

In their letter, they stated, "The future of our Nation's long-term prosperity and national security is dependent on innovation and more young Americans being educated in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics."

They also stated what a source of pride and inspiration human spaceflight has been for African American children who see African American astronauts and know that the sky is not the limit.

Mr. Speaker, the Houston Citizens Chamber of Commerce understands the national value of human spaceflight. I urge my colleagues to support the Constellation program in our upcoming budget.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### GLOBAL WARMING IS A THEORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at first, Al Gore claimed to invent the Internet. Now it looks like he really did invent something—global warming.

The Nation had one of the coldest winters in years, including record snowfalls in the South; but the Warmers like Al Gore ignore the obvious, and still claim we are all going to perish, saying that Man is the threat to the planet. The groundhog is a better predictor of the weather than Al Gore.

Al Gore's long-winded article in The New York Times over the weekend was long on claims and short on facts. He didn't cite hard sources for his information. Like the rest of the global warming scientists, they are using fraudulent information. We are supposed to take their word for it now that basic data supporting their claims has, all of a sudden, disappeared.

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That data has been found to be fraudulent. It is no wonder that data is disappearing.

There seems to be no conclusive scientific data that proves the global warming theory. It is a theory. That is what a theory is, something that isn't proven. The Federal Government is trying to force Americans to pay a cap-and-trade national energy tax, and it is all based on this highly disputed theory of global warming.

The United Nations International Panel on Climate Change issued a report in 2007 that made all kinds of claims about global warming. The report is based on some faulty science.

Climategate started last year when a whistleblower released emails between all these global warming scientists.

The emails and other information released showed these guys had been cooking the books. It is still a huge scandal unfolding on the front pages of newspapers all over the world, especially in England.

The Climatic Research Unit at East Anglia University in England is the center of the Climategate scandal. That is where the emails were released by an anonymous whistleblower. Some emails reveal global warming scientists plotting to avoid disclosing information under the Freedom of Information Act in England, and, of course, that is against the law in England. Other email even showed this so-called scientist talking about how to manipulate the data, how to fix the outcome of their scientific experiments.

It sounds like fraud to me. Then they spread this false information around to their buddies without a proper peer review. That is how you perpetrate a hoax.

The data at the basis of all of these findings are based on the same fraudulent data from one of these small groups of scientists. If global warming is the truth, why are these scientists caught in lie after lie? If it is the truth, why would they be lying to the American people in the first place?

The British scientific community spoke out this week about and against their climate science peers. The British Institute of Physics this week said, "Unless the disclosed emails are proven to be forgeries, worrying implications arise for the integrity of the scientific research and for the credibility of the scientific method."

There is no credible proof man causes weather changes. It is a way to bilk millions of dollars out of taxpayers with a so-called carbon tax. It seems to be all about money.

Of course, Mr. Gore is heavily invested in green technology. Last year, he was proclaimed by the media to be the first green technology billionaire. That is a billionaire with a B. Al Gore has made a fortune off of global warming, and so have a lot of other people. He should have to back up his claims with hard data, not the data that has been proved to be false. He would have to prove all of the wild claims, and other scientists should have to prove these claims as well, about man being the culprit of global warming.

The fact is that global warming is not a fact. The jury is still out.

And that's just the way it is.

#### THE HIRING INCENTIVES TO RESTORE EMPLOYMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, unfortunately, I missed the vote on legislation called the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act, the HIRE Act, because I, along with several of my New Democratic Coalition

colleagues, were meeting with President Obama in the White House. I apologize for not getting back to the floor in time. I would have liked to.

But I did want to speak on the legislation because, in fact, this is an important jobs bill. It is one, I hope, of a series of jobs bills that we will pass in the House and in the Senate and get to the President's desk to move this economy forward, to enhance our economic competitiveness and create job growth, help stimulate job growth in the private sector.

This bill did pass the House of Representatives by 217-201, and I believe it will be an important step in giving America the tools to jump-start job growth. It provides tax cuts to spur investments by small businesses and it allows tens of millions of new dollars for infrastructure investment.

Specifically, this bill will grow small business investments by extending provisions included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that Congress passed in 2009 and which have been very successful in stimulating new jobs. These provisions double the amount that small businesses can immediately expense for capital investments and purchases of new equipment made in 2010 from \$125,000 to \$250,000.

The legislation also extends surface transportation programs to allow for billions more to be invested in infrastructure necessary across this country. It makes it easier for States to borrow for these infrastructure projects, such as for school construction and energy projects, and it bolsters the Highway Trust Fund to support existing highway and transit projects.

As vice chair of the House Budget Committee, I am particularly pleased that the HIRE Act is fully paid for and it does not add to the annual deficit. It is paid for by cracking down on overseas tax havens. The legislation provides the U.S. Treasury with new tools to find and prosecute U.S. individuals who hide assets overseas from the IRS.

This jobs bill provides new investments needed to get our Nation back from this economic crisis we have experienced and to stimulate job growth in the private sector by investing in small businesses and in infrastructure, and it does so in a fiscally responsible manner.

I am proud of the House's work on this legislation. I urge my Senate colleagues to pass this legislation quickly and send it to the President, and I look forward to additional legislation that we will see and help work on to produce those new jobs to rebuild this economy and to make sure that America is well positioned and well prepared for 21st century economic competitiveness in a global marketplace.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### HONORING JAMES "FRIDAY" RICHARDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding athletic coach from my hometown of Marietta, Georgia, on the occasion of his retirement.

