

time when thousands of officers come to Washington, D.C. to honor officers who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. It's a time of remembrance and an opportunity to provide comfort and appreciation to the families of fallen officers.

The motto of Police Week is: "Never Alone, Never Forgotten." And it must ring in the Halls of Congress not only this week but every day. That's why I have joined Congressman STUPAK in introducing the Law Enforcement Officers' Procedural Bill of Rights. This bipartisan legislation ensures that police officers will receive a fair process and proper protections in administrative proceedings.

I want to thank all the law enforcement community and officers who commit their lives to serve us. From the officers who protect us here at Capitol Hill to those police officers that defend us back in our districts, this country is a safer place because of the work you do.

□ 1015

AFGHANISTAN

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

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from Afghanistan yesterday on a delegation led by the gentlewoman from California, SUSAN DAVIS. We are all blessed by the sacrifice of our servicemen and women, our diplomats and other civilians in harm's way. We were moved by the courage of the Afghan women, in whose success rests the future of Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for the President and this Congress to be straight about what it means to win in Afghanistan. Our spending must reflect our goal, and right now it does not. This is not a 90 percent, in-out, 2-year military operation, and everyone there knows it. Winning requires a long-term plan to return 90 percent illiteracy to literacy, to grow food crops to replace poppies, to transform a 16th century economy to the 21st century.

It's a generation of change, and we have to have a plan while we are there and one for leaving. We best honor our men and women who serve and give their lives by being honest. They stand on the wall. They hold the line. They cross the wire. And the least we can do is prepare the American people to match their sacrifice with real and long-term commitment for Afghanistan and for our own national security.

YEAR OF THE BAILOUT

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, last year should be remembered as the year of the bailout. This year is not much better under the current leadership in

Washington. Incredibly, banks that want to repay the money they got from the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP, as it is referred to, are being stopped by the Obama administration from repaying the funds.

After accepting TARP bailout funds and, in some cases being forced to accept bailouts, many banks have had enough and they are ready to return the money. You would think that would be easy, but the government won't let them pay back the TARP funds. The vague guidelines provided by the Obama administration for returning TARP funds are creating a regulatory uncertainty that is bad for our economy and bad for us taxpayers.

We deserve to get the bailout money back from the banks as quickly as possible, which is why I have introduced the Bailout Freedom Act to ensure sure we have a clear and timely process for making that happen. Once banks are certified to be well capitalized by the regulators, the Federal Government should allow the TARP bailout funding to be paid back.

From the beginning, I have opposed the bailouts and the growing encroachment of the Federal Government in our daily lives. Now we must reverse that course of the current trend and allow TARP bailout funding to be paid back.

Please join me in supporting the Bailout Freedom Act.

GLOBAL WARMING IS A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, two-thirds of the American people believe that global warming is a clear and present danger, yet there are still Members in this House that deny it even exists.

Fortunately, many here are working diligently to craft a bipartisan and commonsense energy plan that makes polluters pay, provides for middle class energy tax credits, and creates a new industry and lots of good, clean, green jobs. In the process, we will reduce our reliance on foreign oil from nations that mean to do us harm and put us on a path towards being faithful stewards of this beautiful planet that God has loaned us.

But the science deniers don't care about any of that. They choose, instead, to twist the simple idea that polluters should pay for what they pollute into the same tired argument that it is somehow a tax.

The American people are speaking loud and clear. They want Congress to do something about global warming. At least some of us are listening.

DOD NEEDS MORE TRANSPARENCY IN BUDGET PROCESS

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the House Armed Services Committee. I am concerned that the Department of Defense has become less open and less accountable. Recent actions taken by the Pentagon has limited transparency and congressional oversight.

First, for the first time ever, non-disclosure agreements have been required of senior defense officials working on the budget.

Second, for the first time, routing ship readiness reports are being classified. This hampers Congress in its important oversight function of the military. The Army was even a no-show at the House Armed Services Committee hearing on its top acquisition project.

Do we want to wait until war to discover we have a hollow fleet or inadequate equipment? Congress has the constitutional duty to raise and support armies and navies.

This responsibility requires candid answers from our senior military leaders about the FY 2010 budget approval. To quote our President, "A democracy requires accountability, and accountability requires transparency." Where is this promised transparency?

