to fruition. On November 7 of this year,

2 days before Patrick's 11th birthday, Jackie suffered a ruptured aneurysm and passed away. Well, her death was a shocking and heartbreaking blow to her family and friends, but they have channeled their grief towards the cause that she was inspired to embrace by her son Patrick.

This year, Cereal Night will be an opportunity for the community to come together to give something back to those in need, to celebrate Patrick's imagination and commitment and to honor the life of a beloved mother who touched all those who were lucky enough to know her.

This holiday season, we are reminded of how important it is to help each other get through these tough times. We are all reminded of families like the Gannons, where the spirit of giving and of serving the community is passed down from generation to generation. We are reminded that you are never too young to make a difference.

Patrick is an inspiration to me, and I encourage my colleagues and all those who are listening to follow his example by donating to a local food pantry, by starting a Cereal Night in your own community, and by spreading the word about this simple effort that can mean so much to a neighbor in need.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Jackie's family, including Patrick, her husband, Bill, and their younger son, Liam, as well as her friends and all those who mourn her loss.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF PAH AWARENESS

Mr. Speaker, I start a second statement, which is equally inspiring.

I consider it a privilege to recognize and commend the extraordinary efforts of a young man named Matt Moniz. This 11-year-old from Boulder, Colorado, scaled three of the world's seven summits in order to raise money and awareness for his best friend, Iain Hess, who suffers from Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension, or PAH.

PAH is a rare, progressive disorder characterized by abnormally high blood pressure in the pulmonary artery—the blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the lungs. For people living with PAH, like Matt's friend, Iain, the simplest of daily activities can cause shortness of breath, dizziness, fatigue, chest pain, and swollen legs and ankles.

As an experienced climber, Matt is very familiar with these symptoms, which can often affect climbers at high altitudes; but while Matt knows that he'll be fine as soon as he descends the mountain, there is no known cure for those who suffer from PAH. It's a life-threatening disease that can cost thousands of dollars a month to treat. In fact, Iain's medical bills run more than \$100,000 a year. Right now, Iain's family is fortunate to have health insurance that absorbs much of the cost of his care. However, they are all too aware that Iain may soon reach the lifetime limit of his coverage, leaving them no

choice but to pay for the care themselves.

That's why, Mr. Speaker, by the way, it is so important that we pass national health insurance that this House passed just a short time ago.

Equally cognizant of difficulties that Iain and his family face, Matt decided to do his part to help. In a noble act of true empathy and friendship, Matt Moniz joined his family and friends in a campaign to climb 14 of Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks in 14 days, covering a total of 42,020 vertical feet and 71 miles. This, in and of itself, would have been an incredible feat, but this extraordinary young man accomplished it in 8 days. His goal was to give each climber a firsthand sense of a typical day in the life of a patient living with PAH while simultaneously raising money to ease the financial burden for his friend Iain and his family.

Well, on Saturday, July 18, 2009, Matt and his fellow climbers completed this extraordinary endeavor, raising a total of \$20,000 for the Iain Hess Breathe Easy Fund and the Pulmonary Hypertension Association. Of course, he could not have accomplished this amazing task without the love and support of his father, Mike, of his mother, Deidra, and of his twin sister, Kaylee—all of whom took part in the climb—as well as Iain's sister, Olivia Hess, and numerous other friends, family, supporters, community partners, and sponsors.

Mr. Speaker, Matt's compassion and tenacity exemplify the best of who we are and what we aspire to be. Matt is in the audience today with his family. I want to applaud Matt for his extraordinary effort, and I look forward to supporting his campaign to raise awareness of PAH so we can work toward a cure for everyone so that everyone can breathe a little easier.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members not to make reference to those sitting in the gallery.

THE DEMISE OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY AND THE ROAD TO SO- CIALISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I get a big kick out of listening to the colloquy between the leadership people every week when we come to the end of the week and we start talking about the program for the following week. If I were an American citizen, sitting at home, watching this, I'd be so confused about what's going on. So I felt compelled tonight to come down here and just talk a little bit about what's going on so my colleagues back in their offices—and if anybody else is

paying any attention—can really find out what's going on in this place.

