

PELOSI took the gavel, what we've seen is a loss of over 6 million jobs. So almost every job Republicans created, Democrats have destroyed, and the reason this is going to get even worse is because this White House and this Congress is the most job-killing, anti-business, anti-growth Congress perhaps in the history of the United States.

We see this not just in tax increases and cap-and-trade and health care costs but wild provisions coming out of the House and, of course, now the drilling moratorium that is beginning to destroy jobs and lives and small businesses in the Gulf of Mexico. What's, I guess, perhaps most saddening is that along the gulf coast, many families in Louisiana and Alabama and Mississippi who are bearing the brunt of BP's oil spill and bearing the brunt of this administration's failure to contain the spill, they're the ones who are begging this President not to continue this drilling moratorium, allow our workers to go back to work because they know, as bad as the environmental damage has been, the drilling moratorium damage on their jobs and livelihood will add even more misery to their lives. We can't allow that to happen.

Mr. President, I would ask you again, come down to Houston, meet with our energy workers, see whose lives and jobs you're destroying. Meet with our independent businesses. Meet with our mid-sized businesses. Meet with the companies that are out there in the gulf today wanting to go back to work, who don't want their rigs to go to other countries, who don't want the jobs to go to other countries, the equipment to go to other countries, our capital to go to other countries, and eventually our energy infrastructure to go around the rest of the world to the detriment of U.S. energy workers in America.

Mr. President, while you're fund-raising in Houston, give us an hour to meet with our workers. Give us 15 minutes if you're so busy fund-raising you can't spare the time for our workers, to sit down with them. We won't have press there. You pick the workers if you choose. Although, if I were you, I would ask the average Americans who are facing a job loss, so you can listen outside the Beltway, no Tele-Prompters, no big speeches, just listen to our energy workers and perhaps you will see just how damaging this drilling moratorium is and will be for America.

What you will hear is that they are already suffering and people are being laid off. Businesses are contemplating not being able to survive and filing bankruptcy.

What you will see is that energy prices will go up as a result of your moratorium because the Gulf of Mexico produces so much of the energy we use in America.

What you will hear is that we are giving more power and more energy strength to countries outside the United States, some of whom can't stand anything that America stands

for, and that we'll face an energy shortage in 2011, 2012 if this drilling moratorium continues.

You will hear from shallow well operators who have drilled down in the Gulf of Mexico without an incident, but now what they find is they can't get a permit to continue working so they're facing layoffs of their workers and their financial struggles.

In the deep water, which has drilled 14,000 wells around the world safely, but for the BP incident, you will see that one rig is already leaving for Egypt, others are planning to leave and won't be back anytime soon, years perhaps, 1 year, 2 years, 3 years. In the meantime what do our workers do? What do those small businesses do? What do the people who do manufacturing, who do oil field services and supplies throughout the country, who reach literally into every State and almost every congressional district in America, what do those businesses do?

Mr. President, we're not asking much. We're asking you to help get this economy back on track. Take off the table the drilling moratorium, end it today. Take off the table cap-and-trade and the high energy prices that it will create. Take off the table the new regulations, the new taxes. Agree to extend the Bush tax cuts. Don't raise taxes on capital and dividend investment. Lower them to get this economy going. Reassure consumers that we have a path to balance the budget. Reassure businesses they won't be punished for hiring that new worker, bringing back that old worker or hiring that new one, buying that new piece of equipment. Listen to the businesses around you who are telling you that you are the problem, this Washington Congress is the problem, because of the uncertainty, because of the taxes, because of, again, the extreme ideological agenda that is holding our economy back.

Mr. President, if you want to turn this chart around, if you want to—and we'll help Democrats in Congress. We'll help you lower taxes. We'll help you take these items off the table, if you will listen to our small businesses, listen to our energy workers, listen to our families, because right now most people in America believe this Washington is so arrogant, this Congress isn't listening, that they seem to know what's best for them, that they go any route, don't read any bill, rush massive measures through without any knowledge of what their impact is, and we learn months later that they're nothing like they were promised.

So average families are listening tonight. Workers are desperate for jobs. Yet they see a Congress off on cap-and-trade and all sorts of schemes instead of encouraging the job creators to create more jobs.

America cannot survive this job-killing agenda much longer. As strong as we are, as resilient as we are, as quick as we are to bounce back from recessions, it's not happening this time, and Washington is the obstacle.

Look in the mirror, congressional Democrats. President Obama, respectfully, look in the mirror; and if you're serious about changing this economy, if you really want to answer where are the jobs, we'll help you create those jobs where they belong, not in the government but along Main Street in every State and every community in America.

By the way, it isn't enough anymore—the world has changed—it's not enough to just buy American. We have to sell American. We have to sell our products and services all throughout the world. But when we try to do that, what we find is a lot of countries have an "America need not apply" sign. Mr. President, you're not doing enough to tear down those signs. Give us a chance to sell American goods and services. When we get a chance to compete, we win; we create jobs; we sell America successfully.

