

Democrat and Republican Congresses respectively, that NASA is currently developing new launch vehicles capable of traveling to the moon, Mars, and other destinations.

Not only does canceling the Constellation Program jeopardize America's leadership role in human space exploration, but it will have a detrimental effect on our economy, projecting job losses of 30,000 nationally.

Given our current economic downturn, we can't take the possibility of losing these jobs lightly. Our government has already invested literally years and billions of dollars in this program. We should build on these investments and not abandon them, especially considering the private sector will not be able to build a better, faster, cheaper rocket before the Constellation Program is slated to be finished because the technologies NASA proposed to use do not exist yet, nor has any destination been chosen.

Constellation is our only hope to close the current 5-year gap in U.S. access to space, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in opposition to the proposal to close Constellation.

COMMENDING MEDCAMPS

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend MedCamps for 23 years of outstanding service in the State of Louisiana.

Founded in 1987, MedCamps of Louisiana provides a summer camp experience to children with physical and mental disabilities such as spina bifida, cerebral palsy, autism, and epilepsy. Each week, free of charge, children come from across Louisiana to participate in a week-long, fun-filled camping experience at Camp Alabama in my district. Children participate in activities such as fishing, arts, crafts, nature hikes, canoeing, and many others. As a family physician for over 30 years, I know firsthand the important role that organizations such as MedCamps play in the lives of children with disabilities.

I congratulate MedCamps on their outstanding service to our State and wish them all the best as they continue to serve the children of Louisiana.

FEDERAL TAXES

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, Federal taxes are very considerably lower by every measure since Obama became President. That's a quote from President Reagan's domestic policy adviser, Bruce Bartlett.

Congress and the President have enacted an array of tax cuts which are crucial for efforts to turn the economy around. Instead of a return to tax cuts

focused only on the wealthy, these tax cuts are broad based and touch many aspects of American life, from investing in a small business, to buying a home or making it energy efficient, to sending your children to college, to buying a car. These tax cuts are helping families and businesses across the country and injecting consumer demand in the economy and spurring business activity, investments, and job creation.

All told, Congress has enacted over \$800 billion in tax cuts, including tax cuts hitting 95 percent of American families in the Recovery Act. Building on the Recovery Act's 25 tax cuts, we have enacted job-creating tax incentives to spur hiring for out-of-work Americans, strengthening small business and tax credits, accelerating write-offs to help grow this economy out of this deep economic hole.

SUPPORTING FUNDING FOR THE CONSTELLATION PROGRAM

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, since the President announced his budget on February 1, disapproval of a plan to drastically change the current NASA human space exploration mission has been almost unanimous on both sides of the aisle. The President proposes to add \$6 billion to NASA's budget for the next 5 years, but over those first 4 years the exploration account decreases by \$5.7 billion.

Human space flight and exploration beyond Earth is the very reason that NASA was put into existence. The President's plan moves funds to unproven proposals and costs the government \$2.5 billion to shut down the Constellation Program. Ares I and Ares V overlap technologies, and there is zero budget proof that the administration's new plan will give us those capabilities with less money.

The innovative scientists and employees at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, have done a great job in leading space technology in the world.

Mr. Speaker, when the President speaks tomorrow at the Kennedy Space Center, both Democrat and Republican Members hope that he will make a commitment to properly fund the Constellation Program.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

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

Mr. SCHAUER. Mr. Speaker, while many are quick to criticize the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the truth is that last month our economy created 162,000 jobs. But, of course, we have got a long way to go to get everyone back to work.

Since tomorrow is Tax Day, I wanted my constituents to know one of the reasons our economy is getting stronger is record tax cuts in the stimulus for middle-class families. Ninety-five percent of workers are receiving the Making Work Pay tax credit of up to \$400 per worker, \$800 per family. Expansion of the child tax credit has helped families of more than 16 million children. Four million more students are attending college as a result of the new \$2,500 tax credit; and tax credits and deductions are helping families stimulate the economy through purchases of homes, cars, trucks, and mobile homes.

As families file their taxes and get their refunds, I want them to understand that these benefits didn't happen by accident. They were the result of a strategy that I supported and Democrats supported, cutting taxes for middle-class families.

TAXES

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is Tax Day, a deadline dreaded by millions of Americans currently finishing up their tax returns.

Congress owes it to the American taxpayer to act in a fiscally responsible way. Unfortunately, this Congress has not lived up to this burden. At a time when 15 million American remain unemployed and many more are struggling to make ends meet, this administration and Democratic Congress continue to push through measures which increase taxes and add to government spending, which is already out of control. Strong-arm tactics and economic sleight of hand should not be used to jam through legislation which will impact the life of every American.

The solution is not taking more money from the American people. The answer is fiscal discipline in Washington and tax relief for working Americans. We can't tax and spend our way back to a growing economy, and we owe the American taxpayer better.

POLISH PLANE CRASH

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to express my sincere condolences to the people of Poland as they mourn the death of President Lech Kaczynski and his wife, Maria, and to the families and friends of the other 94 men and women who lost their lives in Saturday's airplane crash near Russia's Katyn Forest.

