

But when you see your paycheck, you get a paycheck and you realize that your dollar gets—in a year gets worth 10 percent less, and the next year 10 percent less again, and just like interest compounds, so does inflation.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Pretty soon your money is worth half.

Mr. CARTER. So if it would have cost you \$1 to buy this clip when you first started, it will end up costing you \$2 to buy that clip—it's the same clip—because inflation is running away.

Mrs. BACHMANN. And your dollar is worth half of what you thought it was worth.

Mr. CARTER. President Obama promised the people at Caterpillar that if the stimulus bill passed, they would start hiring soon. The reality is they started laying off again because it wasn't the solution to the problem.

I have got another friend that's here to join us, Mr. WESTMORELAND from the great State of Georgia, and I am going to yield him so much time as he may wish to consume.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Thank you to the gentleman from Texas for yielding and for having this hour.

I think if I was going to grade President Obama on the first 100 days, that I would have to give him an "A" in public perception.

Mr. CARTER. Amen.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I think he is a great orator. I think he does a great job of reading a speech, and he has—his message, and he's still been on the campaign trail, has made the public's perception think that we are getting somewhere. But the gentleman from Texas makes an excellent point. I thought he said it would not rise above 7.5 percent.

I would also have to give him an "A" on blame shifting. And the gentleman from Texas mentioned that, too, that this seems to be all of our problems—all of our problems seem to be from the prior administration and the prior Congresses when the Republicans were in the majority.

Now, I am here to confess that I was only here one term while we were—the Republicans were in the majority and we spent too much money. And we did. And we were at fault. And the American people said, "No, we're going to stop this train. We're going to make a change." And Republicans, we got what we deserved, but the American people did not get what they deserved.

In this last election, they were promised change, and we have had quite a bit of change. And Judge, the gentleman from Texas, I know you have talked about quite a bit of that, but we need to go forward.

And I have learned something in the past 3 or 4 months that bipartisanship means doing what the Democratic leadership in this House wants you to do. It doesn't mean getting different opinions or different proposals put into the legislation. In fact, I would have to say that this Congress has been one of the most closed Congresses in the history

of this country, as far as bipartisanship.

So, the public perception is an "A." He has sold his agenda in a way that the public has bought it, and one of those parts has been the bipartisanship. But the people that can create the real bipartisanship in the atmosphere of working together is Speaker PELOSI and Leader REID. And the gentleman from Texas knows we have not seen that. We have, in fact, been closed out of the process. So that's not a reality.

The reality is, as my colleague from Georgia mentioned, yesterday was debt day. After yesterday, we go forward spending our children and our grandchildren's money. We're putting everything we're doing on a credit card. I sat here for 2 years in this Congress and I listened to the minority, the Democrats then, complain about deficit spending, about going into debt, on and on and on. Yet today, that seems to be okay. That seems to be the way of this country: We're just going to put it on a credit card. If we don't have enough credit, then we will print the money.

But I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for doing this and for bringing about a report card, I guess, on what the first 100 days has been about in this administration. I hope the next 100 days will be better. I wish this President great success. I wish this country great success.

But I believe in order to achieve that success, we're going to have to get away from the blame shifting. We're going to have to get away from the public perception. We're going to have to get away from selling the snake oil that's sold here, and we're going to have to get down to working together, listening to ideas, and being able to come together and give every Member of this body, the people's House, an opportunity to put forth their ideas into making this a better country that we live in.

So I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding that time and for his willingness to come down and to bring this forth to the American people.

Mr. CARTER. I thank you. Those were wonderful comments.

You know, when you were talking about bipartisanship, I wanted to point out to you that you had it exactly right. It seems that bipartisanship means "do what we say." You know, the worst demonstration of wanting to be bipartisan occurred in February when it was announced that the 2010 census would be moved out of the Department of Commerce and into the White House to politicize the accounting of the American public.

Now, why would I worry about that? Well, because we, Members of Congress, are the branch of this government that is represented by a number of people. We have a number of people that we represent. And we divide the population of this country by a number that is expected to be somewhere around

800,000–850,000 people, I understand it, after the next census. And then that decides how many congressmen and -women we get from each State.

This has always been done by independent people as nonpartisan as possible because the count matters. And so say you're moving it out of the department that it has been in and into the White House, there is nothing bipartisan about that. Absolutely nothing. The center of the universe of one party is the White House.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. PERLMUTTER (during the Special Order of Mr. CARTER) from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-87) on the resolution (H. Res. 365) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE WORK OF THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert supplementary materials on the topic of my Special Order this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus, the CBC, is proud to anchor this hour. Currently, the CBC is chaired by the Honorable BARBARA LEE from the 9th Congressional District from California. My name is Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, representing the 11th Congressional District of Ohio.

