

9 out of 10 say it is important to reduce illegal immigration. The networks should give Americans the facts about immigration, not just give them one side of the story.

□ 1015

BUTLER COUNTY UNITED WAY AND LABOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my gratitude to the United Way of Butler County, Pennsylvania, and their partners in the labor community for their annual service program Butler County Labor Month of Caring. The Butler County United Labor Council and the Butler County Building and Construction Trades are working with the United Way to help make homes safer in Butler. Safety equipment like smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors save lives. Yet many homes, particularly those of senior citizens, don't have these devices installed and working. Every Saturday throughout the month of May in Butler County, volunteer workers will install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in homes whose residents cannot do so themselves due to age, health, or income limitations.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I thank the Butler County labor community and United Way for their generosity in giving the gift of safety.

VALUE-ADDED TAX

(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, consumer spending is critical to creating new jobs, and the last thing we want to do during a recovery is discourage it. Unfortunately, we are hearing whispers and rumblings that the President's debt commission could recommend a new value-added tax before the end of the year, a VAT tax. Close advisers to the President such as Paul Volcker and John Podesta have publicly supported this tax which is already widely used in Europe.

The problem is that European taxes mean European unemployment and European levels of job growth. From 1982 to 2007, the U.S. created 45 million new jobs, compared to only 10 million in Europe. VAT taxes raised the price of goods, directly reducing consumer purchasing power, and this means fewer jobs.

I think we need to make it clear to the debt commission that a VAT tax is no solution to our fiscal problems. The real solution is to restrain Federal Government spending that has far outstripped its traditional boundaries. I'm circulating a letter for signatures to

the commission opposing the VAT tax, and I hope all my colleagues will stand with me against the VAT tax.

WORKING TOGETHER TO REBUILD THIS COUNTRY

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I met with people in Appleton, Shawano and Green Bay, Wisconsin, listening to their concerns. And what did they ask me to do? They asked me to cut their taxes and to help small business owners grow the jobs that we need to work our way back into prosperity.

Well, you may not have seen it on television or heard it on the radio, but President Obama and the Democrats here in Congress have already delivered the biggest tax cuts in American history. In USA Today 2 days ago, it said: "Tax Bills in 2009 at Lowest Level Since 1950." But don't stop there. Let's take the word of President Reagan's domestic economic adviser Mr. Bartlett: "Federal taxes are very considerably lower by every measure since Obama became President. According to the JCT, last year's \$787 billion stimulus bill, enacted with no Republican support, reduced Federal taxes by almost \$100 billion in 2009 and another \$222 billion this year."

But we all know that helping small business must be a top priority as well. And that's why we passed the bipartisan HIRE Act which will generate jobs. That's why we worked together with Republicans and Democrats to pass the HOME STAR Act. We're working together to rebuild this country.

PASS THE SHORT LINE RAILROAD TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the extension of the Short Line Railroad tax credits that have recently expired. Because this credit has not been extended for 2010, the Illinois & Midland and Tazewell & Peoria Railroads in my district have not been able to perform much-needed maintenance to their infrastructure. These companies depend on the extension of this credit to keep their track laborers working and to continue to invest in their track which is necessary to serve local businesses in my district. Companies like Caterpillar, Exelon, Midwest Generation, Reed Minerals, Aventine Renewable Energy, and many others may lose their connection to the national freight rail network.

The problems facing these companies in my district are not unique to the rail industry. The uncertainty of all of these expiring credits leave businesses in a state of flux, unwilling to make the necessary investments and long-term planning to expand their busi-

nesses and put people back to work. Over 250 Members of this body have already signed legislation which extends this credit. I urge the Speaker to call this bill and to pass the Short Line Railroad tax credit today.

WALL STREET REFORM

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Wall Street reform and ask, Which side are you on? In my opinion, the debate on Wall Street reform is straightforward. There are those who support hardworking American families and small businesses against those who wish to protect the status quo and big Wall Street banks which are to blame for the current recession.

For example, last year this House passed the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. None—that's right, zero—of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle supported that bill. The other side can no longer ignore American families who have worked hard and played by the rules, only to see their homes foreclosed on, their retirement savings lost, their business destroyed, or their jobs wiped out.

We need commonsense reforms and stronger consumer protections to ensure that a crisis on this order of magnitude never happens again. It is time we streamlined government and put a cop on the beat of Wall Street to protect American families and businesses. Absent this cop, Wall Street will regulate itself as it did under the previous administration. The American economy cannot afford to live through real-life tragedy again and neither can her families.

REAUTHORIZE THE AMERICA COMPETES ACT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act. Fifty years ago in Dallas, Texas, at Texas Instruments, Dr. Jack Kilby invented the microchip. This ground-breaking technology is arguably the catalyst of the information age and the entire field of modern microelectronics. At that time, this technology was unimaginable. If not for Dr. Kilby, it is feasible that sophisticated high-speed computers, large-scale semiconductors may cease to exist.

The example Dr. Kilby set proves it is the American people that will create the next technological feat. In order to become energy independent, create new jobs and exports, and develop the next great technology, we must invest robustly in scientific education and innovation. This is the goal of America

COMPETES, and I am pleased the provisions in this bill are for all Americans. I, along with my supportive colleagues, want to thank the House leadership for bringing this important legislation to the floor.

