

breaks out over there and in the Gulf States, the Persian Gulf could be blocked, and we would lose so much energy we wouldn't even be able to run the lights in this place.

It is extremely important that we have a very strong Iran sanctions bill. I am on the conference committee, and I would say to my colleagues who are conferees, let's make it tough, as tough as possible, because the one thing we want to do is avert a major war with Iran in the Middle East. And I can tell you, I know Bibi Netanyahu, the prime minister of Israel, is not going to stand by and watch a weapon that could obliterate, destroy Israel, be produced right next door there in Iran. So it is important that the United States take the lead by coming up with a very strong bill that will put sanctions on Iran that they will realize will stop them economically if they don't stop their nuclear development program.

This is probably going to be one of the last chances we will have to stop a nuclear program in Iran that will develop a nuclear weapon and possibly cause a major war and proliferation of nuclear weapons throughout the Middle East. This is a very important time not only for them, in the Middle East, Israel and our allies, but it is a big, important time for the United States and all of our allies in Europe. We can't let a terrorist state like Iran get a nuclear weapon, and that is why we need to pass a very strong Iran sanctions bill, and we need to do it right away.

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

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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.)

WELCOMING LOCAL LEADERS FROM DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS, TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize Denton County, Texas and members of the Denton County leadership delegation who are visiting here in Washington, D.C. this week. These local officials and business leaders understand that what goes on here in Washington affects their local communities. So this trip, this trip they make every 2 years, is a very important one.

Over the next several days, these individuals will meet with members of the leadership here in Congress, Senators and Representatives from Texas and across the country and, in addition, will find time to visit the soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

I'm pleased to welcome members of some of the chambers of commerce and business associations of Denton County, along with several Denton County local officials to the Nation's Capital.

I also want to thank them for helping to make Denton County a place of entrepreneurship and economic opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I will submit the names of the Denton County delegation for the RECORD.

Sandra Kathleen Beahm
Kent Collins
Patrick L. Davis
Andrew Thomas Eads
Ginger Ann Eads
Al Filidoro
Chuck Fremeux
Kelly Leigh Heslep
Cynthia Rae Howard
Claude E. King
Michael Leavitt
Dee Leggett
Tod Mahoney
Matthew McCormick
Tami McCormick
Scott Ran all McDearmont
Shannon McGary
Brandon McGary
William J. Meek
Stan Morton
Jody Smith
Suzene Thompson
Harold Dean Ueckert
Catherine Ann Ueckert
Charlotte Jeanette Wilcox

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

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

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

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

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PRESIDENT OBAMA AND THE 111TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, tonight and beginning each week, we will begin the week talking about the accomplishments of both President Obama, as well as the Democratic leadership in the legislature. The efforts of the Democratic Caucus over the last year and a half, particu-

larly since President Obama was sworn in have truly been remarkable. The efforts have been remarkable, but also the accomplishments.

And I think it's important that we continue to talk to the American people about those accomplishments, particularly when compared to some of the commentary that's out there in the media because, from watching some news programs, one would think that we were all here in the Chamber sitting in our chairs, fast asleep, as opposed to working and keeping our heads down and being very focused and working under the leadership of President Obama to make sure that we can turn the absolute nightmare that we were handed by the former Bush administration into the new direction that we talked about and that the American people elected us to take this country in.

And so tonight my colleagues and I are going to spend some time outlining those accomplishments. But I think it's important and instructive to first look at where we were, and then talk about where we are now. So that's some of what we're going to do this evening.

If you look back to January of 2009, which was the month, Mr. TONKO, that President Obama was sworn in, during that month the economy was yet again bleeding 700,000-plus jobs. And I think we have a chart here that I can use to illustrate that. But I think the most illustrative example of where we were, versus where we are today is this chart.

If you look back, this chart begins in December of '07, and you can see through the end of the Bush administration, Mr. Speaker, that the economy was steadily getting worse. We were bleeding jobs. By the time President Obama took office in January of '09, we literally were at 700,000-plus jobs lost, and that continued all the way up until February of '09 with the passage of the American Economic Recovery Act.

Now, I've heard a lot of malarkey in the news media out there, and particularly quite a lot from our friends on the other side of the aisle, about the supposed absence of job creation that the Recovery Act generated.

Well, the numbers don't lie, Mr. Speaker. If you look at the direction that job creation has gone in, and our economic recovery has begun, you look at the blue line beginning in February of '09 with the passage of the Recovery Act, and you progress all the way up where we were losing month by month fewer and fewer jobs; and we talked about how, obviously, any job losses are unacceptable, until we reached this most recent month in April. And I think actually this chart—it doesn't even, the numbers are even better, Mr. ALTMIRE, than we have on this chart. But this chart shows it up through March where we added 167,000 jobs.

In April, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, we actually added 290,000 jobs in April. The vast majority of those were private sector jobs. We do know that we have

some Census jobs that are temporary. But the point is that, as a direct result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, we are moving in the right direction and beginning to turn the economy around. And I think it's incredibly important that we show the American people the results of our policies.

And, Mr. ALTMIRE, I'd be happy to yield to you.

Mr. ALTMIRE. I appreciate the gentlewoman yielding her time. And it's wonderful to have the opportunity to be here tonight to talk about the success of some of the actions that this Congress has taken on the economy.