CBC members are advocates for the human family, nationally and internationally, and have played a significant role as a local and regional activist. We continue to work diligently to be the conscience of the Congress. But understand, all politics are local. Therefore, we provide dedicated and focused service to citizens of the congressional districts we serve.

The vision of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus, to

promote the public welfare through legislation designed to meet the needs of millions of neglected citizens, continues to be the focal point for the legislative work and political activities of the Congressional Black Caucus today.

This week, the Caucus has joined to discuss one of the most important topics facing our country: the energy crisis. Rising global oil prices, concerns over energy security and the urgent need to address climate change has made energy a central concern of the 111th Congress and necessitated this message hour.

Mr. Speaker, I would now yield to our Chair, the honorable Ms. LEE from California, the gentlelady from California.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much.

First, let me thank Representative FUDGE from Ohio once again for holding the Special Order today as Congress continues to work to break away from this business-as-usual with regards to our Nation's energy future. Thank you Congresswoman FUDGE for selflessly each and every Monday night coming to the floor making sure that the voice of the Congressional Black Caucus is heard on each and every issue, day in and day out.

Let me also take a moment to thank the Chairs of the Congressional Black Caucus's energy and environmental task force, Representatives G.K. BUTTERFIELD, EMANUEL CLEAVER, and SHEILA JACKSON-LEE. I want to thank them for their leadership and their tireless efforts to promote proper stewardship of our communities by protecting the environment.

It's so important that we continue to call for action on these issues surrounding global warming and the continued degradation of our environment that is perpetrated by our perilous—and I mean our perilous—and I think the whole country understands what we mean now when we say “perilous dependence” on fossil fuels.

As I have said time and time again, there is no way that we can deny the interconnection between our stewardship of the environment and the state of the economy, public health and our communities. The drastic acceleration of greenhouse gas emissions has often been concentrated in low-income and in minority communities putting these vulnerable populations on the front lines, mind you, of the fight against environmental degradation and global climate change. In fact, 71 percent of African Americans live in counties in violation of Federal air pollution standards—that's 71 percent of African Americans—and 78 percent live within 30 miles or within the toxic perimeter of a coal-fired power plant. This is shameful.

□ 2100

Day after day, the communities in my district, for example, face the severe consequences of pollution, urban sprawl, and environmental injustice

which harshly affects people of color and low-income families. Sadly, this epidemic is hitting our children the hardest. Back home in my district, children growing up in west Oakland are seven times more likely to be hospitalized for asthma than the average child in California.

None of us can afford to take this lightly. The health of our community and our neighbors affects us all. Simply put, climate change has and will continue to exacerbate the problems of poverty and inequality.

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus Energy Task Force and myself recently wrote a letter to Chairman WAXMAN of the House Energy and Commerce Committee expressing support for comprehensive climate legislation and investments in the green economy. I won't read the letter in its entirety, Mr. Speaker, but I will insert the letter into the RECORD.

Basically, we talked about investments in the green economy, we talked about consumer protection, job leakage protection, adaptation, and of course we talked about why we thought this bill should move very quickly and move forward with these key elements in place. In this letter, we also stress the importance of shielding low-income households from price shocks to ensure that they do not bear a disproportionate burden as we transition to a low-carbon economy. We also called for the expansion of complimentary energy-efficient programs, and for regular and predictable funding for adaptation and mitigation assistance abroad.

By the year 2030, it is estimated that the cost of adapting to global climate change could amount to more than \$100 billion annually, with up to \$67 billion per year to meet the needs of the developing world alone.

Now, earlier this year, I introduced H. Con. Res. 98, a congressional resolution which recognizes the disparate impact of climate change on women and the efforts of women globally to address climate change. This resolution illustrates the disproportionate impact of climate change and environmental degradation on the world's most vulnerable populations. More importantly, it reflects the reality that any strategy to combat global warming and climate change will really need to include meaningful and equitable action on the international level.

The United States must provide support for adaptation and sustainable development abroad, as well as assistance to ensure affordable access to emerging clean technologies. It is time to think big, not small. And the challenge of addressing global climate change will require a truly comprehensive and transformative solution.