Chicago is the second largest Polish city in the world, second only to Warsaw, and among those killed was Wojciech Seweryn, a Chicago sculptor who emigrated from Poland over three decades ago. Seweryn's father was one

of over 20,000 Poles killed in the Soviet Union in the Katyn Forest in 1940. He was traveling with the Polish President to mark the 70th anniversary of the massacre.

I join with Chicago's vibrant Polish American community and with Poland's friends around the world in mourning the loss of the 96 men and women who lost their lives on Saturday.

CONSTELLATION FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET PROPOSAL

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

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2011 recommends canceling NASA's Constellation Space Program. In agreement with Neil Armstrong, I am very concerned this proposal will leave our Nation with no means of transporting our astronauts to and from the International Space Station and could set the U.S. space program back decades.

To this day, we enjoy countless practical benefits from Apollo technology in things that affect our everyday lives, such as improved weather forecasting, which is vitally important to those of us who live in Louisiana and on the gulf coast.

The Michoud Assembly Facility in my district was slated to build components of the Constellation Program. Michoud now faces the prospect of losing thousands of high-skilled jobs. This world-class manufacturing facility has been used to build the Saturn rockets for Apollo and the main fuel tanks for the Space Shuttle, among other notable achievements. If the President's proposal is adopted, we will lose all that experience and manufacturing know-how, along with 9 billion tax dollars already spent developing the Constellation Program.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would ask Members to please heed the gavel.

AMERICANS AND THEIR FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the First Amendment gives the American people the right to petition the Congress for redress of grievances and to express freedom of speech.

Several weeks ago, the chairman of the committee that I serve as a ranking member on, Energy and Commerce, Chairman HENRY WAXMAN, sent a letter to several U.S. corporations for having the temerity to express their dis-

pleasure with the health care bill and to inform their employees and stockholders of the consequences of that piece of legislation. He has opened an investigation into those companies, and we have a hearing next week.

Two days ago, Chairman WAXMAN sent a letter to the American Farm Bureau, opening an investigation into their activities expressing their displeasure with the EPA endangerment finding and the pending cap and trade legislation in the United States Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned when one of the premier committee chairmen of our great House of Representatives appears to be using his power to intimidate Americans from expressing their First Amendment rights to petition the Congress for redress of grievances. I think that's a sad state of affairs, and I think that is something that maybe should be investigated.

TAX RELIEF FOR MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES

(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, since coming to Congress, I have kept my promise to provide tax relief to middle-class families and small businesses in my district; and I am proud to report that on Tax Day millions of Americans will pay less in taxes and keep more of their hard-earned money in their own pockets, where it belongs.

In the past year, Congress has enacted over \$800 billion in tax cuts, including the largest package of tax cuts in history in the Recovery Act, leading Reagan's adviser Bruce Bartlett to say that Federal taxes are very considerably lower by every measure since Obama became President.

A recent report by Citizens for Tax Justice has found that, for 2009, 98 percent of working families and individuals in Nevada benefited from at least one of the tax cuts in the Recovery Act, saving an average of \$841. For folks in my district struggling to make ends meet, \$841 could be a mortgage payment that helps them avoid foreclosure and could make a real difference in their lives.

□ 1030

INTERNET GAMBLING

(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, every day, dozens of Web sites entice Web surfers to bet online with free software offers. Online poker sites advertise openly on TV. Stores carry books on how to get rich by gambling online. The only problem is that online gambling is illegal. That is why Congress passed the

unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, to provide the necessary tools and mechanisms to effectively enforce the law.

This year, Americans will send billions of dollars to offshore, unregulated, online casinos. The Justice Department has warned that many of these sites are fronts for money laundering, drug trafficking, and even terrorist financing.

At its core, the law is about protecting American families from addiction, bankruptcy, and crime. All you need is a computer, a credit card, and Internet access, and with that, players are able to play 24 hours a day from the privacy of their homes. Real lives, including those of minor children, are being affected by illegal online gambling, and it's time that this administration enforce the law on this issue.

TAX CUT FOR AMERICA AND THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I commend my colleagues and President Obama for working diligently to enact a variety of tax cuts totaling \$800 billion. These tax cuts are broad based and touch on many aspects of American life, from investing in small businesses, to buying a home, to sending your children to college, to buying a car.

I believe that tax cuts are helping American families and businesses across the country and injecting consumer demand into the economy and spurring business investment and job creation.

The Recovery Act provides immediate tax relief to 95 percent of American workers and their families. The Making Work Pay tax credit provides a tax credit of up to \$400 for working individuals and up to \$800 for couples filing jointly. This tax credit helps over 240,000 families in my congressional district.

In addition, the first-time home buyers tax credit was increased to \$8,000. An estimated 35,000 households in New Jersey have taken advantage of the tax credit. So I ask to keep America moving in the right direction.

FUNDING THE CONSTELLATION PROGRAM

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the President moves to Florida to salvage or to attempt to salvage a deteriorating political situation caused by accepting NASA Deputy Director Garver's poor decision to cancel Constellation.

Constellation consists at least of two parts: the Orion capsule for the astronauts designed to be 10 times safer