But, unfortunately, this Congress for 3 years has taken off the table any opportunity to go out and compete; and while we've voluntarily benched ourselves, the Democrats in Congress have stopped trade, while the President took a time-out, now starting to step back I think a little more so, but while we voluntarily benched ourselves, other countries—China, Europe, Canada and others—are stepping right around us, cutting agreements that create jobs and sell their products. So U.S. farmers, U.S. businesses, U.S. manufacturers, U.S. service companies, U.S. workers find themselves at a disadvantage because this White House, this Congress are more interested in special interests than in the interests of our workers, of our economy, of our jobs.

So, tonight, I would say respectfully to our Speaker of the House, the majority leader of the Senate, to President Obama: if you want an answer and a partner in creating jobs, Republicans are here. We have solutions and we're ready to fight for jobs, but we've got to tackle the debt. We've got to create incentives to create jobs.

□ 2030

We have got to stop frightening consumers, frightening workers. If we do that, America is capable of bouncing back and getting this economy on the right path again.

Mr. President, work with us. Get America strong again.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

FAILED POLICIES OF PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SCHAUER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHAUER. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to be here to address the House of Representatives, to address the people of America, especially to address

the people of Michigan. No State has suffered more under the failed policies of the previous administration than the people of Michigan.

We are very resilient people, and I will say, for my colleagues to understand, and for everyone watching, the people of Michigan and Michigan's economy, never came out of the last economic recession.

This, and as a first-term Member of Congress, I remember being sworn in just about a year and a half ago, and it was that time, this was January of 2009, that we learned that our economy had been in recession for a full year, for a full year.

So my freshman colleagues and I, regardless of what side of the aisle they come from, all walked in to a year into the deepest economic recession since the Great Depression. The closest thing I can remember was when I was in college in the early 1980s, not being able to find a job, and it was very, very difficult at that time. But that's the story of many in Michigan. It has hit my family just like practically every family in America.

So what I am here to talk about this evening, and I will be joined by some of my Democratic colleagues, is really where are we in America with our economy? What is the policy direction that we should be going in? What is the choice for America?

This is the body, this is the people's House, where we discuss and debate these choices, and the American people hear what my Republican colleagues say and there isn't necessarily a complete partisan difference, I don't want my constituents to feel that, because I always look for that common ground.

But I think the choice is very clear: Does America and our economy, our fragile economy, that is recovering, continue to move forward and dig out of this economic hole, this economic mess that we are in, or do we go backwards?

I would like to share a quote, and I am hoping that people can see it, and this is a statement that one of my Republican colleagues made, one of the Republican leaders. He was on one of the Sunday morning talk shows. I don't get to watch these very often. I guess some of my constituents and the American people do, but this is one of the national shows, "Meet the Press," this Sunday, July 18.

The host of the show said "I think what a lot of people want to know is if Republicans do get back into power, what are they going to do?" And I think the American people deserve to know that, because we have a new President that has helped us move in a new direction, we have a Congress that I am a part of, that the Democrats control, that is working to move us in a new direction.

But Congressman PETE SESSIONS of Texas said, here is his quote, "We need to go back to the exact same agenda."

Well, that is the choice. Do we, as the House of Representatives, as a Con-

gress, go back to those exact same policies that created this economic catastrophe, or do we move in a new direction, do we continue in the direction that we are going in?

Now, I want to be clear that as a Member from Michigan, where our unemployment rate is still slightly over 13 percent, in my district in south central Michigan it's slightly under the State average, but we are gradually digging out of this hole. Or do we want to go back to the policies that created this economic catastrophe? These are very, very important questions, and what I have been working on, my Democratic colleagues and I have been working on, is addressing the problems that created this economic catastrophe, and it is a catastrophe.

I will tell you a personal story. My son-in-law, a journeyman electrician, a trade that, you know, should guarantee you employability for sure for life, with intermittent unemployment, I understand, that's the nature of that business, he was unemployed for the better part of a year. He is married to our oldest daughter, who is a nurse. They had a baby. She was on maternity leave, and our son-in-law, Paul, living in Ypsilanti, just outside of Ann Arbor just east of my district, was laid off from the steel mill where he had been employed for some time, for the better part of a year. Unfortunately, that's the story that's the result of economic policies that this Congress inherited.

But why did this happen? Unfortunately, there was an ideology under the former administration that said, you know, we need to let the marketplace regulate itself.

Well, I remember about a month or so before the last election, even Alan Greenspan, the former Federal Reserve Chairman, said, I was wrong. I thought Wall Street, I thought the markets could regulate themselves. We saw the meltdown that resulted from that, a gambling mentality on Wall Street that played a cruel game that affected millions of families, and it was a game of heads I win, tails you lose, gambling irresponsibly with the retirement savings of the American people.

