

because California is suffering from a devastating combination of a natural dry spell and a federally imposed dry spell.

In December 2007, a Federal judge ordered restrictions on water project operations in the delta to help protect threatened species, the delta smelt. The negative impact has been extraordinary. The restrictions have resulted in the loss of nearly one-third of the supply that 25 million Californians depend on from delta operations. Farmland throughout California's Central Valley is going fallow while farmers struggle to find work. In Southern California economic growth is being thwarted because any new construction is jeopardized by a lack of proven water supply.

There is no evidence that the federally imposed pumping restrictions have benefited the delta smelt. If this Congress is going to continue to give Federal agencies the authority to take actions that kill jobs and harm our economy for the benefit of a species, then the American people deserve clear evidence that these actions benefit the species.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE PINAL COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR FIGHTING BACK AGAINST THE DRUG CARTELS

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago a deputy with the Pinal County Sheriff's Office noted a speeding van and observed likely packages of marijuana through the window. After a brief car chase, the deputy was able to secure the van and found 476 pounds of marijuana. This successful bust is yet more evidence that our local law enforcement is playing a vital role in fighting back against the drug cartels.

I congratulate Sheriff Babeu and the entire Pinal County Sheriff's Department for this seizure, which will keep drugs out of our community.

Our local law enforcement in Arizona deserve recognition for a job well done. With more resources, they do even more to protect our borders and keep our communities safe.

RECOGNIZING MR. JEFF JACKSON

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it's with great pride that I rise to recognize Mr. Jeffrey Walter Jackson of the Sixth District of Georgia upon his retirement as Head of School for the Mount Vernon Presbyterian School in Sandy Springs, Georgia.

Jeff Jackson has been a dedicated and visionary leader. He challenges himself and all around him to dream big dreams, work diligently on positive goals, and inspires a servant's heart.

During his tenure, since 2002, at Mt. Vernon, Mr. Jackson introduced honors and advanced placement courses, expanded the sports program to 31 teams, and fostered varied activities including a debate team and the Fellowship for Christian Athletes. He oversaw the establishment of a new Upper School to serve 9th through 12th grade students and a 30-acre expansion of the campus.

In his faithful commitment to the values of Christian education, Mr. Jackson has been a role model for teachers, administrators, community leaders, but especially students. And now he will further his positive influence as the executive director of the Georgia Independent School Association.

Mr. Speaker, our community and this Congress commend Jeff Jackson for his continuing and exemplary service and extend to him our very best wishes in his new role.

PREDATORY LENDING

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, to put our Nation on the road to recovery, we have to do several things: First, we have to begin to clean up the economic mess that we have inherited after the past 8 years. Secondly, we have to rewrite our laws to guarantee that everyone has a fair shake and a fair opportunity to make it in today's economy. And together we will.

Last week I was very proud to stand here and vote for the Credit Cardholder's Bill of Rights, and today I rise in favor of the Mortgage and Anti-Predatory Lending Act. This bill would help end the predatory lending that is a major factor in the many, far too many, home foreclosures now taking place.

The bill would prohibit lenders from steering their customers into higher-cost loans, would ensure that borrowers actually have the ability to pay back the money that they are taking out, and would establish a simple standard for all home loans.

I believe we have to work hard for people everywhere to guarantee that they can make it and keep their heads above water. Let's pass the Mortgage and Anti-Predatory Lending Act and build a better future for everyone.

MAKE R&D TAX CREDIT PERMANENT

(Mr. LEE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEE of New York. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President announced tax reforms that would pave the way for making the research and development tax credit permanent.

R&D is the lifeblood of our economy, and this tax credit provides companies with an incentive to invest in tech-

nology and expand their operations. In 2005, more than 70 percent of R&D tax credit dollars nationwide went toward wages for highly skilled jobs.

Since 1981, however, Congress has extended the credit 12 times with extensions as short as just 6 months. Retroactive extensions leave companies in uncertain circumstances for long periods of time beyond the expiration date.

This is why I have introduced bipartisan legislation with Mr. BOCCIERI of Ohio that would make the R&D tax credit permanent. Unlike other proposals to make the R&D tax credit permanent, H.R. 1545 would also offer a bonus tax credit for companies who manufacture their products in the United States.

We shouldn't wait to make the R&D tax credit permanent. We should act now to sustain the manufacturing base that is so critical to this country's future.

ENERGY

(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 today in support of the American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act of 2009, a bipartisan piece of legislation that extends our efforts from last Congress, the 110th Congress, with Congressmembers MURPHY, WALZ, CAPITO, WILSON, ABERCROMBIE, myself, and many others.

This legislation is to develop a new policy that is comprehensive in nature that will, one, reduce our dependency on foreign sources of energy and, two, develop the robust renewable portfolio that Americans want to see. This effort is common sense. It's PAYGO neutral. It would enhance our path toward energy reduction of our dependency on foreign sources and improve our national security.

I'm a firm believer that we have to use all the energy tools in our energy toolbox. This legislation does just that. In the near term, 1 to 10 years, choosing oil and gas and nuclear. In the intermediate, 10 to 20 years, building a robust, renewable portfolio that will give Americans an energy policy that we believe our Nation deserves.

CAP-AND-TRADE EXEMPTIONS

(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, in the past, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle railed against the Bush administration for an energy policy they say was written by energy lobbyists and rewarded oil and gas industry companies. Now that they control both the Congress and the White House, that type of behavior which they railed against now seems to be acceptable.