I had a town meeting almost a year ago to the day. It was at the end of April in 2009, and there were a lot of folks there who were complaining about the vote for the Recovery Act, the stimulus bill. And I said to them at that time, look, I'll make a deal with you. How about we have this discussion today, but we also have this discussion a year from now. Why don't we reconvene and have a discussion about what has happened over the past year.

And so I would invite anyone who wants to have that discussion in this Chamber or across the country, let's take a walk down memory lane. And as the gentlewoman talked about, let's take a look at where we were at the end of April in 2009.

The 6-month period ending at the end of April 2009 resulted in an average monthly loss of over 600,000 jobs per month every month for that 6-month period. For that same 6-month period, ending at the end of April 2010, we have averaged over 100,000 jobs gained, including 290,000 jobs created in the month of April alone.

The stock market bottomed out in the middle of March 2009 at 6,500. Today, a little bit more than a year later, we're around 1,500.

Gross domestic product, the first quarter of 2009 was minus six. By the end of 2009, it was plus six, which was the largest calendar year turnaround in 30 years in this country. And we've now had three consecutive months of positive growth.

So the job market is exploding. Gross domestic product we're now likely in our fourth straight quarter of positive growth. The stock market has done quite well. And you might say, well, what does that matter? If you have a 401(k) in this country, if you have a retirement plan, as many people do in this Chamber and certainly in our districts, we care about that, and that's something our constituents care about.

And some other numbers that I took down before I came down here, the consumer confidence level rose in April, reaching its highest level since September of 2008. The consumer spending is up for the sixth straight month, surpassing the pre-recession levels. Manufacturing activity has increased for the ninth straight month.

And what I say to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN

SCHULTZ) and my colleagues from Pennsylvania and New York is all of that happened almost like precision clockwork at exactly the time that the Recovery Act bill passed, that turnaround. The gentlewoman, I'm sure, will show the chart again later and other charts that are similar. These numbers started to turn around exactly at the time that the Recovery Act began to take effect.

Another issue that we're going to talk about tonight, as was reported in the national media very recently with tax day having just passed, is that we have the lowest tax rate in this country in the past 60 years. It hasn't been since 1950 that the tax burden to the individual has been lower in this country because we, in this Congress, as part of the Recovery Act, cut taxes for 95 percent of Americans, 95 percent of families. I'm sure we're going to talk about that.

And all of these things didn't happen by accident. They happened because this Congress took a very difficult vote at a very important time for this country, and the success is there for everyone to see. So I'm proud to have cast that vote, and I'm proud to be here tonight to talk about it.

I would yield now to my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mrs. DAHLKEMPER).

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the Congresswoman, my friend from Florida, for bringing us together tonight to talk about just the very positive signs that we're seeing in our economy, the positive signs that have really come from the policies enacted by this Congress over the past 17 months since I've come to Congress.

And I wanted to kind of go back to my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) when he was talking about the GDP numbers and this is, I think, just a great graph to show. You were talking about in 2009, the first quarter, we saw a drop, 6.4 in GDP, just over 6 points there. And that was prior to the President taking over and us just coming into our 111th Congress. And here, with the policies that we've enacted, this shows the fourth quarter of '09, almost 6 points increase. And you can definitely see the change in GDP in the final years of the Bush administration to the first year in the Obama administration and the 111th Congress, very stark numbers here showing the difference.

I think one of the most exciting things that I've seen is the manufacturing increases. And you mentioned that, Mr. ALTMIRE, the fact that we are seeing manufacturing increase in this country, the largest 10-month gain since 1997. And I think there's so many of us here who believe we've got to be making things in this country. And from western Pennsylvania, my colleague and I, and certainly from New York State and I'm sure from Florida too, we really come from a manufacturing base, and a base that hired many people and gave them a good liv-

ing wage and produced great product here in this country, and we really have slipped when you look at the global economy in terms of our manufacturing base. And so to see those manufacturing numbers returning and growing stronger to me is very, very encouraging; 290,000 jobs, as was mentioned, created in April. Certainly a small portion of those from the Census, but it is estimated 231,000 of those were created in the private sector.

Looking back over the 8 years of the Bush administration, only 1 million jobs were created over those 8 years. During the President Clinton 8 years, 22 million jobs were created. So far this year, we've created 500,000 jobs. One million during the Bush administration; 500,000 so far this year.

Now, for all of us, losing any jobs is not good. And too many people are still out of work. But I see positive signs that really show that the policies we've enacted, particularly since the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, have moved our country into a positive direction for those who have really been out there struggling.

And what I think is so exciting is the can-do attitude of American businesses and the American people that, when times are tough, the American people find a way through this, and we end up being stronger, more productive, more innovative, more creative, we diversify, and we find a way to get through this. That can-do attitude that Americans have certainly has worked well, along with the policies that we've had here in Congress in this last year and a half, moving this country from losing hundreds of thousands of jobs every month to gaining hundreds of thousands of jobs. The GDP levels that were dropping significantly are now on the rise.

And now I'd like to yield to my good friend, also a fellow freshman here in the Congress, Mr. TONKO.