So this week, this week, the President will sign a landmark Wall Street reform bill that will crack down on the big banks, that will protect consumers, and this is perhaps the biggest consumer protection legislation in decades, and it will bring greater economic security to families and small businesses across our country.

And my wife and I own a small business. She runs a business, it's her business, she employs three people. She is thinking about employing another person, probably part-time. That's the story of America, and it's businesses that went bankrupt during this Wall Street meltdown and families that lost their homes, but this Wall Street reform bill puts in place the strongest consumer protections in history, with an independent watchdog whose sole purpose is to enforce those protections

and look out for the American consumer.

So, let's go back to what Alan Greenspan said. He said that I thought the markets, I thought Wall Street could regulate itself. I was wrong.

□ 2040

Now, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle somehow are trying to convince the American people that this legislation is somehow, to use their words, another "bailout." Well, we saw the bailout that resulted from the Republican philosophy of deregulation. We saw the almost complete meltdown of our economy, and we saw the results of that and this mentality. And it's a similar approach to protecting the environment that has resulted in this catastrophic oil spill, the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. But the reforms in this Wall Street reform bill will protect consumers when they take out a mortgage or sign up for a credit card. It will prevent the kind of shadowy deals that led to this crisis and will never again put taxpayers on the hook for Wall Street's mistakes.

Now, let's talk about this bailout. And I want to be clear to my constituents at home, I said when I was running for office I never would have supported that bailout. And when I had to vote, and a number of us took this position, voted against the second part of this bailout, but the problem with the bailout was that it put more money in the hands of the big banks that actually caused the economic collapse in the first place. Those big Wall Street banks refused to lend to small manufacturers, tool and dye shops, machine shops, auto suppliers, those businesses that I work with every day in my district that are diversifying into renewable energy technology, life sciences technology, defense technology, and so many ways to create jobs. But these big banks even that were bailed out wouldn't lend to them.

So under this Wall Street reform legislation, the American people, the taxpayer will never be stuck with a tab again, never under any Democratic legislation that finally passed the Senate, and I will commend some of my Republican colleagues in the Senate that saw that that was the right thing to do for the American people.

Despite the benefits the American people will enjoy from these reforms, the Republican leader in the House is already calling for its repeal. So even before the President has signed this bill, which he will do this week, the Republican leader in the House of Representatives has called for its repeal. But let's be clear, America cannot afford to go backwards to the days when our financial laws were written by the corporate lobbyists. And the fact of the matter is that corporate lobbyists, the Wall Street banks and their lobbyists were huddling with Republican leadership as the House was taking up this legislation, actually trying to kill this legislation, devising a plan, coming up

with language trying to fool the American people that this historic Wall Street reform legislation was another bailout when it couldn't be anything further from the truth. Failure to act would doom us to repeat the same kind of economic catastrophe that the failed policies of the Bush administration created in the first place.

So to move forward, we not only need to demand greater accountability from Wall Street. We need to help those people who are struggling on Main Street, those folks who are facing the loss of their home, the loss of their business, looking for capital, for basic loans to expand their businesses. That's why the President and Democrats in the House of Representatives are fighting to provide emergency relief to American workers who have been laid off in this recession due to no fault of their own.

It is tragic that millions of workers—and 23,000 in my district alone in south central Michigan—are facing losing their unemployment benefits by the end of this year. And talk about a failed ideology, even JOHN MCCAIN's own economist told us—us collectively, the American people, Members of Congress—that for every dollar of unemployment insurance—and it is insurance. It is a form of insurance, unemployment insurance. For every dollar of unemployment insurance that is provided to a family of a laid off worker, there is \$1.61 in economic impact.

So not only were the Republicans holding hostage families who are losing their unemployment benefits in a tough economy, in a recession caused by the failed policies of the Bush administration, but they were also holding our economy hostage, where these unemployment benefits of about—it's less than the wages that people were earning, but those dollars were actually being put into local grocery stores, local gas stations, local businesses. And for every dollar of unemployment benefits, there was \$1.61 of economic impact. But those emergency benefits for American workers are in jeopardy because those same Republicans who didn't have any problem spending hundreds of billions of dollars on tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans are now saying we shouldn't offer relief to middle class families who really need help.

So we have an economic storm, and the choice is a very clear one: Do we rebuild our economic foundation for a stronger future or do we return to the failed policies of the previous administration?

Let's have a little history lesson here. When I came to office a year and a half ago, when Barack Obama came to office a year and a half ago, our economy was losing an average of 750,000 jobs each month; 750,000 jobs each month were being lost in this economy. During the last 5 months of the Bush administration, our economy lost an average of almost 640,000 jobs. In the last 5 months, we have added an

average of 174,000 jobs a month. So let's do the comparison.

Now, I don't want to give anyone in my district or in my State in Michigan the idea that we are anywhere where we need to be from an economic standpoint. Nationally, the unemployment rate is still 9.5 percent. We are digging out of this hole. We've got a long way to go. But if you look at during the last 5 months of the Bush administration, our economy lost an average of almost 640,000 jobs. In the last 5 months, our Nation's economy has added an average of almost 174,000 jobs. So if my math is right, that's a swing of almost 800,000 jobs, almost 800,000 jobs a month net increase.