I am greatly encouraged by the actions already taken by the Obama administration to reengage with the international community in order to find solutions to this global challenge. And I also applaud the Environmental

Protection Agency's recent finding that greenhouse gases endanger public health and welfare, which finally recognizes the need to protect our communities and the global ecosystem by acting immediately to curb carbon pollution.

And, Congresswoman FUDGE, as I was listening to the other side talk a little earlier, I couldn't help but wonder really where they were for the last 8 years because, had some of these actions and initiatives been put in place in the last 8 years, perhaps we would be much further ahead in our overall climate change efforts. And the public health, of course, would be, I think, much better protected. I think we heard a little bit of revisionist history tonight, so I just have to say that as I move forward.

As Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, let me just say that we want to continue to work with the Obama administration—and all of my colleagues here in a bipartisan way—to help pass responsible and comprehensive climate change legislation that will spur the development of clean, renewable energy and the deployment of much needed energy-efficient technologies.

Legislation which sets us on a path toward energy independence and a new low-carbon economy will help to maintain the United States' position as a leader in innovation and create hundreds of thousands of good-paying green jobs, and finally, help us get off of this addiction that we have to oil, especially break the stronghold that really has been crippling us in terms of our dependence on foreign oil.

One of the most exciting and inclusive solutions to many issues facing environmental health is the possibility afforded to us by promoting green jobs training and the growth of the green economy in America. And I am very pleased to say that the President, in his economic recovery package—which, of course, the other side I don't think mentioned tonight—included \$100 million for green job training. We have to have people prepared for the new world, the new jobs that are going to be provided by this industry. And so \$100 million would get us started on that path. But again, we have to look at this in a bipartisan way, and I hope that at some point we will.

To that end, I recently reintroduced legislation entitled, the Metro Economies Green Act, or the MEGA bill. This is H.R. 330. This establishes grant programs to encourage energy-efficient economic development and green job training and creation of green jobs. This legislation would also create a national institute to serve as a clearinghouse for best practices in order to facilitate the successful expansion of green jobs on a national scale.

As a representative of California's Ninth Congressional District, I would also just like to take a moment to recognize the role that California's East Bay is playing at the forefront of the green jobs industry and the green jobs

movement. We have a number of innovative initiatives in my district in particular, including the East Bay Green Corridor Initiative, the Oakland Green Job Corps, the Joint BioEnergy Institute, the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab and the Energy Biosciences Institute at Berkeley.

I recently visited the Oakland Green Job Corps with the special advisor to President Obama on energy and climate change, Carol Browner—who is doing a fantastic job in this position—and also with Mayor Ron Dellums, who is providing tremendous leadership in this area. We visited the Oakland Green Job Corps to show the Obama administration really a groundbreaking example of green-collar jobs, workforce development, and what we are doing in Oakland in terms of preparing our young people for these jobs of the future. This is already up and running in Oakland, California.

The Oakland Green Job Corps is a partnership of community organizations, trade unions, private companies, and the city of Oakland. It provides Oakland's residents with the necessary training, support, and work experience to independently pursue these careers in the new energy economy.

One component of the Corps is called the Cypress Mandela Training Center. This provides invaluable pathways out of poverty, which is extremely important to recognize that these positions provide this new industry. Also, it provides vocational training for Bay-area men and women, especially those with barriers to employment.

Green has already become the fifth-largest industry in the Nation. And with the proper support and funding, we will continue to see an explosion of innovation and the expansion of economic opportunities surrounding the green movement.

There is no doubt in my mind that a greener future will lead to a more prosperous future for our communities, the Nation, and the world, but it must be a movement that is inclusive of all and that leaves no community behind. So I urge my colleagues, on a bipartisan basis, to act swiftly to move America beyond its dependence on oil, address the climate crisis, and really help protect America's natural resources for our children's future. And as a person of faith, I just must say that we must preserve and we must protect God's creation, which is our planet.

Thank you, Congresswoman FUDGE.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS OF
THE 111TH UNITED STATES CON-
GRESS,

Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC, April 9, 2009.

Hon. HENRY WAXMAN,

Chairman, House Committee on Energy and
Commerce, Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WAXMAN, As you draft and consider comprehensive energy legislation to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and to curb greenhouse gas emissions, we the undersigned Members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) respectfully request your consideration of the issues discussed in this letter.

Climate change represents a tangible threat to the communities we represent as well as the United States as a whole and we, therefore, encourage and support your efforts to address this critical issue. We support science-based legislation to reduce domestic greenhouse gas emissions at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. The United States must be a leader on this global issue, and this target is consistent with the proposals of the Obama Administration.

