

Act of 2010. The number one priority in America should be jobs and helping small businesses. My five-point plan is to provide tax relief for small businesses. Instead of writing off equipment over 5 years, have them write it off over 1 year and sunset it in a year or two. Eliminate capital gains tax on companies. There's plenty of capital. People don't have confidence in the administration; they don't have confidence in this Congress. But there is capital to invest. The small businesses need that capital to create jobs.

We're taxing unemployment benefits at 11 percent. That needs to stop. We need to sunset that. TARP funds, \$750 billion: we committed to the American people that would be paid back. They are paying back much of the funds. It needs to go to pay down the \$12 trillion debt. Also, we need to curb frivolous lawsuits. It's driving up health care, it's killing businesses, it's killing jobs.

I urge Members from both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE SCOOTER STORE

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

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my good friend, Representative LAMAR SMITH, to honor The SCOOTER Store, a hometown business in our home State of Texas. They've been recognized by Fortune magazine as one of the top 100 places to work in America. Fortune magazine has recognized this excellent work environment for their employees, ranking The SCOOTER Store the 38th Best Place to Work in 2010. The SCOOTER Store was founded in New Braunfels, Texas, by Doug and Susanna Harrison almost 19 years ago. Today, they serve more than 460,000 people across 48 States and Puerto Rico, with more than 70 facilities and approximately 2,000 employees.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time they have been recognized. They were recognized 6 years ago. They're a company built on teamwork and good values. And this is why, Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to have the time to recognize The SCOOTER Store for their ranking as the 38th Best Place to Work in 2010 by Fortune magazine.

RONALD AND GLENDA KRONGOLD'S WORK WITH ISRAEL BONDS

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I rise today to recognize two outstanding Americans, my good friends, Ronald and Glenda Krongold, constituents of my congressional district. For decades, the Krongolds have dedicated themselves to the safety and security of our democratic Jewish State of Israel, including through their leadership in the Na-

tional Israel Bonds Campaign. Ron served as vice chairman and chairman of new leadership.

Their work on Israel bonds has contributed greatly to Israel's thriving economy and its booming scientific, technological, and entrepreneurial sectors. Ron's expertise has also benefited our home State of Florida. He played a pivotal role in the negotiations of the Trade Understanding between our State of Florida and Israel, signed by then-Secretary of Commerce for Florida, Jeb Bush.

Ron and Glenda, for your dedication you have the appreciation of this House and of countless Americans and Israelis. Thank you for your work. Keep it up.

FREEDOM FROM FOREIGN-BASED MANIPULATION IN AMERICAN ELECTIONS ACT

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. I rise today to urge Congress to overturn the Supreme Court's ruling last week that allows corporations to buy Federal elections. Yesterday, I introduced the Freedom from Foreign-Based Manipulation in American Elections Act, which will prevent foreign-influenced companies from buying U.S. elections. Should a Chinese corporation decide U.S. copyright policy or civil rights law? Should Saudi Arabia have a say on American energy policy? How about Venezuela? Should Hugo Chavez have a voice in American elections? These are the questions we must ask if the Supreme Court's decision is allowed to stand.

The Court's decision flies in the face of a century of precedent keeping corporations out of elections. By giving corporations the same rights as individuals, the Court is handing corporations a blank check to decide elections instead of letting the voters do it. I urge my colleagues to join me in saying "no" to this decision and "yes" to democracy.

THANKS TO THE MINNESOTA RED BULLS

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say welcome home to a group of Minnesota heroes, the National Guard's 34th Infantry Division, known as the Red Bulls. Many of the Red Bulls have begun arriving home from their most recent tour of duty in Iraq. These brave Minnesotans have played a very crucial role in transitioning security responsibilities from American troops to the Iraqi forces, as well as leading more than 1,000 new reconstruction projects to help the Iraqi people. The 1,200 soldiers that are now returning home come from more than 275

communities in Minnesota and represent the American spirit of selflessness, sacrifice, and service.

I had the chance to personally meet with some of the Red Bulls when I visited Iraq not too long ago. I was humbled to see their selfless work that they accomplish every single day. Today, I'm thrilled to see them returning home from Iraq safely to their friends, to their families, and to a State that is especially grateful for all that they do.

ECONOMIC CLIMATE FOR JOB GROWTH

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

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, we have asked the American people to do a lot over the past year in order to work together to rebuild our economy. Tonight, we await the President's words to see how the country will move forward to continue to put people back to work and make reforms necessary to jump-start our economy. I applaud the President for putting a freeze on all nonsecurity discretionary spending for fiscal year 2011, because as the American family tightens its belt, so must Congress. I would encourage the President to continue to call for increased fiscal responsibility in Congress, and I will do my part in ensuring that we spend responsibly to protect the people of my district.

I joined several of my Blue Dog colleagues in a letter led by Congressman PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania to call for a spending freeze earlier this month and will continue to look for ways that we can continue to hold ourselves fiscally accountable for PAYGO and other budget cuts. My predecessor in Congress used to say that we here in Congress can't create jobs, but we can create an economic climate for job growth and development to boost our local economies. That should be our primary goal in 2010.

A RETURN TO BALANCED BUDGETS AND JOB CREATION

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, according to a poll released this week by CNN, nearly three out of four Americans think that much of the money spent in the so-called stimulus plan has been wasted. I agree. Should we be surprised that a bill chock-full of earmarks and pet projects did nothing to inspire confidence among Americans? And with a record drop in real estate sales, a languishing stock market, and an unemployment rate remaining above 10 percent, should we blame them? The CBO just offered that after only 1 year in total control, Democrats more than tripled the annual deficit, from \$408 billion to \$1.4 trillion. These

are not the changes Americans voted for.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the idea of a spending freeze, this country needs more than just window dressing. It needs to return to balanced budgets and a real focus on job creation.