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Mr. TONKO. Thank you, Representative DAHLKEMPER, and thank you, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for bringing us together this evening to share the facts and just the facts, which I think is an important bit of exchange and messaging that needs to be done with the American public. And, you know, if you don't believe what you are hearing here, because perhaps you have been swayed by some very gloom-and-doom news info that's been coming your way, take the word from Fortune magazine of April 16 of this year.

On April 16, Fortune magazine reported that we have taken a sharp U-turn in the past couple of months and that there are better days for American businesses and workers just around the corner. Well, that's telling it like it is. And why? Because this House, the leadership of this House, the President and his administration, working together, we have enabled a

very sharp, laser-type focus on American workers, on working families in this country.

And it's now that sort of priority that has been established here in the House of Representatives, working with the administration, to make certain that we crawl out of this economic recession, the Bush recession that gripped this Nation, brought this country to her knees economically, and now people have said, We will give you the keys; we will put you in charge. And there is a spirit of optimism that is obviously being expressed in consumer data that's being recorded now in the past several months where there is a swing upward.

As Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ pointed out in the V formation, that downward straight line of the V was under the Bush recession. And then as we swing upward, that upward straight line of the V is that blue portion of this graph that talks about the comeback. You know, it's mimicking a story of the past where under the Clinton administration 22 million jobs were created and under the Bush administration, 1 million. One million. So there is a stark difference there.

The policies that are being initiated here under the watch of President Obama and the leadership of this House have produced a track already that if it's extrapolated over the next 8 months, for a year's worth of data, we will surpass in 1 year what 8 years' worth of information tells us happened during those Bush years. And 8 million jobs lost. That goes beyond what the Great Depression produced for this country.

So I think that the spirit of optimism is driving the comeback. It's perhaps why that optimism spoke to those numbers of the new home sales. The home sales in March alone rose by 27 percent, a record month-to-month increase that goes back 47 years. So it's that sort of consumer confidence, the optimism, as you alluded to, Representative DAHLKEMPER, of growth in the manufacturing activity out there which is extremely valuable.

We see ourselves as a Nation that produces and responds to the needs of consumers out there. Any nation that wants to stay strong needs to grow its manufacturing sector. We are seeing that happen. So, so many of the indicators out there are suggesting that we are on that comeback trail. We are hoping it's a straight line comeback. We don't want any other format out there but a straight line.

We believe that as we go forward and continue to invest, and I believe that's the right word, invest in the American workers, in businesses, where we have not aligned and put the highest priority value to Wall Street banks, to credit card companies, to the insurance industry, to all of these efforts and the big oil companies; we have instead put our focus and our priority with American workers, working families, job creation and retention, and the num-

bers are there. They are beginning to show that the proof in the pudding here is that sound policies to turn the thinking around, to pull us out of the economic woes, and we can trail it. We are trailing it now, and the data speak for themselves.

So this is a great hour, a great opportunity to exchange the facts and nothing but the facts and allow people to understand that we are climbing upward with a spirit of optimism and confidence that's being marked by so many measurements out there that are to the good.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. TONKO, I really appreciate your comments. I know that the folks listening do as well.

Madam Speaker, I think one of the important facts that we need to talk about tonight, as well, is the stark reality that we are in an election year, and in a few months our constituents are going to have a choice. Elections are, after all, about choices. And we have an opportunity here to present the choice that the American people are going to have to make decisions on. They can go back to the ways of the last 8 years prior to President Obama's inauguration in which the tax-cutting policy in America was focused exclusively on the wealthiest few and the middle class was essentially left out of the discussion. There was absolutely no focus on making sure that middle class tax cuts and job creation, targeted tax cuts and job creation would be focused on the middle class.

I served in the minority and the majority during the Bush administration, and I can tell you that in neither 2-year period was there any discussion of how to get the middle class back to work, how to get small business back. Small business was never discussed under the Bush administration or the Republican leadership. Their focus was big business, corporate interests, as we saw with the collapse of Wall Street and, as a result, the collapse of our economy.

And now when, as President Obama said, we have come in, President Obama was inaugurated and he is trying to clean up the mess he was handed, the Republicans refuse to even grab a mop. I mean, he is here mopping away, and not only do they refuse to grab a mop, to quote President Obama, but they also criticize the way he is holding the mop. I mean, it's just really—well, it's nothing short of brazen behavior. There is an expression for it, but on the House floor I won't use that expression.

I think another important point, Mr. TONKO, that can't be overlooked is when I have been out there at home, I come from a State that does not have a manufacturing base. We are a service-based economy, a tourism-based economy, and our economy was quite focused and dependent upon housing. We had a tremendous bubble in Florida. The bubble burst, and now, because the housing market has not rebounded

at the same rates as the rest of the economy, we are still struggling with a higher average unemployment rate.

You will hear our friends on the other side of the aisle, Mr. ALTMIRE, talk about, well, you can talk about all this fabulous job creation, but the unemployment rate still ticked up last month. Well, it's important to understand that the reason that the unemployment rate ticked up is because you have about 800,000 people who began looking for work again who had taken themselves out of the process because it was hopeless, because there was absolutely no chance of a recovery in their minds. And if they looked for a job, in their mind, it would have been pointless.