INVESTMENT IN THE GREEN ECONOMY

Comprehensive energy legislation will revolutionize our economy and energy infrastructure, spurring us to become more innovative and efficient. The growing "Green Economy" presents an opportunity to create large numbers of quality green-collar jobs for American workers, to grow emerging industries, and to improve the health of low- and middle-income Americans. Any public investment in the Green Economy should include serious efforts to train, employ and provide public service opportunities that lead to full-time employment in these industries. This is a significant opportunity to make cost-effective public and private investments to rebuild and retrofit our nation. We recommend the following:

Develop a career pipeline, particularly in low- and middle income communities, through training, job readiness and entrepreneurship programs, to ensure that people who most need work are prepared for the family-sustaining jobs and careers in energy efficiency and energy service industries. Ensuring local hiring practices will be critical to engaging these distressed communities.

Development of Green Energy Centers of Excellence at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to research and develop new green technologies as well as train implementers in the deployment of green innovation. HBCUs maintain unique relationships with communities of color, and we should use their expertise to educate these communities on the opportunities in green industries and the techniques needed to succeed.

Ensure local and national certification standards for technical jobs to ensure appropriate levels of expertise.

Apply large-scale energy-saving measures to the nation's building stock, which will create hundreds of thousands of green-collar jobs while dramatically reducing American's energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

A cap-and-trade system will increase the cost of energy derived from high-polluting production processes for all households. Low- and middle-income households spend a greater share of their budget on energy costs than higher income households. To help prevent climate change policy from being unfairly burdensome on these households, we recommend:

Measures to offset the disproportionate impact of increased energy costs that could take the form of a climate rebate equal to the loss in purchasing power extended to the lowest quintile, the second quintile and partially extended to the third quintile. For households that file no tax returns, the rebate could be administered through the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system. For all others, the rebate could be extended through a higher Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or alternative tax mechanisms that make the connection with this increased cost.

Further investments in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Weatherization Assistance Program, and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program.

Prevent the creation of "hot spots" and "outsourcing" to communities of color and

low-income or otherwise vulnerable communities domestically and abroad.

JOB LEAKAGE PROTECTION

Many manufacturing jobs in this country produce goods that compete in global markets. Under a domestic cap-and-trade program, these industries will face pressure from increased costs due to direct regulation of their emissions as well as higher energy costs.

If this is not addressed, these industries, as well as the workers and communities they support, will be forced to close or move operations to countries without similar regulations, producing the leakage of American jobs and emissions to foreign countries.

To protect the jobs of workers in the energy-intensive trade-exposed industries, the CBC recommends:

The United States should pursue international agreements on greenhouse gas reductions. Engaging industrialized nations in an agreement to combat this truly global problem will more effectively meet emissions reductions goals as well as "level the playing field" for American workers and business.

Until an international agreement can be achieved, climate legislation should include measures to protect against unintended disadvantages brought about as a result of global trading partners acting outside of a domestic or international greenhouse gas reductions scheme.

Provide assistance to ease and facilitate the transition of workers and communities dependent upon high emitting industries to the emerging low-carbon economy.

ADAPTATION

Regardless of our success in curbing greenhouse gas emissions, we can be certain that there will be ramifications as a result of global climate change. These may include rising sea levels, increased weather disasters, changes in precipitation, loss of biodiversity and the increased spread and range of tropical diseases. This will affect rural, urban and island communities domestically and abroad, with low-income populations being at greatest risk. Providing appropriate adaptation measures for these eventualities is imperative and this legislation should insure regular and predictable funding. We recommend:

An ecosystem-based adaptation both domestically and internationally, investing in conservation techniques to preserve wetlands, tropical forestland and critical ecosystems such as coral reefs and their relevant fisheries. Thriving ecosystems produce healthy communities, and promote sustainability.

Agricultural adaptation for areas experiencing shifting weather patterns. Subsistence farmers should be provided aid to manage temperature change and its effect on their growing season.

Medical adaptation to prepare and prevent the spread of disease. As temperatures rise, tropical-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever may proliferate in previously unaffected areas. Preventing and addressing this through vaccinations, improved sanitation measures, and other burgeoning technology should be a priority in the legislation.

