

our original entry in 2001. As a result, the President's request for supplemental funding is not a reallocation of resources. It is support for a new and different war and must be assessed as such.

I have repeatedly asked in various venues how the President's new strategy would bring regional stability, the length of time, and troop levels that such a commitment requires and what our exit strategy would be. The best answer I have received thus far was from Admiral Mullen. He said, "I think it's going to be a while. At what level of combat, what level of troops, that's difficult to predict right now."

A "yes" vote on the supplemental is fundamentally an acceptance of an open-ended military commitment to Afghanistan. That is not something I can support.

WHAT IS THE EXIT STRATEGY FOR GUANTANAMO BAY?

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans want to know and they want to know now—what is the exit strategy for Gitmo? In the dark of the night, the first Gitmo terrorist indicted for killing innocent Americans was moved to New York. The White House approved this despite the fact that 65 percent of Americans do not support closing Guantanamo and sending dangerous and deadly detainees to U.S. prisons.

It's about time this administration started an open and honest dialogue on the future of Gitmo and inform the Congress before ferrying terrorists to America. This sneaky middle-of-the-night move shows that the administration does not want to publicly answer any questions about their exit strategy on Gitmo. Americans want, need and deserve to know exactly where these terrorists will go come next January, and we don't want them here in the United States. We don't need al Qaeda recruiting and training hardened criminals in our prisons.

NOTHING ABOUT COAL IS CLEAN

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, nothing about coal is clean. From extraction, to waste slurry, to stream contamination in Appalachia, nothing—I repeat—nothing about this energy source is clean. In order to extract coal from the ground, mountains are literally blasted apart, killing wildlife and destroying forests, contributing to erosion, flooding and pollution that hits local communities and causes severe health problems. Over 1,200 miles of stream in Appalachia alone have been buried or completely contaminated because of mountaintop mining.

In order to prepare the coal for burning, an overwhelming amount of water is needed to clean the coal. For every ton of coal cleaned, 20 to 40 gallons of water are used to wash the coal, creating a sludgy pollutant known as slurry. Over 90 million gallons of slurry are created every year while harvesting and preparing coal for burning. Keep in mind, we haven't even begun to burn the stuff yet.

Green jobs are the key to economic and environmental progress in regions torn by surface and mountaintop mining and struggling economically due to the destruction of the land. These include jobs in wind, hydroelectric and biofuel power. These jobs will give hard-hit communities a long-term future for their families instead of a short-term paycheck in exchange for the quality of life in the region forever.

BRITISH HOSPITAL PATIENTS DRINK OUT OF FLOWER VASES

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, while our President preaches the virtues of government-run health care, the Prime Minister of Great Britain is apologizing to his country for their socialized system. And no wonder—Bella Bailey went to Staffordshire Hospital for minor surgery. But things were so bad, she got scared because of the poorly trained English staff. Her fears proved correct when a nurse dropped Bailey on the floor. Her daughter said, "Meals were brought to patients who couldn't feed themselves, but the staff wouldn't help. Elderly men wandered the halls in a confused state. Vulnerable patients were left hungry and dirty screaming in pain without help."

"Some patients were so thirsty, they drank from flower vases. It was like a third-world country. Things were so bad, I fed patients and took them to the lavatory. It was like I was watching my mum die and others too."

Well, Mrs. Bailey did die in that government-run hospital from injuries sustained while there. Do we really want the government controlling access to health care? Nationalized health care will have the competence of FEMA, the efficiency of the Post Office, and the compassion of the IRS.

And that's just the way it is.

CLEAN ENERGY JOBS EARN ALBUQUERQUE A RANKING IN KEY JOB GROWTH AREAS

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

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, we are at a tipping point in our country's energy policy debate. Today, Americans are realizing the potential jobs that are at stake in our country's energy policy.

In New Mexico's First Congressional District, Schott Solar is on track to

employ 1,400 people in Albuquerque; Solar Array Ventures, another 1,000 people; hundreds have already helped build the 100-megawatt High Lonesome Mesa wind energy project; and Sandia National Laboratories continues to partner with multiple clean energy startups.

These clean energy jobs earned Albuquerque a second-place ranking in Kiplinger magazine's 2009 listing of cities leading the country in key job growth areas, the kinds of jobs that are leading America toward economic recovery.

Mr. Speaker, to realize the promise of a clean energy economy, to leave a healthy environment to our children, and to end our dangerous dependency on foreign oil, I urge Congress to take bold, decisive action on America's energy policy.

WORKING ON BEHALF OF ORLEANS AND JEFFERSON PARISHES

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

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, the issues of crime and hurricane recovery are most important for Orleans and Jefferson Parishes. Yesterday I voted for the Witness Security and Protection Grant Program Act, and it passed. Law enforcement officials in my district must have the Federal resources needed to protect our citizens.

On Monday, I requested a government review of unresolved FEMA public assistance projects that will help Louisiana move forward with delayed disaster recovery efforts. Lastly, I was able to acknowledge the diverse culture of New Orleans by cosponsoring a resolution to honor black music.

It has been a productive week.

URGING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO MOVE SLOWLY AND CAUTIOUSLY IN ITS RELATIONS WITH CUBA

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak for those oppressed in Cuba that cannot speak for themselves. As the administration is moving forward with immigration talks, as the Organization of American States is welcoming Cuba, I rise to remind my colleagues in Washington and my friends abroad that when you deal with Cuba, you are not dealing with a benign regime. You are dealing with a dangerous regime. The regime's most recent crackdown has surfaced in the oppression of religion.

