

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ready Mixed Concrete Company of Statesville, North Carolina, for its commitment to preserving our natural resources and the environment.

The Ready Mixed Cement Company of Statesville, along with the Ready Mixed Facility in Taylorsville, North Carolina, recently received the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association's Green-Star certification for its dedication to environmental excellence.

This accomplishment demonstrates how hard this company has worked to adapt its business practices to today's rapidly changing culture of sustainable business.

These efforts will not only protect the environment, but will also make the Ready Mixed Concrete Company of Statesville a better competitor and employer. That means more good jobs for the people of North Carolina, which is what we need most during these difficult economic times.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN CAMP ASHRAF

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to address what could develop into a humanitarian catastrophe in Iraq. Residents of Camp Ashraf, opponents of the Iranian regime who found a home in Iraq, appear to have been abandoned by the United States and other nations as they are subjected to unlawful seizure and detainment by Iraqi forces.

The Iraqi government must be called upon to respect the human rights of Ashraf residents and to honor its written commitment that it will treat all Ashraf residents humanely. The U.S. Government must ensure that the new democracy that we have helped prop up in Iraq does not forcibly return Ashraf residents to Iran, where they will face certain persecution, torture, and possibly even death. They must not be relocated to any country where they will be persecuted based upon their beliefs.

On a day when we have demonstrated here on the floor our support for the people and pro-democracy forces inside of Iran, let us not forget those in Camp Ashraf, Iraq.

EPA IS DESTROYING THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, earlier last week, the EPA announced that carbon dioxide is a health hazard and a pollutant that should be regulated under the Clean Air Act. That means that you and I are polluting simply by breathing.

Make no mistake about it, the timing of this announcement was inten-

tional. By issuing the ruling last week, the EPA is attempting to gloss over the inconvenient truth of thousands of emails by climate researchers revealing ways they manipulated or hid evidence that disproves their theories of climate change. Furthermore, the ruling is an attempt to avoid the fact that the American people are opposed to this job-killing cap-and-tax bill that has been stalled in the Senate. Inconveniently, that leaves negotiators in Copenhagen unable to broker a binding agreement.

The EPA is destroying the democratic process and rushing in to legislate where Congress refuses to tread. Will the American people support the administration's latest effort to regulate even more private companies out of business? I wouldn't hold my breath.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING CAREER OF JERRY HAYES

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of Jerry Hayes of Huntsville, Alabama.

In the Tennessee Valley, Jerry's decades of responsible journalism have earned him the respect and trust of hundreds of thousands of people. His 30 years at WHNT News 19 in north Alabama have brought inspiration and guidance to an untold number of aspiring journalists looking to begin their careers.

When he is not in the studio or at the scene of a story, Jerry is bettering the community around him. His work for Tennessee Valley children is near to my heart, and north Alabama parents owe him a debt of gratitude that is almost impossible to repay.

Each year, the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences recognizes individuals who have made a meaningful contribution to broadcasting by inducting them into the Silver Circle. Jerry epitomizes the type of excellence that the academy looks for, and I congratulate him on this achievement.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Jerry Hayes for his 30 years of service to north Alabama. Our community would not be the same without his dedication to the families of the Tennessee Valley.

MAKING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT PERMANENT

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

Mr. BOCCIERI. Madam Speaker, we will be judged by two measures in the United States Congress: action or inaction. I stand here before you today to tell you that we will recover from this economic recession. That is why bipar-

tisan efforts by myself and Congressman CHRIS LEE have worked across the aisle to make research and development tax credits to companies permanent so that they can manufacture and produce and research their products right here in the United States.

Our legislation creates American jobs and helps companies innovate by giving them an incentive to research and develop right here in the United States. This tax credit is an investment in our Nation's manufacturers. By making research and development tax credits permanent, our bill takes critical steps to make the U.S. more competitive because our credit will be comparable to those offered by other countries.

We will recover, and we will be judged by action or inaction. We will recover from this recession by investments into our manufacturing base in this great country.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

THE PHONE ACT

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

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak about H.R. 1110, the PHONE Act, which stands for Preventing Harassment through Outbound Number Enforcement. It will be voted on tomorrow. This bill addresses the growing and serious problems of caller ID fraud that allows the caller to hide their true identity to obtain personal information for use in identity theft and scams.

Answering your phone is like answering your door, you're letting someone into your home and you need to know that whoever that person says they are is true. Caller ID was originally designed to give you that information so you could decide to answer your phone and have the confidence that you were not taking a call that is unwanted, unsafe, or unknown. That is why I worked across the aisle with Representative BOBBY SCOTT in introducing H.R. 1110, which was first introduced in the 109th Congress. Representative SCOTT took the lead in the 110th Congress, and now we are again working together in the 111th Congress to pass this very important bill. I thank Representative SCOTT for his leadership and teamwork in passing this public safety bill.

The legislation is aimed at preventing and prohibiting caller ID spoofing. Spoofing is made available with Internet services that will provide false numbers and even disguise your voice so you can easily fool the person on the other end of the phone. Criminals coax victims into giving up sensitive personal information by making it appear that a call is coming from a legitimate institution, such as a bank, doctor's office, government office, or even a family member.

Misleading caller ID information also allows the spoofer to cause a victim to accept a call they would otherwise avoid, leading to harassment. Even more serious potential dangers exist. A pedophile could stalk a child by stealing a school phone number or the phone number of a friend or child. A sexual predator could use a doctor's office phone number to call their victim.

The problems with caller ID spoofing are very real. Let me give you a few examples.