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. ENGEL. Tonight, when our President gives his State of the Union Address, I'm going to listen very intently. I know that he's going to talk about creating jobs, improving the economy, lowering unemployment, and also health care reform. Let's rally behind our President. The people sent us here to work together in a bipartisan fashion. Let's not talk about what is best politically for this party or that party, let's look at what is best for the American people.

I ask my Republican friends, stop being the Party of No. Work with us on health care. We can do it if we all put our heads together. Let me remind my friends that the TARP bailout and the bailout of the banks happened under President Bush. It was President Bush's recommendation, and I and other Democrats supported it because it was the right thing to do.

Let's support the President when he says the right things, as he will tonight. Let's understand that we can only succeed if we work together. We were left a mess by the previous administration. One year to clean it up is not enough. We prevented a depression. Now we have to move on. So I ask the other side of the aisle, please work with us. Please work with us to help the American people.

VISA FAILURE

(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, we know that the best way to prevent an attack on U.S. soil is to ensure that terrorists are stopped before they reach our shores. Unfortunately, we failed to do so on Christmas Day and al Qaeda came close to significant victory. While the terrorist Abdulmutallab was noted in a terrorist identity database, he was not placed on a separate screening database and his U.S. visa was not revoked. Clearly, we did not connect the dots to notice that a man on a U.S. watch list also held a current U.S. visa. This has not been the first time terrorists have obtained U.S. visas. Several of the 9/11 hijackers did so as well.

We need to strengthen the visa application process. We need to streamline the intelligence gathering and sharing process. We need to end the visa lottery. We need to ensure that terrorists

are turned around before they get to the airport before they even attempt to go through security. Were it not for the quick action of passengers on that flight, 288 innocent lives would have been lost. Passengers should not have to rely on last-minute heroics in order to travel safely. This administration must get serious about addressing this problem.

□ 1030

OUR ELECTIONS ARE NOT FOR SALE

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

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, Justice Brandeis got it right: democracy or wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but not both. And that's truer today as the United States Supreme Court just wiped away decades of legal precedent, allowing corporations to spend unlimited money from their treasuries in our elections.

The American people already believe that corporate special interests and their lobbyists run the show around here. I mean, the halls are crawling with them. But that's not enough. Now the Court says to the big banks, the credit card companies, the drug companies and to the insurance companies, Hey, all bets are off, and it's open season. Our elections are for sale. So that's right. If the corporations don't like what this Congresswoman is doing, they'll just forget the voters, buy TV ads, send robocalls, send a lot of mail, and beat her in November.

A law won't fix this. We have to fix it in the Constitution. So today I will introduce a constitutional amendment so that we, the people, can take back our elections and our democracy. This is not the People's House, Incorporated. We are the people. It's our House, it's our Constitution, and it's our elections. And we intend to take it back from the United States Supreme Court.

CREATING JOBS WHILE CLEANING UP THE ENVIRONMENT

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since the \$862 billion stimulus bill was signed into law last February, nearly 3 million more Americans have lost jobs. The projected deficit for this year is \$1.3 trillion, second only to last year's \$1.4 trillion. It's time to stop Washington's wild spending and start creating hometown jobs. Families want paychecks, not unemployment checks. That's why we introduced a bipartisan American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act, H.R. 2227, which opens up the U.S. coasts for environmentally responsible oil and gas exploration.

This bill produces 1.2 million new, good-paying jobs and an \$8 trillion eco-

nomie boost over 20 years. We will clean up America's waterways. We will clean our air by replacing old coal plants with new clean coal, nuclear, wind, solar, and geothermal energy generation. We will conserve energy by rebuilding our old infrastructure and a smart grid. Americans will modernize buildings to cut energy waste by 25 percent. We stop spending hundreds of billions of dollars on OPEC oil. We stop borrowing from China, and we do all of this without raising a single tax.

Join me in supporting H.R. 2227 with new jobs for a new energy-independent America.

THE PROPOSED 3-YEAR SPENDING FREEZE

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

Mr. BRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the President, according to the press reports that we are getting over the last couple of days, will be proposing a 3-year freeze on nonsecurity-related discretionary spending. This is a good and necessary first step to control government spending and reduce budget deficits.

However, our ballooning deficits mandate that we go even further. Wasteful and unnecessary programs need to be ID'd. They need to be reduced. They need to be eliminated, and they need to be eliminated immediately. I have and will consistently oppose legislation that I believe unnecessarily increases Federal spending or funding programs that do not warrant support during a recession, even when they are only a few million dollars.

You know, we must have the mindset that every little bit counts if we're going to be serious about cutting government wasteful spending. I hope the President goes further in explaining some of his proposals in the State of the Union tonight, and I will be listening very closely with many others.

Yesterday, the Blue Dogs, my colleagues, released a set of proposals that outline the steps that we must take to have meaningful budget reform. The President and leadership would be well-served to adopt and support these proposals in the coming weeks and months.

AMERICAN TAXPAYERS DO NOT WANT TO FUND ABORTION

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

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, almost 500,000 folks gathered at the Capitol to remind us once again that all life is precious and that the unborn are guaranteed the right to life. While abortion has been allowed in this country for the past 37 years, Americans have made it crystal clear that they do not want their tax dollars being used to pay for it.