Let's talk about our Nation's economic health as a whole. During the last quarter of the Bush administration, the economy shrunk by over 5 percent, almost 5.5. Almost 5.5 percent our economy was shrinking. Hello. I think we really need to take stock—and I heard it earlier today in the House of Representatives, my Republican colleagues, their mantra is, "Where are the jobs?" Well, I don't know if they were asking that question in January of 2009, or 1 year prior to that when the recession began or when the economy collapsed because of Wall Street's behavior. So where was the hue and cry when our economy was shrinking by almost 5.5 percent and we were losing, on average, 640,000 jobs a month?

Now, during the last three quarters, so the last 9 months, there has been economic growth. The most recent economic growth is 2.7 percent. It's not enough, it's not nearly enough, but we are seeing the economy gradually beginning to rebound.

□ 2050

But the question is: Which path do we take?

The choice is very clear to me. What I have seen in my own district in south central Michigan—and we have seen it all over the State—is a transformation of our economy.

Now, what I have told the President of the United States personally and have told some of his chief economic advisers is that our recovery has one hand tied behind our back. One of the biggest reasons is that the big Wall Street banks have refused to lend to businesses, to manufacturers. A lot of these are small automotive suppliers, suppliers in the aviation and aerospace industries and the defense industry.

I told a story on the House floor about a bank in my district—Citizens Bank. I'll mention it again—that had had a relationship for many years with a company in my district, RTD Manufacturing. This company won an Army contract. It won an Army contract to build a bracket to go on a mine resistant vehicle, an MRAP, in Afghanistan, to protect our warfighters. This bank would not make the loan. Their loan officer said that they would be fired if they made a loan to a Michigan manu-

facturer. This was a bank that was bailed out by the taxpayers.

So our recovery would be much further along if these banks that were bailed out by the taxpayer due to failed economic policies would actually use that money and invest it in businesses that were hanging on and had the potential to grow. Yet what I am seeing in my district are businesses just like RTD Manufacturing, which are working hard, which are diversifying from—in this case, they were 100 percent automotive and had begun doing work for the Department of Defense to protect our warfighters.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is having an impact in my district and all around our State. The American people may know that President Obama was in Holland, Michigan, which is about an hour and a half from where I live in Battle Creek. He was at the groundbreaking for a new battery plant for the automotive industry—400 new jobs in addition to all of the construction jobs that are being created for this new technology.

Now, that's not the only battery plant in Michigan that has been jump-started by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars. There is a company in my district, in Battle Creek, that is called Toda America. It received \$35 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to attract the private investment to locate this battery facility there. This could have gone anywhere in the world.

Because of a proactive policy to invest in clean and renewable energy technology, in this case for the automobile industry, I think the question we have to ask is: Are we going to continue to manufacture here in America, or are we going to be buying everything from South Korea, from China, from Japan, from all of our global competitors?

You know, we have put a stake in the ground in Michigan—and there are stories like this all over the country—that we will make things here. In this case, as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, we are making batteries for vehicles of the future. We are making technology for our warfighters.

I want to tell you another great story about a wind energy cluster that didn't just happen by accident. It happened, in part, because of policies that the Michigan legislature adopted, some of which were put in place when I was still in the legislature there. It happened with investment through the Department of Energy to help wind energy companies.

There is a new company in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, called Astraeus, which is developing the best technology—the best technology in the world—to develop windmill blades and windmill turbine components, and they have actually attracted—this is a great story. You know, we often don't hear this from colleagues on the other side of the aisle because they don't want to

acknowledge some of the successes of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

There is a company based in Finland that has a U.S. subsidiary. It is called URV USA, which is a foundry. We used to have foundries all over my State and all over the country. This company, URV USA, whose parent company is in Finland, is locating a foundry in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, to manufacture some of the heavy components for windmill turbines.

So we have a cluster of wind energy companies locating in this town of about 2,500 people, south of Lansing, that will be the home for thousands of jobs, for thousands of renewable energy jobs; and these companies there are positioning themselves to actually export this technology. So it is not just about beating the competition from China, but it is about being able to build it faster, more cheaply and to be able to export that technology.

So, when my Republican colleagues ask, Where are the jobs? the choice is: what policies do we put forward here, and do we continue with policies that are creating jobs, that are transforming our economy or do we go backwards to what Congressman SESSIONS says—that we need to go back to the exact same agenda? This is the agenda that nearly bankrupted the United States of America, that drained the retirement funds of millions of senior citizens, that made the dream of retirement slip away for many Americans, and that really left us with an economy completely on its knees.