It is with the utmost respect and appreciation for your efforts that we present these policy recommendations to you. We view these principles as essential to any climate change proposal. Please let us know how the Committee plans to incorporate these principles into the upcoming climate change legislation and how we can work with you to pass this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lee, CBC Chairwoman; Emanuel
Cleaver, CBC Energy Taskforce Mem-
ber; Sheila Jackson Lee, CBC Energy

Taskforce Member; Melvin L. Watt, CBC Energy Taskforce Member; Alcee L. Hastings, CBC Energy Taskforce Member; Sanford Bishop, CBC Energy Taskforce Member; Bobby Rush, CBC Energy Taskforce Member; C Butterfield, CBC Energy Taskforce Member; Donna M. Christensen, CBC Energy Taskforce Member.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you, Madam Chair.

I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, that our chairwoman has been so very supportive of this hour and of me continuing to be the anchor. But I also want to say to our chairwoman that I appreciate your kind of setting the record straight because I know that one of the things that our President talked about is, his priorities were education, health care, and energy. And he didn't say any of it would happen overnight, contrary to what our colleagues across the aisle said, that they thought it was going to happen right away. As a matter of fact, the President said it would take time. So I do thank you for helping me set the record straight, and I thank you for being here this evening. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Mr. Speaker, reliable predictions indicate that by the year 2050, the world's population will have nearly doubled from its present level. It will rise from around 6 billion to about 10 billion people. Most of this growth and much of the increase in energy consumption will occur in developing countries. Future increases in energy demand will exert even greater pressure on our finite reserves. If we are largely dependent on one fuel source, we risk price rises and supply disruptions. It is imperative for us to use our energy more efficiently and develop an energy supply that is both sustainable and diverse in order to improve our quality of life and protect our environment.

As a country, we can no longer depend on the cheap conception of gas and other finite resources. It is in the interest of our national security to become independent from our foreign sources of oil in politically unstable regions of the world. If we continue to invest in other finite resources, what is to prevent those costs from skyrocketing when the supply runs low? If we don't invest in renewable technologies now, we could be on the brink of a catastrophe, not to mention the health and environmental cost.

The best way to lower energy costs is to make homes, buildings, vehicles, and infrastructure more energy efficient. In the process, we create jobs. Doing nothing to curb carbon pollution means rising surface temperatures, rising sea levels, adverse health effects, and displaced populations. The longer we delay, the higher the cost.

As global warming becomes more threatening, addressing the future of America's environment becomes increasingly urgent. According to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the average global temperature could rise by an ad-

ditional 2.5 to 10.5 degrees Fahrenheit by the year 2100. If the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere doubles as expected, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has acknowledged that without emission control policies, the amount of carbon monoxide in the air will far exceed today's levels with a 30 to 150 percent increase.

According to an assessment by the World Health Organization of possible health impacts of climate change, more than 150,000 deaths may have been caused in the year 2000 alone by global warming as a result of disease, malnutrition, and loss of shelter. This negative impact on world health will only increase as the climate changes.

Experts predict that one-fourth of the Earth's species will be headed for extinction by 2050 if the warming trend continues at its current rate. More than \$100 billion worth of homes, businesses, and public facilities are at risk from extreme coastal storms if sea levels rise as anticipated. When we invest in renewable energies, we are not only creating jobs and strengthening our economic prospects for the future, we are protecting our increasingly more fragile environment as well.

The Congressional Black Caucus recommends that we support science-based legislation to reduce domestic greenhouse gas emissions at least 80 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050. The United States must be a leader on this global issue, and this target is consistent with the proposals of the Obama administration.

Any public investment in the green economy should include serious efforts to train, employ and provide public service opportunities that lead to full-time employment in these industries. We must develop a career pipeline, particularly in low- and middle-income communities, through training, job readiness, and entrepreneurship programs to ensure that people who most need work are prepared for the family-sustaining jobs and careers in energy efficiency and energy service industries.

When we talk about consumer protection, we have heard a lot about cap-and-trade. And sometimes I agree and sometimes I disagree with all of the things that are out there, but let me just say two things about cap-and-trade. A cap-and-trade system must be fair and must not be to the detriment of manufacturers and businesses. A cap-and-trade system will increase the cost of energy derived from high-polluting production processes for all households. Low- and middle-income households spend a greater share of their budget on energy costs than higher income households. To help prevent climate change policies from being unfairly burdensome on these households, we must remember to promote and support vital projects such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, better known as LIHEAP.

□ 2115

The LIHEAP program helps to pay the winter heating bills or summer cooling bills of low-income and elderly people. During extreme weather conditions, people living in poverty and low-income elderly should not have to choose between fuel to heat or cool their homes and buying food for themselves or their families. Two-thirds of the families receiving LIHEAP assistance have incomes of less than \$8,000 a year, Mr. Speaker, \$8,000. This program clearly helps the people who need help the most.

