

Mr. DEFAZIO. The premise of taxpayer support for the auto companies was twofold—preserve our productive capacity and maximize job retention.

Well, the plan has kind of gone off track here. The resolution of Chrysler, losing tens of thousands of jobs through the unnecessary closure of dealerships, and now Chrysler is going to close their most productive, modern engine plant in the world and build one in Mexico? How is that in the taxpayers' interest?

The leadership of the financier from Wall Street, Mr. Rattner, needs to be brought under control here. GM's now on deck. The Obama administration has to reconsider their approach. Don't endorse the closure of thousands of dealerships. Don't support the export of our productive capacity.

It is rumored that GM wants to manufacture their cars in China. Preserving a corporate shell while losing productive manufacturing capacity and tens of thousands of jobs is not in the taxpayer interest and should not receive the endorsement of the Obama administration nor this Congress.

#### RECOGNIZING WILLIAM COOKSEY

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the special veterans in my district. William Cooksey is a World War II veteran who just celebrated his 100th birthday.

Later this month we will welcome Mr. Cooksey to Washington as part of an Honor Air Trip, which flies World War II veterans to our Nation's capital free of charge to visit the World War II Memorial and Arlington Cemetery.

Mr. Cooksey began his service to our country as a member of an infantry unit. He then moved to the Air Corps and served as a chaplain's assistant from October 1943 to December 1945. When he left the military, he did so having received four Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, the World War I Victory Medal and a Good Conduct Medal. At 100 years old, Mr. Cooksey still serves as the senior choir director at his church.

On behalf of this Congress, I thank Mr. Cooksey for his dedicated service. May God continue to bless this special man and all of our veterans who so bravely and selflessly served our country.

#### INTRODUCTION OF RURAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION EXPANSION ACT

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last week I introduced the Rural Career and Technical Education Expansion Act, a bill that would provide student loan forgiveness to career and technical teachers at rural high schools.

Just last month I visited Jefferson County Vocational School where several teachers would be able to qualify for loan forgiveness. My hope is that more career and tech teachers will choose to stay in rural areas with the help of my legislation.

More and more students in regions like mine are pursuing a technical education. My legislation would help provide these students with the best and the brightest vocational educators. When the bill becomes law, eligible vocational teachers could receive up to \$17,500 in student loan forgiveness.

I urge all my colleagues to support the benefits these teachers deserve.

#### SMALL BUSINESSES ARE THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR ECONOMY

(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. Mr. Speaker, small businesses are the heart and soul of the American economy. When small businesses are in trouble, our economy is in trouble. When taxes are raised on small businesses and on American families, you reduce job creation, and you burden an already troubled economy.

So what is next on the Democrat agenda? A massive new national energy tax. This is not a recipe for economic growth. This will hurt small businesses and job creation. It raises the price of doing business. It raises the prices of consumer goods and home utility costs. It puts America and the small businesses that create the majority of our jobs at a disadvantage in the global economy.

As we recognize the 46th annual National Small Business Week, we should be spending our time developing policies that promote growth, not burden it. We should be fighting to give tax relief to the American people and these small businesses that employ them.

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

#### REGARDING AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT OF 2009

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, this week the Committee on Energy and Commerce is poised to pass landmark energy and climate legislation. Over two Congresses, our committee has heard from over 300 expert witnesses who have made it clear that we need swift action to rebuild our economy and address climate change.

America is ready, and the world is watching. We must transition to a clean energy economy so that we can create jobs here in America, achieve

energy independence, and protect our planet for future generations. We have before us a powerful, thorough and effective bill. It includes a nationwide renewable electricity standard to ensure consumers get more of their electricity from wind, solar and biomass energy. It contains critical investments in energy efficiency, and it requires immediate significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that are harming our planet.

We must enact comprehensive climate legislation, and we must enact it now. We can't sit idly by and allow other nations to lead the way to a clean energy future. I think America can and must do better.

I hope others will join me in seizing this opportunity to pass the American Clean Energy and Security Act to transition our country to a clean energy economy, and protect our planet for our children and our grandchildren.

#### STAND WITH THE PEOPLE OF CUBA AND AGAINST THE CASTRO REGIME

(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, today is Cuba Solidarity Day, marking the anniversary of Cuba's independence from Spain. It has now become a day when people across the world stand with the people of Cuba who are waiting for their day of freedom from 50 years of brutal communist repression.

Last month President Obama reversed the course of American policy towards Cuba, one of only four state sponsors of terrorism. America is a beacon of hope, and we should resist funding Castro's regime or turning a blind eye to their atrocities against the Cuban people.

Those wanting to increase trade with Cuba should be reminded that all money flows through Cuba's state-owned monopoly, and they don't pay their bills. Cuba has defaulted on more than \$30 billion of its obligations.

Easing sanctions on Cuba does not make economic or humanitarian sense. It only lines the pockets of the Castro brothers who want to hold onto their power by suppressing their people.