The industrial sector talked about that. It is very much a part of Michigan's past, a part of Michigan's present and, I hope, a part of Michigan's future. Total industrial production in America has increased 8.2 percent during the past year. That is the largest 12-month gain since 1998. I need to repeat that because, you know, what you hear from folks on the other side of the aisle would make you think that the economic challenges we face magically began in January of 2009.

Total industrial production—making things, making things in America—has increased 8.2 percent during the past year, which is the largest 12-month gain since 1998. In June, industrial production increased a tenth of a percent. It grew to a 7 percent annual rate in the first quarter to a 6.6 percent rate in the second quarter, and this rapid industrial expansion is consistent with solid growth for our Nation's economy, and that is according to the Federal Reserve. Don't take my word for it. That is according to the Federal Reserve.

□ 2100

Trade, which is an issue that's very important to me. I was recently named to the President's Export Council. So I look forward to fighting for American companies to sell their goods abroad and to tear down trade barriers, like I am working on with China, to make

sure that American companies can compete. But nominal exports are up 21 percent from a year ago. In May, nominal exports grew rapidly by \$3.5 billion, or 2.4 percent. Year-to-date, exports are up 18 percent for the first 5 months of the last year.

So we've got a big hole to dig out of. Remember, the last 5 months of the Bush administration our economy, our country lost an average of almost 640,000 jobs. Just in the last 5 months we've added an average of 174,000 jobs. There is a swing. We have a long way to go.

Initial unemployment insurance claims fell by 29,000 in the week that ended July 10. Too many people are unemployed. I will not be satisfied until everyone who is looking for a job has a job. Spending in core retail sales rose by two-tenths of 1 percent in June. Small business owner economic confidence increased by 2.6 percent during the second quarter. This is the largest 3-month increase since last July. So there are signs of progress.

I think the question, again, is do we move forward or do we go back to the exact same agenda? That is the choice. I'm not willing to go back. Too many people in my district are hurting. And too many families are hurting. And candidly, many people have lost hope. But we must continue to move forward and we must put the American people over any political agenda. You know, this is not the time to put the next election before the American people. The American people must come first. Their ability to have opportunities for jobs in new economic sectors is what the Democrats stand for and we will continue fighting for.

I also want to talk a little bit more about manufacturing, and particularly about Buy American provisions. I am looking forward to having a very vigorous debate in the House of Representatives, candidly, about whose side we are on. And we must be on the side of the American people. I have been pushing in every way possible that we expand and strengthen Buy American provisions.

I just received a letter from the Vice President of the United States in response to a very real situation that a company in my district faces, a company called Full Spectrum Solutions. They make high-tech, energy-efficient lighting. And they have been more and more making their light fixtures in America from suppliers all over my State and all over the Midwest. And they have been bidding on energy-efficient lighting contracts with municipalities. They received American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds.

Unfortunately, some of their competitors—and there are Buy American provisions. I was asked by a reporter today, Why are Buy American provisions important? Here's the point. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars are your tax dollars. So I think the American people expect a little common sense out of their govern-

ment, which unfortunately there's not enough of. But they expect that their tax dollars be used to create jobs here in America, not jobs in China.

And so there is a Buy American provision in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. What Full Spectrum Solutions found was some of their competitors were actually taking light fixtures made in China and putting a label on these light fixtures that says "Made in the USA" to defraud the government, defraud the taxpayers, and hurt American companies and cost us American jobs.

So I worked with Mike Nevins, the CEO of Full Spectrum Solutions, and went down every path to find relief for this company. I went to the Department of Energy, Department of Commerce, Customs and Border Protection, the U.S. Attorney's office. No relief. No mechanism for relief for complaints of competitors cheating and mislabeling their products as made in America.

So I wrote the Vice President about 3 weeks ago, and I received a very, very specific response that is creating a new hotline within the Department of Energy for complaints about companies that are mislabeling their products as made in the USA, a means to investigate these complaints, and a notice to all grant recipients of these American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to be aware that there are some companies, unfortunately some American companies, that are defrauding the taxpayers and cheating and using our tax dollars to buy goods made in China rather than goods made in America.

So I received this very specific response, and it underscored just what we should be fighting for. We need to be fighting for American workers, American companies, and strengthen these Buy American provisions. I look forward to taking up legislation, Democratic-sponsored, hopefully bipartisan, but I know there are Democratic bills that I cosponsored as a part of the House Bipartisan Trade Working Group that will strengthen Buy American provisions.

I talked about a week ago about another fair trade bill with China. We are letting China eat the lunches of American workers. We are letting them do it. China, when they joined the World Trade Organization in 2001, never signed the government procurement agreement. This is the agreement that sets the terms for companies in one country to bid on and compete for government contracts with other countries.

Well, China, they know what they're doing. Just like they know what they're doing when they manipulate their currency. Just like they know what they're doing when they steal our patents, our intellectual property. Just like they know what they're doing when they subsidize their companies, tilting the playing field in their favor. And so what they've done for the last 9 years is they have blocked our companies from doing business with their

government, while for some reason, I haven't been able to figure out yet, it's because there's no good reason, we're allowing Chinese companies to bid on and win contracts with our Federal Government paid for by your tax dollars. I don't think the American people have in mind that we use their tax dollars to create jobs in China rather than jobs in America.