The Congressional Black Caucus recommends that we provide measures to offset the disproportionate impact of increased energy costs that could take the form of a climate rebate equal to the loss in purchasing power extended to the lowest quintile, the second quintile, and partially extend it to the third quintile. For households that file no tax returns, the rebate could be administered through the Electronic Benefit Transfer System. For all others the rebate could be extended through a higher earned income tax credit or alternative tax and make the connection with this increased cost.

In my home State of Ohio, Mr. Speaker, Ohio has lost more than 213,000 manufacturing jobs since the year 2000. In my neighboring State of Michigan, the figure is almost 497,000 jobs lost. Its industrial sector ranks fourth for energy consumption after Texas, Louisiana, and California. According to the Environmental Defense Fund, manufacturing is poised to grow in a low-carbon economy because economic opportunities exist within the supply chain that provide parts and labor for these industries. States that stand to benefit most from jobs in these sectors include Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, North Carolina, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and California.

Ohio receives about 86 percent of its electricity from coal. We also have some energy-intensive industries in Ohio such as paper, plastics, and fertilizer that rely upon abundant and economically viable sources of energy to help them keep their prices competitive, which is especially important during this troubling economic time. A cap-and-trade program will likely gradually raise electricity rates over time for consumers and especially manufacturers like those in northeast Ohio. When developing legislation, it is critical for us to work to minimize the effect and to sustain the competitiveness of our crucial industries and not only provide my district with jobs but also provide the world with products.

Mr. Speaker, the President had the opportunity to visit my district the day before he was inaugurated. He came to the city of Bedford Heights. He visited a community in my congressional district. He came to visit the Ohio wind energy component manufacturer Cardinal Fasteners. President Obama pointed to Cardinal Fasteners

as an example of how a company struggling through tough economic times can reinvent itself and recover by recognizing opportunities in the renewable energy market. Rather than falling victim to the slumping economy, Cardinal has become the Nation's largest manufacturer of bolts, screws, and double-ended studs used in wind towers. Each wind tower installed requires approximately 1,000 products made by Cardinal. As a result, the company now earns half of its revenue selling products that support wind energy products. Driven by sales of wind turbine projects, Cardinal projects will add an additional 40 or more individuals to its workforce in 2009, increasing its total to more than 100 employees.

I tell you this story because it tells you of the potential that Ohio has to be an oasis of wind energy. Ohio has made enormous strides to take advantage of its wind potential and create good green energy jobs throughout the State. In fact, there are over 220 businesses in Ohio that are involved in the development and manufacturing of wind energy and over 440 companies involved in the renewable energy sector. The Ohio Department of Development estimates that there are more than 1,000 Ohio businesses that already have the capacity to become part of the wind turbine supply chain.

Comprehensive energy legislation will revolutionize our economy and energy infrastructure, spurring us to become more innovative and efficient. The growing green economy presents an opportunity to create large numbers of quality green collar jobs for American workers, to grow emerging industries, and to improve the health of low- and middle-income Americans. Any public investment in the green economy should include serious efforts to train, employ, and provide public service opportunities that lead to full-time employment in these industries. We must assure that we train and prepare our workforce for green jobs and technology. An item that I truly support from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is the nearly \$3 billion in workforce investment formula grants and \$750 million for green and health care training. Lori Atkins, the deputy director of the Cuyahoga County Department of Workforce Development, informs me that to make sure that my community is ready for all jobs that are coming our way, training dollars they will receive will go to approved advisers for in-demand occupations, including green energy. My community will stand ready for this significant opportunity to make cost-effective public and private investments to rebuild and retrofit our Nation. The CBC recommends the following:

We must develop a career pipeline, particularly in low- and middle-income communities, through training, job readiness, and entrepreneurship programs to ensure that people who most need work are prepared for the family-sustaining jobs and careers in energy

efficiency and energy services industries. Ensuring local hiring practices will be critical to engaging these distressed communities. It is also extremely important that we do not leave minority- and women-owned businesses behind in this new industry. Therefore, we must be assured that they have their place at the proverbial table. This will also ensure that the work is spread to all citizens.

We must as well develop Green Energy Centers of Excellence at predominantly black institutions to research and develop new green technologies as well as train implementers in the development of green innovation. These institutions maintain unique relationships with communities of color, and we should use their expertise to educate these communities on the opportunities in green industries and the techniques needed to succeed.