So in an odd way, it's actually a good thing in the short term that the unemployment rate ticks up a little bit, because we know the unemployment rate has been artificially a little bit lower because of the people who have simply not been looking for work. And now because, as Mr. ALTMIRE noted, U.S. consumer confidence in April reached its highest levels since September of 2008, we have an increase in the GDP, an increase in the manufacturing base, pending home sales up for the fifth straight month. All of these economic indicators are moving dramatically in the right direction. And as a result, we are going to be able to really begin to ramp up our progress, and it's very exciting.

I want to spend some time tonight talking about, besides the Recovery Act, the other things that we have been doing to really put small businesses back in the black, make sure that they can have an opportunity to make hiring decisions and add to their workforce.

With that, if the gentleman from New Mexico is ready, it's a pleasure to be joined by Mr. HEINRICH of New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Thank you. It's a pleasure to be here.

Madam Speaker, I just wanted to return to sort of where we were a couple of years ago when several of us who are joining you here tonight were running for Congress for the very first time. Mr. TONKO from New York, for example, another mechanical engineer, has only been around here for what is it, 14 months now, 16 months now? And Mrs. DAHLKEMPER from Pennsylvania as well, the gentlelady from Pennsylvania, we didn't run on passing the Recovery Act. None of us went to Congress because we were hoping to pass a Recovery Act. We did what was necessary to be responsible to clean up the mess that we were left with.

You can take the example of how the United States and this Congress has responded to this recession versus how a country like Japan, when it got into its last big recession, responded. They did too little too late, and as a result, they were left with 10 years of recession, a decade of job-killing recession, a decade of reduced tax revenues, when

their competitiveness in the world was dramatically reduced because they weren't willing to stand up and to lead and do what was right.

So we passed the Recovery Act. And when you want to look back at history and judge what happened with this Recovery Act, as a mechanical engineer, rather than just listening to the rhetoric, I think it's very critical that we look at the data. And as you have shown here tonight, when you look at, well, let's take the stock market, for example. This graph shows what has happened with our investments over the end of the Bush administration and the beginning of the Obama administration and the leadership that this Congress showed.

It's incredibly important to realize that this isn't about Wall Street. This is about the people in my home State of New Mexico who are relying on their investments for their retirement. It is about the people who have their retirement accounts tied up in investments and their annual and monthly incomes. Whether or not they get to do anything besides pay the mortgage is dependent on the value in those accounts. And we saw a precipitous decline that took real wealth out of the pockets of people all across this country as trillions of dollars of wealth literally disappeared in a matter of months from our constituents.

After the Recovery Act was passed and the many other pieces of legislation that we passed to try and recover this economy, we have seen an increase in that value that you just can't argue with the data, between 10,000 and 11,000 in the Dow for the last month.

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HEINRICH. Absolutely.

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. I thank the gentleman.

The facts are what we are talking about tonight, and I just want to quote from *Business Week*, April 8, 2010. This is a quote by Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. "When you take it all together, the response to the recession was massive, unprecedented, and ultimately successful." And that's what we are showing by the numbers here tonight.

Even the Obama critics, such as Phil Swagel, Assistant Treasury Secretary for Economic Policy under George Bush, acknowledged the White House policies have been successful. "Their economic policies, including the stimulus," which I like to call the recovery bill, "have helped move the economy in the right direction." And so the facts are what we are showing here tonight.

And I yield back.

Mr. HEINRICH. Thank you. And I think that's a perfect example.

You know, facts are stubborn things, and when you show these graphs, they don't lie. They tell a story of an economy out of control and how we have been able to turn that around and move it back in the right direction. And I think when you talk about the

Recovery Act, it's important to realize that an enormous portion of the Recovery Act was about taxes as well.

If you look at the rhetoric versus the data on the whole issue of taxes, you see a very different story than the one you might hear in some of the national media or see on a placard at a Tea Party rally for that matter.

The USA today talked about how, Mr. TONKO, if you would be so kind as to hold this up, a headline, "Tax bills in 2009 at the lowest level since 1950." We passed an enormous tax relief package as part of the Recovery Act so that people would have those hard-earned dollars in their pockets and put them to work for our Nation. And if you look at how much support we had to do that from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, it was nonexistent, if you look at the work that we did for the homebuyer tax credit, which was absolutely critical to bringing back our housing market and construction jobs in this country.

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I met a man named Julian Gomez who works in construction in Albuquerque, and he lost his job because of this recession. And he's back today swinging a hammer at New Life Homes, building homes in Albuquerque because of the financing that the Recovery Act made possible.

So I think it's incredibly important that we look at the facts versus the rhetoric.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Will the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. HEINRICH. Absolutely.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Does the gentleman recall how many of our friends on the other side of the aisle voted for the Recovery Act?

Mr. HEINRICH. Actually, I don't recall that exact number.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I think it was none.

Mr. HEINRICH. I knew it was one of those numbers you could count on your hand.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I think it was none. Goose eggs. And that was the Recovery Act that gave 98 percent of Americans a tax cut, the same one that created a situation where we have the lowest, as you said, the lowest tax bills, the lowest tax rate since 1950, the one that created a situation where the triangle that Mr. TONKO referred to a few minutes ago enabled us to go from bleeding more than 700,000 jobs prior to President Obama being sworn into office to gaining almost 300,000 jobs in this last month.