This last fiscal year just passed. We went in the hole \$1.4 trillion. So far, this fiscal year, in 2 months, we're ahead of last year's fiscal year. We were \$1.4 trillion in the hole this last fiscal year, and we're already ahead of that this year. The health care bill that is pending in the Senate is going to cost between \$1 trillion and \$3 trillion—probably closer to \$3 trillion if it passes. We passed an omnibus spending bill yesterday that cost \$447 billion. Now, these aren't millions. We are talking about billions and trillions. The cap-and-trade bill that they are talking about, which is going to raise everybody's electric bills and gasoline bills and gas bills to heat their homes, is going to cost \$894 billion.

We are digging ourselves into a hole that is unbelievable. Yet I hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle saying, You know, we're going to create jobs; we're going to solve these problems; everything is coming up roses. It isn't.

I talked to some of the pages in the back today, young people who are out here who are getting a chance to see how Congress works. I actually feel sorry for them because we are creating an environment where, when they grow up and get out and get a job, they are going to be faced with very high inflation and with very high taxes. There is no way to pay for all of the things we are doing the way we are going. There is just no way.

With Medicare and Medicaid, Medicare is close to being bankrupt. On the other side, they are talking about lowering the age to 55 of the people who can become participants in Medicare. That's another 30-some million people they want to add to it, and it's supposed to go bankrupt in the next 3, 4, or 5 years. I mean it just does not make sense.

In addition to that—and these are all facts—they want to increase taxes, and they want to let the tax cuts we passed in about 2001 expire, which means that's a tax increase. If they expire, then taxes are going to go up, so they are going to raise taxes that way as well.

They talk about jobs and the economy. Taking money from the taxpayer and throwing it at the economy is not working. They tried that with the stimulus bill—over \$1 trillion, when you include interest—and the jobless rate went up to 10.2 percent. The President said before he took office that he wouldn't let it go above 8 percent. Now they're bragging because it's back down to 10 percent, and it's probably going to go up again.

You can't create jobs with government money and by throwing money at it. You've got to do something to stimulate the small business man and the private sector. The way you do that is the way Ronald Reagan did it.

You come in, and you say to the businessman, Okay. We are going to cut

your taxes so you can keep people on the payroll and can hire people and can produce more product.

You say to the consumer, the guy who is working, We're going to cut your taxes. You'll have more money to go out and buy a refrigerator or a car or something else.

Because of that, you create a demand economy. You start creating people wanting to buy things. Producers are going to produce things. You're going to have more people working because you're going to need people working to produce those things. That's what Reagan did, and we had 20 years of economic growth. They're doing just the opposite right now.

Right now, this administration and the Democrats in Congress are taking over the automobile industry. We all know that. They are trying to take over the health industry with socialized medicine, which is one-sixth of our economy. They are trying to take over the energy area, which is going to raise everybody's cost of electricity, gasoline, and gas with a cap-and-trade bill. They are trying to control completely the financial industry—the banks and Wall Street and everything else.

Socialism simply does not work. Blowing taxpayers' money like we are doing does not work. We are creating an environment right now where we are going to see real economic chaos, and I believe everybody in America feels it. When I go to my town meetings and have 500 or 600 people show up when we used to have 40, they feel it. They know what's going on, and they want government to get out of the way. They want jobs created, but they know that it has to be created through the private sector. Government can't give unless it takes, and it is taking and taking and taking and taking.

So I would just like to say to my colleagues back in their offices and to anybody else who pays attention—and if I were talking to the American people, I'd say—Call your Congressmen and Senators, and tell them to stop this madness.

□ 1530

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING RUTH TIGHE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, here is a worthy New Year's resolution. "Try to remember to praise people at the time of their praiseworthy performance, instead of years afterwards, or, as is