Today I am introducing a resolution to restore the sanctions on Cuba. The Cuban people deserve our support and continued condemnation of the Castro regime.

I encourage all my colleagues to honor Cuba Solidarity Day and stand with the Cuban people by cosponsoring my resolution.

#### THE ACCELERATED PACE OF GLOBAL WARMING

(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. Mr. Speaker, the Flat Earth Party is, once again, in a state of denial.

Much of the leadership and membership of the Republican Party is denying even the existence of global warming as a tactic to defeat the desperately needed clean green jobs legislation that we are just about to bring to the House floor.

Imagine. Forget the fact that more than 2,500 of the most respected scientists from 130 countries have concluded unequivocally that global warming does exist, that it is a very serious problem, and that it is undoubtedly a result of human activity.

The accelerated pace of global warming threatens hundreds of millions of people who live near the shoreline from flooding or from drought depending on your location on this planet. In fact, in Juneau, Alaska, they're building an 18-hole golf course on land that just a few years ago was submerged underwater. They're losing more than 30 feet a year from the shoreline.

One has to wonder how the party of "No" still really feels about the theory that the Earth may revolve around the sun.

#### INTRODUCTION OF HEARTH ACT

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

Mr. HEINRICH. I rise today to introduce the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act, or the HEARTH Act.

Homeownership is a fundamental element to the American dream, yet Native American homeownership rates are half that of the general population, and too often the Federal Government has been the stumbling block.

Purchasing a home is no easy process for any of us; but for many Native American families trying to buy a house on tribal land, they must also get lease approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the land that the house sits on.

This process can take between 6 months and 2 years, resulting in an intolerable delay for finalizing a home sale. This bill would eliminate this requirement and allow tribal governments to approve trust land leases directly, giving more Native American families the chance to own their own home.

I urge your support.

#### OUR NATION'S VETERANS

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

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on an issue that is dear to my heart—our Nation's veterans. Yesterday I introduced several bills that I believe would improve the quality of life for our veterans and continue to honor our commitment to them.

My district is a highly rural district, and my veterans need access to qualified mental health professionals. I have submitted a bill that will establish a

mental telehealth pilot project that will provide access to veterans that live in rural areas. This bill will make it possible for them to at least talk to a qualified specialist about the problems that they face as they re-adapt to home life.

Secondly, a report in the Journal of Military Medicine stated that blasts from IEDs have caused a debilitating condition called tinnitus. I have introduced a bill that calls on the Department of Defense to screen for tinnitus and also calls on the VA to look for new ways of treating and curing tinnitus.

We should never forget that freedom is not free. These men and women laid their lives on the line to protect us, and we should always do all we can to serve them as well as they served us.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 627, CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 456 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 456

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 627) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Financial Services or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment. The Senate amendment shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The question of adoption of the motion shall be divided for a separate vote on concurring in section 512 of the Senate amendment.

SEC. 2. If either portion of the divided question fails of adoption, then the House shall be considered to have made no disposition of the Senate amendment.

SEC. 3. House Resolution 450 is laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. I also ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to

revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 456.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 456 provides for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2009. The rule makes in order a motion by the chairman of the Committee on Financial Services to concur in the Senate amendment. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the motion except clause 10 of rule XXI and provides that the Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The rule provides 1 hour of debate on the motion controlled by the Committee on Financial Services. The rule provides that the question of adoption of the motion shall be divided for a separate vote on concurring in section 512 of the Senate amendment.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot about the deceptive practices of credit card companies over the last 2 weeks here in Washington. My friends here in the House of Representatives have highlighted the nearly \$1 trillion credit card debt in the United States.

President Obama has stressed the need for "credit card forms and statements that have plain language in plain sight." My colleagues in the Senate have equated the deceptive practices used by credit card companies to loan sharking. Small business groups have drawn attention to the one in three businesses where credit card debt accounts for at least 25 percent of the company's overall debt.

□ 1030

Family and consumer groups have highlighted the more than 91 million United States families who are subject to unfair interest rate hikes and being taken advantage of by hidden penalties and fees. These statistics are certainly shocking, and meaningful legislation is necessary. However, this is not a new issue to the American people. This is a problem that they understand all too well and deal with each and every day.

Credit cards have gone from being a luxury to being a convenience to being a necessity. Whether it is paying for your gas at the pump or placing an order online, our modern economy almost requires you to have a credit card. Unfortunately, the tough economic times we are in mean that more and more Americans are turning to credit cards to pay for basic necessities or to make ends meet when something unexpected comes along.

Last weekend in Maine, I was talking with one of my constituents who told me something I hear frequently, that a credit card is the only way she can pay her medical bills. And last winter, with skyrocketing heating oil prices, a credit card was the only way many people in my State were able to stay warm.

But while credit cards have gone from luxury to necessity, credit card