So my bill, H.R. 5312, is very simple. It's a reciprocal trade bill. It truly is a fair trade bill. It says to China that their companies can do the same dollar amount of business with our government as our companies can do with their government.

Now, I flew when I came to Washington from my home in Battle Creek, Michigan, yesterday. There was a Ford Motor Company engineer on the plane. And we talked about this issue. I talk about this issue everywhere I go. And I said, "Do you manufacture in China?" He says, "Yeah, we manufacture in China." And I said, "You are not able to do business with the government in China, right, for any of their vehicle purchases or motor pools, whatever it might be?" And he said, "No, you know, now that you mention it, we're not able to do that." So I said, "Well, you know, China can do business with our government even though they're blocking our companies from doing business with their government?" Even, here is the point of the Ford conversation, even when they're manufacturing in China. So our companies are investing there, they're making their products there.

□ 2110

Include, even with that, China's policy. They know what they're doing. They didn't sign this government procurement agreement 9 years ago when they joined the World Trade Organization, and they are playing us for fools.

You know, according to the Economic Policy Institute, in Michigan, we have lost 68,000 jobs due to China's unfair trade policies since 2001. In Michigan, in my district—I represent seven counties in south central Michigan—2,700 jobs. That's the size of a medium-sized village within my district, wiped out completely, because of China's unfair trade.

So I want to stop in a moment. I want to yield to an outstanding leader, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ from Florida, to talk about our economy. I have been talking about the choice. I've been talking about the choice. Do we move forward and dig out of this economic hole that was caused by the failed economic policies of the Bush administration? And one of our Republican colleagues on one of the national press shows on Sunday says, when asked—they often don't like to talk about policy. They don't like to do that. When they were asked to talk about Medicare, their solution was to voucherize Medicare. Even though they don't like the term that is really true about their position on So-

cial Security, they want to privatize Social Security. They don't like to talk about policy ideas. But when they were asked if Republicans get back into power what are you going to do, PETE SESSIONS says, We need to go back to the exact same agenda.

We cannot go backwards. We must go forward, and we must continue to fight for the American people. We must continue to fight for the American workers. We must continue to fight for manufacturing, for making things in this country. And I talked earlier about great progress that's being made in renewable energy, battery technology, wind energy technology, life sciences technology, the Chevy Volt. The Chevy Volt will be the first battery electric car, will roll off the assembly line in October in Hamtramck, Michigan. We are making things.

And if we don't have the kind of policy foresight that Democrats in this House of Representatives have been putting forward and will continue to put forward aggressively, we will go backwards.

So we've got a long way to go. I am not satisfied. I said I will not be satisfied until every unemployed worker in my district that's looking for a job has a job, until seniors again feel secure with the promise of Social Security. You know, these are the basic values that I hold, and this is the fight that I signed up for.

So it's been a pleasure to talk a little bit about Michigan, a little bit about my home, a little bit about what's going on. I even talked a little bit about my family and my son-in-law that was unemployed for the better part of a year and, unfortunately, I don't think I finished that story. The good news is they're still in Michigan. They moved to the beautiful Upper Peninsula. It's where my wife, Christine, is from, from the Upper Peninsula. They got a job there. They bought a house.

But too many families can't tell that story. And we are fighting for the American people.

It is my pleasure to yield to my colleague, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ from south Florida, to talk about this choice.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you so much. And my colleague from Michigan, MARK SCHAUER, who's been holding down the fort here and who cares so passionately and so deeply about his district, about the people that he represents in Michigan, you have fought so hard to make sure that they have a voice because Americans are struggling, and you know that Americans are struggling. You're in the midst of an economic crisis in Michigan, as we all have been coming out of, and you're absolutely right when you talk about the fact that we have a choice.

I mean, Americans in November are going to have a choice. We can go back to the agenda of the Republicans, which now is right there in blue and

white, and where they clearly have said, making no bones about it, that they would take us back to the exact same agenda that they pursued before, which included focusing on tax cuts exclusively for the wealthiest Americans, not caring in the least about working families or the middle class or having an agenda that did anything for anyone in a working family or the middle class, focusing on making sure that we could only spend time worrying about the well-being of major corporations and leaving working families to twist in the wind. Or we can choose to continue to move in the new direction the Democrats have taken the country under President Obama's leadership, under the leadership of the Democrats here in the House and the Senate when we took the majority back in 2006 and ended the culture of corruption that literally hung over this capital under Republican leadership. We ended the focus exclusively on the wealthy and focused on trying to turn things around.

President Obama on his first day in office inherited an economy where we were bleeding 700,000-plus jobs a month. And I'm not sure if Mr. SCHAUER talked about this, but we have now fast-forwarded a year and a half later and the economy is adding about 100,000 to 125,000 jobs a month.