In May 2008, Pastor Omar Gude Perez was arrested and charged with human trafficking. When no evidence was found to support the charges, the Cuban regime simply changed the charges. He is now on trial for "counter-revolutionary conduct." A man who has been dedicated to his religion now faces years in prison.

Last week, 30 evangelical, non-political pastors were arrested by Cuban authorities. This is a clear attack on religion by the Castro regime.

On top of these atrocities, we hear that two Castro spies may have been working among us in our government for decades. It is crucial that the United States Government move slowly and cautiously in our relationship with Cuba. In light of this, the administration must not make any further decisions regarding Cuba until a comprehensive damage assessment is completed and Congress is fully briefed.

CHINA AND AMERICA'S DEBT

(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, during a speech last week at Beijing University in China, U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner was laughed at when he attempted to assure students that the Chinese government could continue to safely invest in American debt. The largest holder of our national debt is now openly laughing at our financial situation. At the same time, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke was here on Capitol Hill calling for fiscal restraint. Every dollar spent by the government is taken from the people in taxes or borrowed against future generations.

Our Nation's fiscal responsibility is so lacking that a developing nation snickers at the mention of sound investment in our debt. Traveling the world, begging creditor nations to allow us to continue our spending binge is not the kind of international engagement we need. Our economy will turn around because of the ingenuity of the American people, not because of out-of-control, irresponsible government spending and borrowing.

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HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Republicans gave us a Medicare prescription drug benefit complete with a donut hole based on subsidizing the health insurance industry and the prescription drug industry. Now they are at it again. They are absolutely opposed to a public plan option for health insurance, because that would make the health insurance industry compete. Their solution to the 50 million Americans without health insurance and those who are one pink slip away from losing it is tax breaks, so they can go out and buy private insurance.

Well, here is a little secret. Private insurance is exempt from antitrust laws, thanks to the Republicans, so they can and do collude. They won't let you have a preexisting condition. They

can discriminate in any way they want. They can price gouge. They can price fix. And the Republicans say that driving people to that system, not giving them a low-cost, public plan option, and making the health insurance industry more cost effective and truly competitive is a better solution.

Now, come on, guys. Do you really care about those 50 million people, or not?

LOWERING STANDARDS OF LIVING THROUGH THE WAXMAN-MARKEY BILL

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

Mr. LUCAS. The Waxman-Markey bill is one of the most monumental bills that this Congress will consider. It has the potential to permanently damage the standard of living for every man, woman, and child for decades to come. Yet Speaker PELOSI and the administration want to force this bill through Congress.

This bill will tax you. It creates a massive national energy tax that will be devastating to those who live and work in rural America. It promises higher energy costs, lost jobs and higher food prices. This bill will affect all of us. If you like being warm in the winter, if you like being cool in the summer, if you own a farm or a small business, if you like to eat, if you like to go anywhere, this bill will affect you.

Agriculture is squarely in the crosshairs of this bill because it is energy intensive. That is why 40 agricultural groups, including the American Farm Bureau, have expressed opposition to it. No large farm group has endorsed it.

A 1,000-page bill of this magnitude deserves thoughtful consideration and debate. Instead, Speaker PELOSI is rushing it through Congress to the detriment of all of us.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, from the creation of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965 to the reauthorization of SCHIP earlier this year, we have come a long way toward ensuring that every American has access to affordable, quality health care. These programs, Mr. Speaker, ensure that our children and the disabled and the elderly have access to health care. Now it is time to get serious and to help those people in the middle who have been left out.

Family health care costs are increasing. Families cannot afford the rising cost of health premiums, many employer-sponsored plans are providing less coverage and higher deductibles, and there are 45 million Americans with no insurance.

We must seize this opportunity to enact reforms that reduce costs, pro-

tect existing plans, preserve our choices in doctors, hospitals and care, and ensure affordable quality health care for all. I support President Obama and the Democratic leadership. We must act now.

WAXMAN-MARKEY BILL IS ALL HAT AND NO CATTLE

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, in Texas there is an old saying about the cowboy that was all hat and no cattle; in other words, he was all show and no substance.

At a time of economic hardship, Mr. Speaker, this Waxman-Markey energy bill is all tax and no energy. It is going to cost every American family a \$3,100 increase in their energy costs. Farm income is expected to decrease \$8 billion in the near term and almost \$50 billion in the outyears, a 57 percent decrease in farm income over the next 20 years.

The trouble with this cap-and-tax is it is also going to increase the cost of buildings and construction of farm buildings. In a town hall meeting last week, Mr. Speaker, the people in the 19th Congressional District said, Congressman, please stop this cap-and-tax bill. They know that this is a plan not to produce more energy, but it is a plan to increase taxes, to take more money out American families' pockets.

Mr. Speaker, I stand for the American farmers and families and small businesses all across America. I opposed this cap-and-tax plan. The Waxman-Markey bill is all hat and no cattle.

ENERGY

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of efforts to spur investment in clean-energy and energy-efficiency technology that will create clean-energy jobs back home in Nevada and across our country.

Investments in clean-energy technologies like solar, wind, geothermal, smart grid and advanced batteries will help the United States regain its competitive edge in a global green economy, reduce our reliance on foreign oil and improve our energy security.

Clean-energy jobs, like manufacturing solar panels and windmills and constructing new energy-efficient buildings, are jobs that can stay right here at home in the United States. But the United States is currently losing the clean-energy jobs and marketplace share to countries like China, Germany and Korea.

A thriving clean-energy economy will ensure that the United States creates a sustainable manufacturing base that will compete with the rest of the world. I look forward to working with