CLEAN ENERGY FOR AMERICA

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, America can become the world leader in the new clean energy economy. To ensure our economic recovery is sustainable for years to come, we intend to pass comprehensive clean energy legislation that will create millions of new American jobs that cannot be shipped overseas, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, increase production of cleaner, renewable energy sources, crack down on heavy pollutants who have damaged our air and water quality, and give American entrepreneurs and innovators the tools they need to stay competitive in the global economy.

There is also the Energy and Commerce bill called the American Clean Energy and Security Act. It will invest in American jobs that cannot be shipped overseas. It will reduce our dependence on foreign oil. It will be consumer focused and increase production of cleaner, renewable energy sources.

SERIOUS ECONOMIC IMPACT WITH EPA CO₂ RULES

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I have a memo and article, "OMB Memo: Serious Economic Impact Likely with EPA CO₂ Rules" and also the article that is from the Dow Jones Newswires that brings attention to this. I have both documents right here, and I encourage my colleagues to read both of these documents.

As the memo points out, and the article also states, contrary to administration statements, some within the executive branch have serious reservations about regulating CO₂ through the Clean Air Act. They highlight that such regulation will place a tremendous cost on our economy. I share their concerns, and I have introduced H.R. 391 to prohibit the EPA from undertaking such regulation.

The regulation of greenhouse gases by the EPA would, and I am quoting from the memo here, "is likely to have serious economic consequences."

Mr. Speaker, we all know what that is, and we know it will be realized if the cap-and-trade bill currently under consideration is passed.

I encourage everyone to join me on H.R. 391 and to read the memos.

GROW CLEAN ENERGY JOBS

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, Americans are an optimistic people. That was confirmed yesterday when results came out showing that Americans believe, by a 2-1 margin, that we will grow clean energy jobs by the millions when we adopt a clean energy bill in this House, and they are right.

We should be optimistic that we are going to build electric cars and sell them to the rest of the world, not just China. We ought to be optimistic that we are going to build concentrated solar energy technology and sell it to the rest of the world.

We ought to be optimistic that we are going to build the electric batteries that will fuel our cars and help make our grid more responsive.

This is the optimism that those of us have who are going to pass a clean energy bill this year to make this happen.

Here is another reason for optimism. Yesterday we reached a consensus in the House Energy and Commerce Committee. With broad swathes of the country, the south-north industrial egg, we have reached a consensus that we are going to grow jobs everywhere in this country because we are the optimists, and the optimists are going to win this clean energy debate.

REFORM OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, this Congress will soon move to reform our health care system, and none too soon. And when we do, I hope there is one prerequisite, one standard that we can all agree on, and that is the essential fact that we need to make sure that every American has health insurance.

Yesterday, on television, I saw a commentator arguing against health

insurance for everyone saying, I don't want to pay for health insurance for my neighbor. Well, if I were his neighbor, what I would say is, You had better want to, because you, like every other American, is one pink slip, one cancer diagnosis, one serious accident away from being among the 47 to 50 million Americans without insurance and who face financial ruin because of that problem.

Yes, we may differ on the details. We may figure out and have a substantial debate about how we get there. But unless we make sure that every American has health insurance, then every neighbor is going to be paying far more than he or she should for their coverage, and we will continue to have a system which is not what the American people deserve.

WE CAN'T CONTINUE TO DEPEND ON MIDDLE EAST OIL

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have been here for about 20 years now and I have been through various crises, in the 1970s with energy and gas prices and, of course, one that we just faced within the last year or so.

The bottom line is that we need energy independence. We can't continue to depend on Middle East oil. At the same time we have a global climate crisis. Anyone who denies it is just kidding themselves.

So basically what we are doing here in the House is coming up with a bill that will probably come to the floor within the next 2 weeks that tries to achieve energy independence and also addresses the problem of global warming, but at the same time creates a lot of jobs. Because as we move towards renewables, whether it be solar or wind or geothermal, there are a lot of jobs in research and development. There are jobs in actually building those facilities. There are jobs in trying to create more energy efficiency.

And these jobs that would be created, these are the kinds of high-technology jobs, if you will, as well as construction jobs, that we really need, because a lot of people are out of work and are not working in similar industries. Their activities can be basically transferred to these new kinds of job opportunities.

So I want to stress that this energy bill is a job creation bill.

□ 1030

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2187, 21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution H. Res. 427 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 427

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2187) to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POLIS. I further ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.