And if you look at manufacturing—and I know that's a particularly important area for Michigan. American workers are so proud and have always been so proud of the fact that we in America make things. We are the ones that make sure that machines run, that the manufacturing that is the proud tradition of the United States of America should continue. We have had 11 straight months of growth in the manufacturing sector under President Obama's leadership, under the policies, the economic decisionmaking that we've made since he took office, and that's incredibly important for Americans to understand. Because even though we have a long way to go, we've begun to turn the corner. We've begun to turn things around, and we need to continue to push hard to make sure that we can invest in infrastructure and balance those investments with tax cuts targeted to middle class and working families.

Last year, in the Recovery Act, the economic stimulus that has been talked about so much in the last year, we invested \$787 billion to make sure that we could create those jobs and invest in shovel-ready projects that were ready to go so that we could get people back to work who literally were left twisting in the wind after the Bush administration drove us into a ditch. And now you have the same people, the same people who drove us into the ditch in the first place are asking to get the keys back so that they can return to the exact same agenda that they pursued during the time that they were in charge. Why Americans would give them back the keys when they got

us into this mess in the first place is beyond me, but that is what they are aggressively pursuing, nonetheless.

This morning, a number of us on the House floor had an opportunity to talk about the approach of Social Security's birthday. We're approaching the 75th anniversary of Social Security, 75 years of making sure that Social Security provides the safety nets to Americans who are in their retirement years, making sure that they have something to fall back on, and making sure that they have the ability to make ends meet each and every day.

And as Mr. SCHAUER so rightfully put it, under the exact same agenda that the Republicans pursued then, we would return to an effort—and they readily admit this, that we would return to their effort, which was first proposed by President Bush, to privatize Social Security.

□ 2120

What privatizing Social Security means is allowing people to invest their Social Security in the stock market. Now, if you watched the volatility of the stock market over the last number of years, I shudder to think about how the seniors in my district, my seniors in south Florida, I shudder to think how they would be able to make ends meet over the last few years if their Social Security investments evaporated into oblivion after the stock market downturn. We had stock market downturn, then it went back up, then it went back down again. The stock market is not the place for funds that are there and designed to be a safety net. In my home State, 53 percent of seniors without Social Security would be living in poverty, and that's just simply unacceptable. If that's the agenda that the Republicans want to take us back to, then Americans need to know that that's the direction that they would go.

I want to focus on some other comments because we should make sure that people know exactly what's being said on the other side so that when they make a decision on which direction they want to go, when they make a decision on which candidate for Congress, which Members they choose to have represent them, they should know what some of the Republican leadership on the other side has been saying.

If you recall, we had a lot of commentary on the other side about the stimulus, about the economic Recovery Act; and I remember that Mr. CANTOR, their Republican whip, I remember he actually has consistently said that the stimulus has not produced jobs. Now, I'm not sure what planet he's been living on, but one thing that has been very clear is that the economic Recovery Act, the stimulus bill, created millions of jobs. We wouldn't have been able to go from bleeding 700,000-plus jobs a month to adding about 100,000 private sector jobs a month without the investment that was made under the Democratic leadership.

Now, in spite of the fact that Mr. CANTOR has consistently said that the stimulus produced no jobs, that didn't prevent him from hosting a job fair with companies that received \$52 million in his community to create jobs from the stimulus. He actually held a job fair at a Virginia high school with a number of private companies that were seeking to hire and who benefited from the funds in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. So he's not the only one that has essentially tried to have it both ways, he opposed to the stimulus, vote against the stimulus, stated it didn't do anything, but then take credit in their community when the checks are being handed out and the celebrations were being had for the jobs that are created in the district by the economic Recovery Act.

And, I mean, I don't want to directly call any of our colleagues hypocritical, but that type of action seems pretty hypocritical to me Mr. TONKO, and I'm really pleased that we're joined this evening by my good friend Mr. TONKO from New York who's joined us every week, week after week, to make sure that we can help America understand and talk to the American people about how this economy has turned around and how we have been able to create jobs, balance investments with tax cutting policy, and I would be happy to yield to the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. TONKO. Thank you, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. It's so encouraging to have people see the difference in how we approach reform here in Washington. There are those who will suggest that the 8.2 million jobs lost during the Bush recession were a tremendous blow to this Nation's economy, to working families, to households across this country. There are those who would suggest that the \$17.5 trillion worth of household wealth lost in the last 18 months of President Bush's final stage of his Presidency, some of that's been recaptured, recovered, some \$6 trillion.

But that painful outcome is sometimes lost. People forget that there were these trillions of dollars lost to the household incomes, that there were 8 million jobs lost in this country. Why would people want to go back to those failed policies?

And, today, we just do a litmus test based on other dynamics. Medicare, the Republicans suggest that we should voucher the system, allow people to have a voucher to go and invest in a private insurance plan.

