

idea as to the path forward because out of 66 percent of those polled, two-thirds supported the ability to choose a public insurance option, the ability to choose whether they want to stay on their private plan or whether they want to go on to a potentially better quality, more affordable public plan.

They have told us they don't want politicians making the choice for them, that they themselves want to choose whether they are better off in the private or public market.

#### CLEAN ENERGY WITHOUT TAX HIKES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am grateful to be part of a bipartisan group in Congress that is putting forward new and innovative solutions to our energy needs.

The American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act introduced this week is spearheaded by Congressmen TIM MURPHY and NEIL ABERCROMBIE. It is legislation that would promote the energy sector to start creating jobs immediately. It does not raise taxes on American families.

This strategy promotes the development of cleaner energy and more efficiency. It encourages conservation. It utilizes the vast proven natural resources we have here in America to not only help address our current energy needs but help fund the development of the next generation of energy resources.

High gas prices and home heating costs threaten the budgets of American families. With this comprehensive strategy, we address those high costs and our environmental concerns while creating jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### CONDITIONS ON AID TO AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee has come under some harsh criticism for suggesting the money we make available to Afghanistan and Pakistan be conditioned. Chairman OBEY is right. When you consider the fact that we have put \$33 billion into Afghanistan and \$12 billion into Pakistan without conditions, you have to ask "What has it gotten us?"

We seem to be losing the war in Afghanistan because the leadership of the enemy has a haven in Pakistan. Of all the money we have given to the military in Pakistan, they have 450,000 trained, equipped troops on the south-

ern border with our ally India and one brigade on the north where we need them. Former members of the ISI affiliated with the Pak army located just south of Lahore, Pakistan trained and executed a massacre of 152 people in Mumbai, India.

They just released an extremist cleric that is arguing for sharia law across the land. They have just allowed the Swat Valley to be taken over by the Taliban. Of course we need our money conditioned. If they want American taxpayers' money, they need to start serving America's interests.

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#### THE HIGH SEAS NEEDS THE SECOND AMENDMENT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, recently three boats of the Somali pirates gave chase on the high seas toward a lone ship of prey, ready once again to capture an unarmed vessel and the crew, and hold them hostage until the ransom is paid.

As the smiling armed outlaws sped toward the game and readied the attack, the target appeared to flee as it headed away into the horizon of the sun.

But to the dismay of the bold bandits, they were trapped. The supposed merchant ship dispatched two boats that headed directly for the malcontents of robbery. Aboard were French commandos. The alleged merchant ship was a ship of the French Navy. Shots were fired over the criminals, and in minutes the 11 pirates of misfortune were captured and stowed away in the darkness of the French brig.

Madam Speaker, it defies reason that merchant ships are not armed. The international maritime community should arm their ships against the pirates of prey. The French and American Navies cannot save them every day. Let the philosophy of the Second Amendment, "right to bear arms", apply on the high seas.

And that's just the way it is.

#### THE CAPITOL POWER PLANT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I know the Republican leadership has opposed, even mocked, the Speaker's determination that the House lead by example by greening the Capitol. Helping each office reduce its carbon footprint, eliminate waste, and save money is exactly what Americans want from their leaders.

But last night's attack on the floor of the House by my Republican colleagues on the conversion of the Capitol Power Plant from coal to natural gas was bizarre. That Capitol Power

Plant is the number one source of pollution in the District of Columbia. We've reduced the carbon pollution 50 percent, 95 percent of the sulfur oxide, at least 50 percent of the carbon monoxide, reducing a serious problem for the respiratory health of the District of Columbia's children.

I hope that people in their zeal to score political points don't get unhinged. This is important business. We're moving in the right direction, and we ought to be able to understand these basic facts.

#### CAP-AND-TAX

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, we are learning that the Environmental Protection Agency is poised to declare any body or company or plant that emits more than 25,000 tons of carbon dioxide as a major emitter. A body of 435 adults all endlessly emitting hot air certainly will meet that annual threshold.

It appears that the EPA and Congress are literally in a race to see who can get there first. Are we going to tax the air we breathe, or are we going to regulate the air we breathe? If CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases are so dangerous to our environment, the American people truly must be puzzled by the actions of the body this week.

While the details of a cap-and-tax system are negotiated behind closed doors, Congress has debated such staggeringly important work as supporting the goals of Public Service Recognition Week and National Train Day. If our environment were truly in serious peril that could only be effectively addressed by a cap-and-tax system, one would think we would be burning our carbon credits debating that bill, not the suspensions we have passed.

#### JUMP-STARTING THE CLEAN ENERGY SECTOR THROUGH ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDINGS

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, after years of neglect, President Obama and the new Congress are taking on the Nation's energy crisis. This Congress is now making the tough decisions necessary to move the country in a new direction, create green jobs and build a clean energy economy.

Conserving energy by turning around our economy will require the help and participation of every American. The good news is that everyone can save money and help grow a clean energy economy. We can use less and save more by using energy-efficient weatherization technologies and appliances in our buildings. Consumers can save hundreds off their energy bills by using

cost-saving, energy-efficient technology.