So we, on our side of the aisle, created, conceived, passed, and President Obama signed the Recovery Act into law, and our friends on the other side of the aisle all said "no." Is that right?

Mr. HEINRICH. I believe you are absolutely correct.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Okay. I just wanted to make sure that that was accurate. Mr. TONKO, do you have something to add?

Mr. TONKO. I do.

Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, you talked about the comeback issue. One can't help but wonder what would have happened if these economic policies were continued to rule the outcome. If they had continued to rule the outcome, we would have probably hit the Great Depression level. And so I think the effort here is to bring in—it's not like we're excluding people from being part of this solution. But obviously, if we're not getting the support from the other side, we're going to continue to move forward with progressive policies and reforms.

And I think what is inspiring is that this Nation is replete in her history of people responding in the toughest times, responding with their greatest sense of courage and determination at a time when we have faced some of our toughest struggles. We saw that happen in the Depression. We saw a President lead this Nation out of that depression and bring people back to work and invest in a way that grew us to a stronger level than when the economic crisis began.

And certainly when we look at this, I believe that that history of this Nation, our history speaks to us in a very bold and noble measure to continue to pursue, to invest in a way that will create a stronger outcome. And we will put together an organized, structured, progressive bit of policies that will address and plan our future for this economic recovery.

I represent a district that is the home of the Erie Canal and that canal is a series, a necklace, I like to call it, of mill towns. And they were given birth to by the creation of this Erie Canal. But it showcased—my point of mentioning it here is that it showcased the pioneer spirit that's in the DNA of Americans where these mill towns became the centers of invention and innovation. And it gave birth to a westward movement that built this Nation and continues to allow us to express our manufacturing prowess.

Well, this package, the stimulus package, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, invested in America, in her workers, in her businesses, in her small businesses that was mentioned earlier, in a way that is now turning the picture around. It's that U-turn of which *Fortune* magazine speaks, wrote about it on April 16 of this year, that we are now seeing a brighter day; it's around the corner for business and workers.

And so in the toughest times we have shown our best outcomes. We have come together in a way that allows us to be constructive and instructive on how we're going to crawl out of a mess.

The important thing here is to please join in the effort. Don't thwart the effort, don't deny, diminish it. I see what we tried to do with America COMPETES as an act on this floor to grow the R&D investment, to allow us to compete effectively with China. And what do we have? We have an effort to diminish or deny that sort of progress.

So join us in the constructive efforts. Join us in building the solutions. But do not deny American workers for generations out the sort of solutions that will enable us to be our best in the toughest times, and that's what we're seeing here. The numbers are showing it. We're on a comeback. And it's interesting how history is repeating herself where we have this administration proving that they are going to invest—invest in technology, invest in broadband, communication, hardwiring of communities that are rural or impoverished, as in inner city neighborhoods, allowing us to invest in energy with smart grids, smart meters, smart thermostats, invest in our transmission and distribution systems. All of it is important.

Mr. HEINRICH. Will the gentleman yield?

I know the gentleman from New York, Mr. TONKO, knows a great deal about this whole issue of energy security and of creating a new energy economy. And when we passed the Recovery Act, we made this single biggest investment in changing our economy to a clean energy economy ever in the history of this country.

And I saw it directly. I went out to a company called Ktech that's at the Sandia Science and Tech Park in my district, and they are using Recovery Act grants to figure out new ways to store energy and to seam together a new grid that includes putting renewables into the system, unique storage devices, and how to manage all of that so that our entire grid is more secure and so that we can put people back to work in those new energy technologies.

And I'd yield back to Mr. TONKO or Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I thank both gentlemen.

Again, I think it's really important to stress the choices that we have in front of us. The American people have choices over the next few months about the direction that they want to go, whether they want to continue to go in the direction that the job creation chart that we just had up showed, whether they want to continue to go in the direction of the tax rate chart that Mr. HEINRICH just had, or whether they want to go back in this direction because this direction shows us the history of Presidents and the deficit situation that the United States has been in under each President.

So if you look at President Reagan, under President Reagan we had a \$1.4 trillion deficit. Under President Bush 41, we had a \$3.3 trillion deficit by the end of his Presidency. Then President Clinton was in office for 8 years and finished his second term with a \$5.6 trillion surplus—a record surplus which he handed over to President Bush 43, who, in a very short period of time, handed off to President Obama an \$11.5 trillion deficit. And that's because his focus was not on targeted tax cuts for the middle class, not on creating jobs and wealth for small business, not on

making sure that we could focus on educational opportunities for our Nation's young people and focusing on investments and innovation and technology and energy, and particularly alternative energy—those weren't the focus of the Bush administration. Their focus was on the wealthiest Americans, the whole notion of trickle-down, which didn't work under President Reagan and clearly, as you can see, as big a red box as you are looking at here on this chart, didn't work under the Bush administration either.

So the choice that the American people will have is to go back to big red boxes like this one and continue to bleed jobs, bleed money, and move in the wrong direction, or under President Obama and the Democratic Congress, continue to focus on job creation, on opportunities for young people, on investments in alternative energy, on weaning ourselves off dependence on foreign oil. I mean if what's going on in the Gulf of Mexico today doesn't prove that we need to do that, I don't know what would.

But those are the choices that the American people have.