There are cases where criminals using stolen credit card numbers call a service such as Western Union. They program the caller ID to appear to originate from the cardholder's home and use the credit card number to order cash transfers.

Seniors have been misled into believing they missed jury duty. It appeared the local courthouse was calling and victims were asked for Social Security numbers to prevent prosecution. The calls seemed legitimate because the telephone number of the local courthouse showed up on caller ID.

In another example, a SWAT team surrounded a building after it appeared a call came from within stating that a woman was being held hostage when, in fact, the call was coming from another location. The SWAT team showed up expecting to face an armed perpetrator. Luckily, no one was hurt in this one instance, but one can easily imagine what could have happened if an unsuspecting bystander happened to be at that location; a series of misunderstandings could have ended up in tragedy. Unfortunately, this process called "swatting" has occurred dozens of times.

And just this month, there have been two serious cases of caller ID fraud in the news. In Columbia, Maryland, a teenager was arrested for making terrorist phone calls to his former school, calling in a bomb scare and telling school officials there was a student on campus with a gun. The teen used spoofing to make the phone number appear to be coming from Texas. Fortunately, the police were able to subpoena the phone records and arrest the teen.

In Brooklyn, New York, a woman used caller ID fraud to exact revenge on her husband and his pregnant girlfriend's newborn baby. She illegally obtained a prescription that would induce labor early and called the girlfriend, using spoofing, to make it appear that her obstetrician was call-

ing. The woman, thinking she was under doctor's orders, took the medication and the baby was delivered 2 months premature. Police were able to track down the woman when she tried to deliver a poisonous mixture to the hospital disguised as milk, allegedly intending to kill the baby. The police arrested the woman, avoiding a devastating, tragic, and potentially fatal outcome that originated by using caller ID fraud. This could have been avoided if the caller had not used a fraudulent caller ID or if the police could have tracked down the perpetrator sooner.

This bill will make the act of caller ID fraud a felony, and criminals could see fines of up to \$250,000 and jail time up to 5 years if convicted of using caller ID fraud in perpetrating another crime.

I urge all my colleagues to pass this PHONE Act, H.R. 1110, because criminals must know they cannot use this technology loophole to escape the law and cause further harm to our citizens.

AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a number of my colleagues to express our continuing concern about the President's decision to escalate our military effort in Afghanistan by an additional 30,000 troops. Thirty thousand additional Americans put into harm's way in Afghanistan is a big deal, Madam Speaker, and I am concerned that the House of Representatives will be adjourning for the year without a real, meaningful, substantive debate about this important issue.

I happen to believe that increasing our military presence by 30,000 troops will make it 30,000 times harder to extricate ourselves from this mess. But whatever my colleagues believe about this decision—support, oppose, or non-committal—we owe it to ourselves and to the people that we represent to have a thorough debate about our policy.

□ 1745

I would urge this administration to submit their supplemental request for this escalation sooner rather than later. Congress has a constitutional role to play. We have the power of the purse and the responsibility to declare war. We haven't played that role in any meaningful way since 2001. That was the last time that this Chamber had a debate on Afghanistan, 2001.

In those eight long years hundreds of American soldiers have lost their lives, thousands have been wounded, and we have spent hundreds of billions of dollars, and we still do not have a clear exit strategy. Everyone seems to agree that Afghanistan requires a political solution. The question I still have is this: When does our military commitment to that political solution come to

an end so that we could bring our troops home?

In no way do I believe that we should abandon Afghanistan or its people. They have been through far too much trauma over the last several decades. Nor do I believe that we should abandon our fight against the people who murdered thousands of Americans on September 11, 2001.

Indeed, I am concerned that by committing over 100,000 American troops to nation building in Afghanistan, we will be less able to target those who attacked us, and that is al Qaeda, because al Qaeda no longer has a large presence in Afghanistan. Our top generals say that maybe there are 100 or less al Qaeda still in Afghanistan. They have moved to Pakistan.

I do not believe that the best, most effective way to fight al Qaeda is to increase our military footprint in Afghanistan. In Afghanistan we need a new strategy.

I would urge my colleagues to read a recent op ed in The New York Times by Nicholas Kristof. He points out that for the cost of one U.S. soldier deployed in Afghanistan, we could build 20 schools in Afghanistan. Let me repeat that. For the cost of one American soldier in Afghanistan for a year we could build 20 schools in Afghanistan.

Not only that, it seems that before the administration announced this new escalation, they failed to thoroughly consult with the elders and the local leaders and others in Afghanistan about the best way forward. Madam Speaker, without local support, without the support of the local leaders who have the respect of the Afghan people, nothing we do will work or be sustainable.

I also continue to be deeply troubled about the Karzai government. Today President Karzai is scheduled to convene a three-day conference on corruption. At a minimum, this conference is supposed to provide a forum where the Afghan government admits publicly that it runs on bribery, graft and cronyism which, in turn, fuels the Taliban insurgency.

President Karzai called this conference—not because he campaigned on cleaning up this government—but because of international pressure. He ran a fraudulent election that undermined international support for the war on Afghanistan, and this is an attempt to show the international community, and especially the United States, that he will somehow clean up his own house.

We will have to wait and see if it's more than just more talk, talk, talk. We will have to see if he is willing to kick out of office the very warlords, drug lords, family members, and cronies he appointed to high government positions, and if he does, whether he appoints reform-minded Afghans in their place.

Again, Madam Speaker, we are about to embark on another huge escalation in a very troubled part of the world.