In my home State of Missouri, over \$128 million in recovery funds have been made available to help low-income families weatherize their homes, improving the environment around us and their pocketbooks during these challenging times. And on top of that, investments made into building more energy-efficient homes and public buildings create jobs right here at home that cannot be outsourced.

#### THANKING THE TROOPS WHO SERVE IN GUANTANAMO BAY

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, this past Friday I had the opportunity and the honor to visit Guantanamo Bay to see the great work that our men and women are doing to protect and serve this country.

The discussions surrounding the detainees in Guantanamo Bay I understand is a contentious one, but let us first and foremost thank those men and women who serve a very important purpose. They are doing it with great honor.

As I visited with the admiral of the Navy who is in charge of taking care of this facility, he said that their mission is to make sure that the facility is safe, humane, legal, and transparent. I find that they're meeting that mission.

I would encourage the President and I would encourage this body to support the notion that says we should not close that facility, nor should we bring those detainees to the United States of America. We should pursue the tribunal process. The process is set up to work. And I for one will support that.

May God bless the troops that are serving us in Guantanamo Bay, and may God bless the United States of America.

#### THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, we have a lot to be proud of in the way our Nation has responded to the H1N1 outbreak on a large scale, but we have also exposed some large gaps in our response capabilities.

The CDC's top recommendation to individuals experiencing flu-like symptoms is call your health provider. But 47 million Americans don't have regular access to a primary health care provider. And if our only recourse is to have these folks crowding the emergency departments, then we have a lot more to do to improve our response.

This week I was proud to reintroduce with Senator DURBIN the Public Health Emergency Response Act, legislation

which will ensure health coverage for individuals during a public health emergency.

Until we achieve universal coverage, we must at least ensure that Americans have access to care during a public health emergency and that health professionals who treat them are compensated.

#### DEMOCRAT NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN WON'T WORK

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

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, as a physician, I am the first to say we need affordable health care access for all.

A new national health plan has been created by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. They claim this plan will compete alongside private insurance to ensure that patients are getting the best deal.

This sounds great on the surface. However, this idea makes as much sense as Microsoft setting the rules for all technology companies, then competing with them.

Make no mistake about it: the net result of a national or public plan option will be the death of the private insurance in this country. This crazy government versus private strategy is a first step toward a government-run health care for everyone, creating two levels of care, rationing of resources, and exploding government budgets.

Americans don't want Washington telling them what benefits they need and how much health care they deserve. But they do need access to affordable, high-quality health care that only private insurance competing honestly for business can provide, whether it is paid for by our government for the poor or paid for by the working citizens.

#### THE MORTGAGE REFORM AND ANTI-PREDATORY LENDING ACT

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

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, the House this week will take the critical first step towards ending reckless and predatory lending practices and mortgage fraud in particular.

Since our economy fell off the cliff last fall, Vermonters and all Americans have been reeling from the mess created by those who engage in reckless lending and reckless borrowing.

The Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act of 2009 will help ensure that the practices that helped foster this casino economy will end. The bill will restore responsibility to lending, holding creditors responsible for the loans they originate, requiring borrowers to have a reasonable ability to repay the loans, ban the practice of rewarding brokers and loan officers for steering homeowners towards mortgages they can't afford.

We won't be able to end years of irresponsible lending and borrowing overnight; not with one bill. But this legislation is the critical first step towards restoring responsibility and common sense to our financial system.

#### THE FAMILY-BASED METH TREATMENT ACCESS ACT

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

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, I hope some day I can come to the floor of the House of Representatives to report that meth abuse is no longer a problem in rural America. I would like to say some day that our families and communities are no longer subject to the total devastation caused by methamphetamine addiction.

But we're not there yet. So today I urge my colleagues to join me in the fight against meth abuse. I have introduced the Family-Based Meth Treatment Access Act, a bill which would fund programs aimed at helping families recover together from the Nation's most dangerous drug.

Studies show that family-based treatment increases effectiveness of long-term recovery, employment, and educational enrollment, while decreasing crime. The Family-Based Treatment Access Act helps take back what meth has stolen from our families.

Please join me by cosponsoring the Family-Based Meth Treatment Access Act.

#### R&D TAX CREDIT BILL

(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, the American people have asked this Congress for solutions to act quickly in a bipartisan fashion and to get our economy moving again.

As a freshman Member, I'm happy to report that I have teamed up with a Republican colleague from Buffalo, New York, CHRIS LEE, to get our economy moving again. We know how many manufacturing jobs have been lost in the Midwest. So our bill would help empower the vision and innovation that has made this country so great by providing incentives for companies in America to do research and developments right here and give them a bonus if they are going to conduct those research and developments right here in America.

We have an opportunity to move this economy forward. We need to become not the movers of wealth but the producers of wealth. If we produce things here in America, we can make America continue on its path towards greatness.

#### ENFORCE IMMIGRATION LAWS TO PREVENT CRIMES

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House