But our friends on the other side of the aisle have choices, too, Mr. TONKO. They have choices, and they've repeatedly made them. They've repeatedly showed which side they're on. They've showed that they are not on the side of the American workers struggling to be able to get back to work and find a job. They've showed that they're only interested in coming back to power, and it's all—unfortunately, sadly, my observation is that that is the only thing that they care about, winning elections and focusing on power.

Their agenda is tough to identify because other than siding with Wall Street, with big banks, with big corporations and the wealthy elite in this country, that's really the only side that I have been able to see that they appear to be on. Their voting records demonstrate that, and I think we have a pretty stark choice that the American people are going to be able to make come November.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. And thank you again for bringing us together this evening. It's a pleasure to join with our colleague from New Mexico and you from the State of Florida to really share these regional observations because it's happening across the country.

Just yesterday I was at a community that I represent, a small town, a small city, that is utilizing Recovery Act moneys to produce photovoltaic—to install, I should say, photovoltaic panels at their senior center, at their firehouse, and improvements in energy efficiency at their city hall. This translates to, like, \$65,000 worth of savings per year. Who does that affect? The property taxpayer.

So it's property tax reduction simply by creating jobs and reaching to innovation. That's the beauty of the investments made here. It's not about special

interests, it's not about going to the big oil companies and the big Wall Street banks and going to the insurance industry and the like. It is a reform package that talks about long overdue investment.

My gosh. We look at China and her investment in a clean-energy economy, and if we don't understand that we need to be in this global race to win it, we understand I hope—we show it here in this leadership, in the majority, the Democratic majority in the House—that we understand by our actions that whoever wins this global race on clean energy becomes the kingpin of the global economy. We will be the exporter of energy innovation and intellect. These are jobs that will grow, just like we saw technology grow when we won the space race four decades ago.

Mr. HEINRICH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TONKO. Representative HEINRICH, I believe you want to join in.

Mr. HEINRICH. Once again, I think you're painting this picture of contrast of leadership. And the important question here is asking whose side are you on. And our colleagues on the other side are busy protecting BP and making sure that we have a BP bailout, to make sure that their damage cap doesn't get raised. And we're passing legislation like the Recovery Act that invests directly not only in renewable energy, but in energy efficiency to make us more and more energy independent as a Nation.

And I remember in asking whose side am I on, I spent some time at a gentleman's home just a couple months ago named Juan DeLeon whose house is being retrofitted with some of these Recovery Act loans to put insulation in the roof, to have high-efficiency appliances. And for someone who is low income, fixed income, in retirement, they literally see their bills change in a way that gives them economic freedom and independence for the first time. You know, we're standing up for homeowners like that. Retirees. People who've worked their whole life but who are throwing away huge amounts of money every month on their energy bills, and our colleagues on the other side are standing up for corporations like BP.

Mr. TONKO. You know, when I spoke of the small town, the small city that we shared in the good news with yesterday, the city of Waterbury in Albany County in Upstate New York, that is one expression of what could be repeated, is being repeated over and over again with municipalities in this country.

□ 2045

Then you put that into the business sector and the energy efficiency improvements they are making with the stimulus activity. You talk about households where we put \$5 billion into weatherization programs to again create stronger energy environments within which to live. No family should

be asked to live in poor energy environments. They are wasteful. Those are wasteful situations in terms of energy supply and dollars that are expended.

So when we look at the track record here, you talk about whose side are you on, we are looking at over one-half million jobs created since December, 84 percent of which were in the private sector category.

When we look at tax relief, we are not talking about just the upper income strata that was the situation for the Bush administration, but now we are talking about 98 percent of Americans getting relief, to the point where tax bills are at their lowest level since 1950.

So we are talking about a whole different approach, a whole different attitude. And it is embracing the bigger landscape, the people-scape of America, where the masses are brought into consideration and the priority is with the working families. Main Street and side streets come before that Wall Street situation. Wall Street recklessness created Main Street joblessness, and that thinking is over.

That huge red block pointed to by Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ is now a situation that meant two wars, off-budget; it meant a doughnut hole, give it to the insurance industry in the Medicare program area. It meant all sorts of tax cuts to the few in society. That was economic ruination. And, now, this swing upward didn't just happen. It took straightforward thinking, it took laser-sharp focus, it took sensitivity to those who were bearing the brunt here.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. If the gentleman would yield, because I want to focus on results.

We have been talking about the facts tonight. We have been talking about the impact and results of Democratic policies, the policies of the Democratic Congress, the policies of Democratic President Barack Obama, and the results that have occurred. And I think this chart right here is very illustrative of the direction that we continue to go in.

If you look at the very ugly red end of the chart, that is an indication of where we were in terms of household wealth under the Bush administration. And if you look through those years, we had household wealth that dramatically, dramatically declined, so much so that people were in absolute dire straits. So we had an economy that was reeling, spiraling ever downward; we had deficits that were exploding from a President who was handed a record surplus, and that was the mess that President Obama found himself in.

The additional mess that he found himself in was a plummeting statistic of household wealth. If you look at the progress that we have made and the direction that household wealth is going in now, as evidenced by the right side of the chart, you have an indicator that, since the Recovery Act took effect, we have gained nearly 30 percent

back of household wealth that was lost under the Bush administration, \$5 trillion in growth in household wealth, compared to \$17.5 trillion in household wealth that was lost. We have gained in just 1 year \$5 trillion of that back.