We must ensure local and national certification standards for technical jobs to ensure appropriate levels of expertise. We must also apply large-scale energy-saving measures to the Nation's building stock, which will create hundreds of thousands of green collar jobs while dramatically reducing America's energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

It is important for us to remember that the only way we can achieve our goals as a country is to become more energy independent, and that can only happen if we have a skilled workforce proficient in science, technology, engineering, and math. I would like to briefly discuss and highlight the MC Squared School in my district, which is the first STEM facility in our Nation that is located in a corporate complex. The facility provides an environment fostering intellectual growth and stimulating curriculum geared toward science, technology, engineering, and math. The students are mentored by GE employees from a broad array of disciplines ranging from research, technology, and engineering to marketing, finance, global product management, and human resources. Most importantly, the teachers and staff are exceptional. It was no small feat to make the MC Squared STEM School a success. It took the hard work, ingenuity, and commitment of local civic and business organizations who came together and contributed nearly \$3 million for the classroom renovations on the Nela Park campus in order to bring this idea to fruition. It also took the vision of the CEO of the Cleveland Public Schools, Dr. Eugene Sanders.

The STEALTH team of the MC Squared School meets once a week after school and is headed up by a science teacher who was the vice president of Johnson Controls for 26 years. They have created an apparatus called "the thing," which collects sunlight and stores it in batteries which can be used to charge your cell phone, laptop, and any daily household item. They have refined it to do something that works effectively. Additionally, the

STEALTH group has implemented green renovations to General Electric solar panels on the roof of its own facility.

The STEM School recently held a conference focusing on renewable energy at the Great Lakes Science Center in my district where many students came and were responsible for researching a specific topic. The STEM School then invited other children from the community to conduct a town hall discussion on energy issues.

The STEM School works in conjunction with the Washington Park Greenhouse, which is connected to the Cleveland Public School District through South High School. The STEM School students recently made some recommendations to increase energy efficiency of the greenhouse. General Electric staff worked with them hand in hand while using the suggestions of the students to renovate the greenhouse. The students then took measurements of humidity, temperature, and other levels before and after and compared the result to measure the progress of their work. The STEM students are currently working on developing automated watering systems for the greenhouse pumps to conserve energy and water for the plants. They are in the process of creating designs and testing to see which one works best.

I believe that the MC Squared STEM School has the ability to be a catalyst for change across our Nation. Children who are taught by educators with proper certification and mentored by professionals are more likely to succeed and prosper in an increasingly technologically advanced society. It is for this reason I plan to offer an amendment to the STEM Coordination Act of 2009 in the Committee of Science and Technology, which I am a member, with the intent to increase the members of certified teachers in low-performing areas of our country. Increasing the number of qualified teachers in our country in science and math will only help our Nation spur the renewable energy revolution.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, for allowing this important discussion on energy during our message hour. We must work to strengthen all facets of our society when discussing an unfolding energy revolution in the 111th Congress. We have a great opportunity to protect our environment and strengthen our economic interest through the creation of additional sources of energy such as biofuel, wind, and solar.

Mr. Speaker, I yield again to our Chair, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much for yielding.

And let me just thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for that very comprehensive, succinct, and very clear statement. I think it summarizes many of the issues that the Congressional

Black Caucus believes are important as we move forward with our comprehensive energy legislation.

And I must say you highlighted the involvement of minority- and women-owned businesses and entrepreneurs in this effort, also the role of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The role of the Congressional Black Caucus, as many know, is to make sure that no one is left behind, that no community is left behind. And the Congressional Black Caucus historically has been and continues to be the conscience of the Congress.

So, Congresswoman FUDGE, I'm really pleased that you have laid out for us tonight what the Congressional Black Caucus sees as important in this energy legislation as we communicate it to our great chairman, who is doing a fantastic job, I must say, Chairman HENRY WAXMAN. And we have communicated this to him, and we are very confident that as this energy legislation moves forward that the Congressional Black Caucus's views and input and ideas to expand this legislation to make sure it's comprehensive and that it includes all communities in our country will be part of that.

Thank you for your leadership tonight. That was a very wonderful presentation, Congresswoman FUDGE. The Congressional Black Caucus is very proud of you.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you so much, Madam Chair.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAYSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, in the next 2 days we will be coming upon the 100 days, first 100 days of President Obama's Presidency, and the last few days we have already started to have some analysis, some discussion on those 100 days, what's happened, how does it compare to prior Presidents?