The cap-and-trade legislation being considered in the Energy and Commerce Committee is based on a blueprint of a plan put forward by a coalition of outside groups called USCAP. USCAP claims to favor government regulation of greenhouse gasses; yet, one of the leading members of the group will receive a generous exemption in the legislation to build new coal power plants without the onerous restrictions that will prevent others from building.

The majority are allowing industry members to write legislation that benefits them in exchange for supporting their cap-and-tax plan that will raise energy prices for all Americans. That is hypocritical and it's unethical.

ENERGY/BUDGET

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, the passage of the American Recovery Act made a down payment on a new clean energy economy, with \$39 billion worth of investment in smart grid technology, energy efficiency, and our renewable energy sector, all of which will lower energy costs and create good-paying, permanent American jobs.

Congress must match this reform and this investment with meaningful investments in our fiscal year 2010 budget.

To my friends on the other side of the aisle, let me say that I fiercely defend the power of the free market. But for decades the energy markets have increased our reliance on foreign oil, quashed American innovation, and eroded our national security. It is time, way past time, for us as elected representatives to lead and take those steps necessary in this budget to finally move our energy sector to a clean American sustainable economy.

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CAPTAIN FRANCES GREENE—LADY WARRIOR

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Frances Greene, charter member of the Greatest Generation from Beaumont, Texas, joined the United States Army in 1941, even before Pearl Harbor.

When World War II started, it saw the Army Nurse Corps on the front lines of battle. Captain Greene was stationed overseas in the hot South Pacific. And she clearly remembers her unit being bombed daily by Japanese planes.

The 23-year-old nurse faced the war head on, and nurses like her were responsible for saving the lives of American soldiers and marines that caught the brunt end of battle. Because of these special saviors of soldiers, World War II had a record low post-injury

mortality rate. Many of the injured are alive today because of Captain Greene and the other 59,000 wonderful women that volunteered to face the enemy in faraway lands.

Mr. Speaker, at 91, Captain Greene still talks about her service to our country with deep patriotism and fervor. She is an amazing lady warrior.

Today I am proud to know Captain Frances Greene. We should honor her and all the women that served in the great World War II. They defended our country with their valor and helped bring our wounded home to America when it was over, over there.

And that's just the way it is.

MORTGAGE REFORM IS NEEDED

(Ms. HIRONO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, Hawaii has some of the least-affordable housing in the country. Many of my constituents have more than one job just to make enough to put food on the table and pay their bills. Others have lost jobs due to the bad economy and the downturn in tourism.

Families are struggling to stay in their homes. In Hawaii, foreclosures are up 500 percent from a year ago, and one in 29 homes with high-cost loans are likely to go into foreclosure.

Forestalling foreclosure is often an exercise in frustration for homeowners. Some people in Hawaii are 2 or 3 months behind in their mortgages and are spending hours trying to reach out-of-state lenders in a different time zone to get their loans modified. To make matters worse, lenders tell them that their paperwork is lost and slap them with fees and penalties.

We recently passed H.R. 1106 to help families like these restructure or refinance their mortgages. We also need to pass H.R. 1728 to support counseling efforts, provide foreclosure prevention assistance and strengthen loan standards.

MEDIA IGNORES GOOD NEWS FOR GOP

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, with a newly elected Democratic President, and a Senator recently switching to become a Democrat, the national media have tried to imply that Americans have moved away from the Republican Party's values and priorities.

But the facts tell a different story. A new poll by the Pew Research Center shows Americans are, in fact, taking a conservative turn on issues like abortion and second amendment rights. The number of people who support legalized abortion has dropped to its lowest point ever, and the number of people who say it is important to protect gun owners' rights increased to its highest point ever.

These numbers indicate a shift toward, not away from, some of the core principles of the Republican Party. But you won't see much in the media about Pew's survey. It doesn't support their liberal leanings.

CURB ABUSIVE AND PREDATORY LENDING

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of long overdue legislation to crack down on predatory mortgage lending. This week the House will consider legislation to curb abusive and predatory lending, a major factor in the Nation's highest home foreclosure rate in 25 years and the precursor to the greatest economic downturn since the Great Depression.

The Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act of 2009 prohibits lenders from steering borrowers to higher-cost loans and protects tenants who rent homes that go into foreclosure.

Mr. Speaker, the situation we find ourselves in did not happen overnight, but there is a new day dawning in America with this new President and this new Congress. By passing this legislation, we will mark one more step toward restoring economic prosperity to all Americans by protecting consumers, as we did last week with the credit card bill, and from the many vile and unscrupulous practices that have directly contributed to the mortgage crisis.

OPPOSE RELEASE OF UYGHURS

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in firm opposition to any decision by the Attorney General to release the trained terrorists known as Uyghurs from Guantanamo Bay into the neighborhoods, that's right, in American neighborhoods. I believe this would be a terrible decision that can needlessly endanger American citizens.

If Eric Holder proceeds down this dangerous road, he has an obligation, an obligation, to the American people to release all of the information about the capture, detention, and threat posed by each detainee. If the Attorney General believes these trained terrorists pose no threat, then why not release all of this information to the Congress and, more importantly than even to the Congress, to the American people.

Also, Mr. Speaker, why will the Attorney General not allow career people in the FBI, DHS and CIA to come up and brief the Congress? It's time for Eric Holder to make a decision to release this information. These trained terrorists should not be released into American neighborhoods.