James "Friday" Richards had dedicated more than 30 years of his life to Marietta High School, retiring on January 22 of this year as the head coach of the Marietta Blue Devil football team. Coach Friday is also a teacher at the high school and will retire from full-time teaching at the end of this current school year.

Coach Friday graduated from Marietta High School in 1972 and went on to play football at the University of Florida. He then spent two seasons in the NFL playing for the New York Jets and the Washington Redskins before coming back to where it all started.

Working at Marietta High School is the only job outside of professional football that Coach Friday has ever had. Up until his retirement, he was the longest serving football coach in Cobb County, Georgia. During his 15-year tenure as head coach, Coach Friday compiled a record of 107 victories and 58 defeats. He took the Blue Devils to the playoffs 10 times and won four region titles.

Before he became head coach, Friday was a Marietta assistant, first for Coach Ray Broadway and then for Coach Dexter Wood. Additionally, under Coach Friday, more than 100 players from Marietta have earned college football scholarships.

Coach Friday told the Marietta Daily Journal, when announcing his retirement, that the thing that he will miss most about coaching are the kids. Well, Coach Friday, four of those kids were my kids: Billy, now 38 years old; Gannon, 37; Phyllis, 35; and Laura Neill, 33. Where in the world did the time go? Coach Friday, I can tell you that those four children that you mentored and coached, three of them cheerleaders, one of them a wide receiver for the Blue Devils, they miss you, too. It is your attitude of putting students and players first that made you, Coach Friday, such an outstanding teacher and football coach.

Mr. Speaker, he will indeed be a tough act to follow.

#### YUCCA MOUNTAIN IS NO LONGER AN OPTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, during the campaign, President Obama

pledged to Nevadans that he would kill the Yucca Mountain nuclear repository project. He has kept his word.

Yesterday, the Energy Department moved to pull the license for the dump. The President's blue ribbon panel will meet this month to find an alternative to Yucca Mountain. But I think it is important for me to reexplain why the opposition to Yucca Mountain is so strong, not only throughout the State of Nevada, but throughout the United States.

There is a very long history here. As we refer to it in Nevada, the so-called "Screw Nevada" bill that was passed over two decades ago decided there were three sites that were supposed to be considered for the disposition of nuclear waste. All of a sudden, in the "Screw Nevada" bill there was one State, and we had the honor of being selected as the State that got screwed by the United States Congress. So this was always a political decision. It never was based on sound science.

Let me tell you what the proposal of this bill was: 77,000 tons of toxic radioactive nuclear waste being shipped across 43 States to be buried in a hole in the Nevada desert where we have groundwater issues, seismic activity and volcanic activity, and 90 miles from a major population center in the western United States.

This was never based on sound science, and it never was a viable option. However, for the last 20-some odd years, it has been the option that this Congress and the former administration wanted to foist on the American people.

Now, let me explain what some of the things are that are wrong with this. First of all, there is no safe way to transport 77,000 tons of toxic radioactive nuclear waste across 43 States. It would take 300,000 trips either on our highways or on our rails across this country where we would be going past schools and hospitals and residential areas in order to get to Nevada. Now, just statistically, there would have been X number of accidents when you have 300,000 shipments.

Also, after 9/11 we became painfully aware of the potential for a terrorist attack. What would prevent a terrorist from attacking a nuclear train that was bringing this nuclear waste to the State of Nevada? That is number one.

Number two, there is no canister that exists that could safely store the waste. This was the initial proposal. Yucca Mountain was supposed to be a natural depository that would collapse on itself once it was full. Well, what do you know? They found out that it wasn't bone dry. There is moisture in Yucca Mountain. So then they said, well, let's create a canister to store the waste. Of course, no canister exists. But they did say there was the possibility that the cannister would leach into the groundwater.

So then they said, well, what we will do, since the mountain is not a natural repository and the canisters don't

exist, and if they did exist they couldn't protect the groundwater from the leaching of nuclear waste into the groundwater, so we will have titanium shields over the canisters that don't exist in Yucca Mountain that isn't a natural repository.

Then they came up with the brilliant plan in the last administration that there would be an army of robots, because it would be too dangerous for human beings to go down to Yucca Mountain, so an army of robots that would have to be invented would go down to Yucca Mountain to seal the canisters that don't exist with the titanium shields in Yucca Mountain that isn't a natural repository. This is what we have been dealing with for over two decades.

Also, there are EPA standards. They said 10,000 years. Well, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overruled that because, do you know what? The shelf life of nuclear waste is 300,000 years. So that made no sense either.

The nuclear industry and its allies continue to talk about putting nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. That plan is so dead, because the State of Nevada supports the President of the United States, who has finally pulled the plug on this ridiculous program.

There is no magic money tree. This is going to cost billions and billions of dollars. Where are we getting that money? Nevada doesn't have a money tree.

Do you know what else Nevada doesn't have, Mr. Speaker? We don't have any water. We are in the middle of a desert, and it takes millions of gallons of water in order to cool the nuclear waste. So I don't know where they are expecting to get the water, but they ought to take a look at the map, because there is no water in the State of Nevada. We are in the middle of a desert.

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So I want to thank the President of the United States for honoring his promises. This blue ribbon panel will finally meet and start the process of finding an alternative to Yucca Mountain. If this country is going to rely on nuclear energy in the future, we'd better finally figure out a way of what to do with the nuclear waste. I support the President and the blue ribbon panel. I wish them well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### HEALTH CARE SUMMIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.