Mr. TONKO. If the gentlewoman would yield, what the Representative is pointing to in the red is 18 months' worth of activity, \$17.5 trillion worth. That is \$1 trillion per month.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Again, Mr. TONKO, we talk about choices. This is as stark a choice, Mr. HEINRICH, as we can illustrate.

We could go back to policies that got us in the ditch in the first place and give the keys back to the people who drove us into the ditch; or we can hold on to the keys that we wrested from them in November of 2008 and continue to drive this economy in the direction that the American people want it to go.

Mr. TONKO. And obviously the decline did not happen overnight. We saw that there were months upon months upon years of activity that really did not respond favorably to the needs of America's consumers, America's business community, in particular her small business community.

So the huge climb back of 30 percent recovered, recaptured, \$5-plus trillion, maybe \$6 trillion, at this point is a remarkable comeback in a relatively few short months. So this is the start of a comeback, and it certainly is not good enough. We want more. We want more good news. But to keep the direction afloat, to keep the momentum rising means to allow for the progress to continue.

And I believe it is very obvious that with the control here in Congress and in the White House, there is a serious desire and design to produce this comeback that was so desperately needed and in a way that is remarkably sound, in investing in issues and areas of activity that were back-burnered for far too long. They held back progress. And now, not only are we producing jobs, producing relief, strengthening confidence, growing the economy; we are doing it with an investment in futuristic outcomes where we are dealing with cutting-edge opportunities in R&D and basic research and job creation in activities from trades to Ph.D.s. This is the full spectrum. This is the beauty of this innovation economy. But at least there is a leadership that gets what needs to be done and is in fact impacting favorably the outcomes here.

Mr. HEINRICH. And as you mentioned, we have a long way to go. We are just getting started trying to rebuild after 8 years of disastrous policies, the recession the likes of which we haven't seen since the Great Depression. But if we can stay on this path, if we can continue to grow these job numbers like the strong job numbers that we saw in March and April; if that trend can continue for the rest of 2010, we would see more jobs created in 2010 than the entire Bush administra-

tion, the entire 8 years of the Bush administration. And that is where we need to be headed as a Nation.

We need to keep seeing that line of wealth in the average American family going up, up, up, not going down the way it did continuously during the Bush administration. And it really is about that contrast of responsible leadership versus policies that continue to put our Nation at a competitive disadvantage, not only our families, but versus countries around the world.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I am thrilled that we are joined by the gentleman from Ohio. He might still be getting organized. So while he does that, I wanted to focus a little bit.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act clearly is sort of the jewel in the crown, the linchpin to the beginning of our economic recovery, and all the indicators demonstrate that. But it is sort of a "but that's not all" type thing.

We had the Recovery Act, which gave us a huge boost, but we also passed and continue to propose numerous pieces of legislation designed to focus on different aspects of the economy: small business, the energy sector, technology and innovation, making sure that we cover as many bases as we can, because we know that there are so many potential gaps in the economy and you don't want to leave anybody behind.

So in addition to the Recovery Act, Madam Speaker, we also passed the Worker Home Ownership and Business Assistance Act, which was legislation that expanded that first-time homebuyer tax credit and gave people an opportunity to purchase a home when they had been unable to previously, provided that tax relief for small businesses.

Mr. HEINRICH. If the gentlewoman would yield for a question. How many of our colleagues pitched in on the other side of the aisle and said, We are going to support that kind of tax relief?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I am glad you asked. I believe it was approximately 93 percent of Republicans voted against that legislation.

Mr. HEINRICH. So just 7 percent actually said, We are going to be part of the solution?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Yes.

So, again, it is about choices. The American people have a choice. It is a very stark contrast. They can side with the people who voted 93 percent in this instance with Wall Street and big corporations and continuing to pad their bottom line; or they can vote with the middle class and make sure that we can continue to boost small business and get our economy moving again and put folks back to work. It really is a very stark contrast with a very clear choice.

Mr. BOCCIERI. I thank the gentle lady from Florida for organizing this hour to talk about jobs and the economy and what the Democratic Caucus has been doing to try to put our country back on track.

Let me just say that I applaud all my Members for being here, because there is one singular issue that I hear over and over again in my Midwest district in Ohio: we need to be the producers of wealth. We need to build things here, not just move wealth. And that is why it is so important that we focus on putting our country back on track, creating jobs that can't be outsourced, investing in our green economy, investing in the infrastructure that is going to make our country energy independent, not only for the jobs that it will create, but because it is a matter of national security.

This Congress has gone on lightning speed with great work to try to put that message and drive that message home in Midwest States like Ohio.

And let me just say the fruits of what we have been trying to sow for the last several months here—and you hear the Just Say No crowd who get up and talk about how they are against everything. We know what they are against, but what are you for? Are you for putting people back to work in Ohio? Are you for growing our economy? Are you for putting our Nation on a path toward security, with lessening our dependence on foreign oil? Those are the things that we are standing for in this Congress, and we want them to join us. These answers aren't Democrat or Republican, they are not conservative or liberal. They are American answers that deserve American solutions.