RETURNING STABILITY TO THE DAIRY INDUSTRY

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today I will introduce legislation to help put our dairy legislation on track and prevent future dairy crashes like the one we're now in. The Daily Price Stabilization Act is not just about trying to elevate dairy prices. It's about returning stability to the dairy industry. I was raised on a dairy farm, and we know that dairy boom and bust cycles have always existed. But in the past decade, booms have gotten shorter and the busts longer and more severe. These highs and lows have forced many dairies to shut down. In the last 2 years, we've lost over \$12 billion of equity in the industry; and, sadly, some dairymen have taken their own lives.

This unsustainable cycle must stop. Dairies can no longer survive on milk checks that are lower than their cost of production. Our bill gives dairymen the option to grow as they see fit, provides incentives to better align supply and demand. Mr. Speaker, we must take swift action now to protect our local dairy farmers across the Nation. I encourage my colleagues to join in this effort.

THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, over the last several months, I have visited factory floors in Burlington, Meriden, and Waterbury, Connecticut, and the news is good. Orders are returning; revenue is up; access to capital is coming back. And we have seen it in the national numbers. Last week, the Department of Labor reported that 290,000 jobs were added in April, a larger-than-expected increase. And last year, thanks to the tax cuts that this House passed, consumer spending has started to increase, jumping up by 3.5 percent in the last report.

But we have to do more in Connecticut. Our economic recovery won't be complete until manufacturing completely rebounds, and that won't happen until this Congress decides to start spending U.S. taxpayer dollars here on U.S. jobs. Our economy is coming back, but its recovery will not be full until we make a commitment to buy American.

WE'RE BAILING OUT GREECE

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

Mr. PENCE. Our country is weary of borrowing and spending and bailouts from Washington, D.C. So the American people deserve to know we're bailing out Greece, and future Americans may be picking up the tab for as much as \$50 billion in additional loan guarantees for the rest of Europe in the form of a bailout.

Here's how it works: the European Union's members and the IMF recently pledged \$145 billion in a Greek bailout; \$40 billion of that came from the International Monetary Fund. Since the United States pays 17 percent—we're the largest contributor to the IMF—American taxpayers are on the hook for \$6.8 billion in loan guarantees from the IMF, and it may just be a down payment. The EU this last weekend talked about a \$1 trillion bailout plan that could put U.S. taxpayers on the hook for \$50 billion in additional loan guarantees to bail out Europe.

Look, the EU was formed to compete with the US of A economically, and it is simply not right to ask the people of the United States of America to provide loan guarantees to bail out an economic competitor in Europe. Nobody wants to see the EU fail, but we're not asking for their help in New Jersey or California. They shouldn't be asking our help for Portugal, Spain, or Greece.

DEPLOY THE NATIONAL GUARD TO THE U.S.-MEXICAN BORDER

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

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge President Barack Obama to improve security on our southern border by immediately deploying the National Guard. On March 27, Rob Krentz, whose family has been ranching along the U.S.-Mexico border for over 100 years, was tragically murdered, murdered on his own land. Three days later, I wrote to the President and asked him to send back the National Guard to protect our citizens who live and work along the border. I renewed that request 2 weeks ago and again last week.

Deployment of the National Guard is an essential first step in reassuring border residents of our commitment to their safety and security. The people that I represent do not believe that the Federal Government has heard their pleas, and they grow worse and worse every single day. Much has been done to improve border security, but our border is not yet secure, contrary to whatever people say.

Drug cartel violence increasingly threatens the lives of our citizens; and on behalf of the thousands of Americans who live in the troubled sections

of the U.S.-Mexico border but particularly in southern Arizona, I ask again that the President immediately deploy the National Guard. The first responsibility of the government is to ensure the safety of its citizens, and we must take action.

THE AMERICA COMPETES ACT IS GOOD FOR OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I was proud to cofound the Congressional Task Force on American Competitiveness. The reason we did that is while this Democratic Congress makes the kind of short-term required investments to keep our economy stable and to grow it from the depths of a recession that we have just emerged from, we still need to keep our eyes on the prize, and that is growing an economy, investing in an economy that will provide vibrant job growth opportunities for our children and grandchildren.

This is why the task force strongly supports the reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act, a piece of legislation that will expand our growing commitment to science and technological education, to innovative research and also to utilizing our manufacturing base to grow the economies of the future. Yes, the America COMPETES Act will make the kind of long-term investment that will create the economy that will sustain our society for years to come and create the kind of futuristic jobs that we can all be proud of.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the America COMPETES Act which will sustain this economy in the future.

DOUBLING THE BUDGETS OF OUR BASIC RESEARCH AGENCIES

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, we learned last week that April was the fourth consecutive month of job growth in the United States. The tax cuts and investments made by the Recovery Act are turning the economy around. Funding for scientific research and infrastructure in that act has put to work scientists and construction workers and others.

But after years of underinvestment in research, this part of the Recovery Act, \$22 billion, was merely a down payment on our future economic competitiveness. The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act in the House this week will build on these successes, among other things, by authorizing funding levels to continue to double the budgets of our basic research agencies. These investments will pay big dividends as recoveries and innovations lead to new industries, like Google and