Of course, this is one of those traditions that seems to occur going back to the days of FDR. And I guess it's kind of ironic that a lot of these comparisons go back to FDR, because a lot of things that are happening today in our country have a lot of similarities to what happened back in the 1940s when FDR became President, when our country was in a depression, a depression that lasted for over 8 years. It didn't end until World War II got us out of it.

I think one of the things that seems to have symbolized the first 100 days more than anything has been the record levels of spending that's gone on here in Washington. All across our country we are facing tough economic times right now. Families are tightening their belts. Families are dealing with the problems that are existing in our economy, but they are doing it by trying to live within their own means.

I think one thing that's really symbolized this first 100 days has been the record levels of spending that's gone on with this new administration to run our country deeper into debt, adding more than 20 percent to the national debt in just the last 2½ months, and record levels of spending that I think have concerned many people across the country to the point where just a few weeks ago you saw thousands, hundreds of thousands of people taking the streets in these taxpayer TEA parties where people were literally showing up all throughout communities in this country to protest and send a signal. I think that they are frustrated with the record borrowing and spending and taxing, as well as these bailouts that are not working.

And so as we look at all of this, I think it hopefully is an indication that we need to pull back and refocus our country on those things that we truly need to take care of to address the problems that our country is facing and act in a fiscally responsible way to address those problems. So I think what we need to talk about now are the ways that the next 100 days can hopefully shape us in a different direction than first 100 days.

And as we look at some of these policies, we are debating right now in the Energy and Commerce Committee a major change in our Nation's energy policy. I think our Nation is severely lacking a national energy policy. There are good alternatives that are out there.

I am a cosponsor of a bill called the American Energy Act, which takes an all-of-the-above approach to fixing our national energy crisis, and a bill that would actually open up more areas of our own country's natural resources to drilling for oil, for natural gas, for developing clean coal technologies and then using that revenue not only to create good jobs and to reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil, but to fund our ability to transfer into those alternative sources of energy like wind and solar power. But we also need to keep nuclear power as one of the components of a strong national energy policy.

On the other side of that, what we are seeing is the presentation of a bill called cap-and-trade. And the cap-and-trade energy tax is nothing short of that, a massive change of energy policy that the President has brought us in the first 100 days that would literally turn over our energy economy in this country to a Wall Street speculative market where companies would be limited in how much carbon they can emit in this country, but then they would have to pay taxes, in essence, on any more production that they would do.

Early estimates are this would raise \$646 billion in new taxes, but it would saddle every American family in this country. Early estimates by the President's own budget director show that there would be over \$1,300 a year more that every American family would pay

in their own home energy bills, not in addition to all of the jobs that would be lost.

Early estimates by groups like the National Association of Manufacturers show that a cap-and-trade energy tax would literally ship 3 to 4 million jobs out of our country overseas to countries like China, India, Brazil and other nations that would not have the same kind of environmental regulations that we have today. So for people who are concerned about carbon emissions, the cap-and-trade energy tax wouldn't do anything to lower carbon emissions in the world.

What it would do is run off a lot of companies in the United States, ship those jobs, millions of jobs out to other countries like China, India, Brazil and others who will emit even more carbon. So it's a very counterproductive strategy from that standpoint but one that has a lot of support by some in Congress. And then hopefully there will be enough of us on this side to not only defeat that bill but then bring our alternative plan, like the American Energy Act, a plan that would put a comprehensive national policy in place to get our economy back on sound footing, but also to reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil, something that has been a problem for a long time, something that hasn't been addressed by Congress adequately, but one that can be.

And so while we are talking about and evaluating these first 100 days, there are a lot of things that we can do to look at how to move us to a better place in our country. And if you will look at what has been happening with the budget, one of the interesting conversations that we hear about is how much debt was run up in prior administrations.

Frankly, I was not a supporter of the debt back then. I surely am not a supporter of the debt that's being added to our children and grandchildren right now.

And if that debt was bad, which I agree it was, then these proposals, in fact, the President's own budget that's going to be coming up on a vote here on this House floor probably later this week, would double the national debt, double the national debt in just 5½ years.

And so just about a week ago the President had met with some of his economic advisors and his Cabinet, he pulled in his Cabinet and he said, I want you to go out and find—in a \$3.5 trillion budget, he called all of his Cabinet members in and gave them the task of cutting \$100 million. Now, I think we can all find ways to cut \$100 million in the budget.

But to bring all your Cabinet members as a task to figure out how to go and cut \$100 million, just to equate that to an average American family, that's like a family of four who makes \$35,000 saying, let's sit around the table. We have got tough economic times. We need to cut our budget. A