So if you are just trying to score political points, if you don't believe that you should bet against America and Americans, then join us, because we want to put our country back on track.

Great things are happening in Ohio. We are starting to see the rebirth of our manufacturing sector after consecutive quarters of job loss and a stagnant economy that was handed to us.

I remind my colleagues, when we took over in 2009, in the 111th Congress, we were facing exploding deficits; \$3.5 trillion was handed off to this Congress, two unfunded undeclared wars, an economy that was in free-fall. We didn't know where we were going to land. We had greed on Wall Street and banking chaos. This was a lot of work that this Congress had try to get our arms around, but we see that what we have been able to do is begin to put our country back on track.

Nine consecutive months of manufacturing growth, the best in the last 6 years, that's a strong message. And while we still need to do some work, and we have a lot of work to do on unemployment, this economy is growing again.

And let me just remind, you don't hear this on the conservative talk radio shows, you don't hear this on the conservative cable shows, but this is the reality of what the Congress has been dealing with: one Democratic President in the last 20 years, and we had a \$5.6 trillion surplus that was turned into an \$11 trillion deficit by the previous administration. You don't

hear that talked about. You don't hear about the fact that we were handed a \$3.5 trillion deficit just coming into office in 2009, but that is the facts and that is the reality.

I want to tell you that we are beginning to grow this economy and beginning to put people back to work. Just in my district alone, Barbasol Shaving Company is expanding, adding new jobs in Ashland, Ohio. We have the NuEarth Corporation in my hometown of Alliance, adding new jobs and expanding. Luk Manufacturing is expanding, \$40 million investment. TekFor in Worcester ended up bringing back 200 workers. These are real jobs that affect real families in our community, and that's what we have got to champion.

Those are the things that we have been fighting for here in the Congress, and we want them to join us. We have a message to the Just Say No crowd: join us. Help us put America back on track. We need you.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. BOCCIERI is right on point. I believe that, to the messaging out there, there could be those critics that want to resort to phantom statistics. But when you look at what is happening out there, there is no denying that these bits of fact that we are sharing here this evening are all recorded, they are documented. And it is that sort of fact, not fiction, that will rule and guide the policies as we go forward.

The fact that factory orders have increased by the largest amount in more than 9 years is encouraging news. It is back to the point that Representative BOCCIERI made about people want to produce, they want to create, they want to manufacture in this Nation. And the fact that these factory orders are up beyond limits from 9 years back in recordkeeping is encouraging news. It tells us that there is confidence again, there is optimism that is ruling the day, and that the turnaround, that huge U-turn of which Fortune Magazine wrote is becoming more and more real in the lives of people. Car sales rising by 20 percent. That is so important to a region like that of Representative BOCCIERI that is so hooked to the auto industry. Upstate New York in many of its regional economies is directly linked to that auto economy and to the industry.

□ 2100

So a 20 percent rise in sales for automobiles is an important stat that we ought to look at.

So again, the repeated message here this evening—and again, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, thank you for bringing us together. The tone, the theme that we have talked about, Representative HEINRICH, is this wonderful opportunity to continue along the course of progress, or the reverse is to hand over the keys to those who drove the car into the ditch, and that pulling the car out of the ditch took quite an effort and it took a while.

We're not where we want to be yet, but we're certainly moving in steps for-

ward and upward that are taking us to a new plateau and doing it in a way that is investing in American workers, investing in American business in a way that allows us then to compete more effectively in the global marketplace. That is a multitude of good that we have embraced in the policies that have been established and that are being put into place and then now are obviously working.

The proof is in the pudding, as they say. The facts, only the facts, that's what we need to share here. Forget the scare tactics. Forget the talk of doom and gloom. Let's look at what's happening, and let's embrace it with a spirit of optimism and with that tremendously characteristic sense of pioneer spirit that is part of the DNA of America. Americans, through all ages, have been about creating jobs and creating and discovering new opportunities. We won a space race four decades ago. We need to enter in boldly and armed to do what we can with this clean energy race that is global also.

Mr. HEINRICH. Well, I think we should show that one graph of jobs one more time before we wrap up here tonight, because there's nothing more important than, one, as you said, just the facts, ma'am, and actually looking at data and not rhetoric; and, two, nothing's more important than jobs. We've seen our stock market recover.

We've seen housing starts come back and those kinds of indicators, but what really matters to the American people are jobs; and that precipitous decline that we saw in the run-up to this horrible recession and the irresponsible activity that we saw within housing finance markets and within Wall Street and the reversal with the Recovery Act and new policies put in place by this Congress to jump-start manufacturing again, to jump-start real jobs where we design it in the United States, we build it in the United States, we install it in the United States, and we put more people back to work, and watching that line go up and up to where now we're finally adding jobs at the kind of rates that we need to turn our entire country around.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. And, Mr. HEINRICH, as we wrap up, we really want to talk about over the next weeks and months the choices that the American people will have. Over the next weeks and months, Madam Speaker, we'll be talking about those choices, the choice that the American people have to continue to go in the direction where we're nurturing our economy and helping it thrive or the direction that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle would take us, which is to strangle our recovery in the crib. That's a very stark contrast that we will be presenting to the American people over the next few weeks and months, and we look forward to it.

THE U.S.-MEXICAN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TITUS). Under the Speaker's announced