There are those in the Republican ranks, the leadership, talking about reforming Social Security, raising the age limit, providing savings so that they can pay for the war, wanting to adjust a system that's very much part of the security for our Nation's retirees. To balance a budget on the backs of our hardworking retirees, people who have invested in the system, is telling us what their philosophy is all about. They're not supporting Wall

Street reform. Attacking it, demeaning it, that it was an atom bomb used on an ant, totally misrepresents the situation; the fact that they wanted our President to apologize for coming down hard on BP and the oil spill and the failures in the gulf.

So we see that same thinking that brought about the failure of our economy, that brought this Nation's economy to its knees. They want us to go back to those standards? I think what we have here are improvements. There's a road to recovery. It's painfully slow, but it's moving in the right direction. It's a sweep upward after several months of a sweep downward. The V formation, that constant dip down south, southward with the economy, now transitions upward, has told the story, has told the story; and I see it in my district.

I see the capital region of New York responding to an innovation economy, investing in opportunity, in innovation. Advanced Battery Manufacturing, they're to open a new facility in our district that will move to something that now transitions our economy because it will be able not only to store intermittent power; it will also be able to generate electricity and also be used for heavy fleets. This is the way we create jobs. This is the investment of the Recovery Act that invested in Advanced Battery Manufacturing, invested in renewable technologies for energy generation, invested in smart grid, smart thermostats, smart meters.

These were the opportunities that really transition our economy and create a new day for America because we become more self-sufficient in our energy policy, with our energy policy. We allow for generation to be done here by embracing the American intellect. These are the dynamics of reform that were long overdue. They're creating American jobs to produce American power. A tour with the veterans of this country about American power, about how we can create jobs here and not send hundreds of billions of dollars to foreign-nation treasuries and those nations are unfriendly to the U.S. That's the changed thinking, not the failure of the past that drained household incomes by \$17 trillion to \$18.5 trillion, that lost 8 million jobs.

Do we go back to those failed policies, or do we transition over to what has been the road to recovery, albeit not as fast as we would like, but it's progress, it's movement in the right direction, and it's innovation and it's embracing the American intellect.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you so much, Mr. TONKO, and I just wanted to add a couple of things and then I know Mr. SCHAUER will close us out.

But one of the things that I think is important to note that we also have done—because deficits are really an issue and deficit spending is an issue—we, when we took the majority back, reestablished the PAYGO rules and then enshrined them in statute in this

Congress to make sure that legislation that we pass is paid for, that we don't, like most families have to do, like every family I know, can't spend more than they take in.

The Republicans let those rules which were originally adopted under the Clinton administration and resulted in the record surpluses that President Bush inherited, they let those rules lapse. Well, we reestablished them because when they let those rules lapse, that's when we ended up in a huge deficit situation.

□ 2130

Because of that, we are able to, with the budget that we have adopted, cut the deficit in half over the next number of years and focus on deficit reduction while also making sure that we balance that with investments so that we can get our economy back on track.

That's the difference between us and them, and I hate to say it like that, but, really, there hasn't been a more stark contrast in the choice that Americans have to make in this election, and I look forward to spending some more time on the floor talking with my colleagues about it.

Mr. SCHAUER. I would like to thank my colleagues, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ of Florida, PAUL TONKO of New York. Our time is about up, but I will give you two numbers that summarize the Bush policies: 8 million lost jobs, \$14 trillion in wealth lost to American households—8 million, \$14 trillion. Trillion.

Now, Americans can do it. We have been through tough times before, but we have always pulled together as a Nation to overcome our challenges. After challenges, Americans return stronger, more determined and more united.

Democrats came together and faced the challenges that we were handed by mismanagement of the Bush Republicans and, together, we are pulling our economy back from the brink of economic ruins.

As Americans, I know we can do it. That's why we are here tonight. I received a couple of texts from folks at home. They are watching. Americans know we can do it. We can turn our economy around and get our economy back on track.

I will yield back. Thank you.

GET THE COUNTRY IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEINRICH). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, as always, it is a great honor to speak on this floor where so many have given so much trying to get the country in the right direction.

I do need to address some things that have come up. For one thing, I would like to read an article from The Wash-

ington Examiner, June 9, 2010, written by Timothy Carney.

"As BP's Deepwater Horizon oil rig was sinking on April 22, Senator John Kerry, D-Mass, was on the phone with allies in his push for climate legislation, telling them he would soon roll out the Senate climate bill with the support of the utility industry and three oil companies—including BP, according to the Washington Post.

"Kerry never got to have his photo op with BP chief executive Tony Hayward and other regulation-friendly corporate chieftains. Within days, Republican cosponsor Lindsey Graham, R-S.C, repudiated the bill following a spat about immigration, and Democrats went back to the drawing board.

"But the Kerry-BP alliance for an energy bill that included a cap-and-trade scheme for greenhouse gases pokes a hole in a favorite claim of President Obama and his allies in the media—that BP's lobbyists have fought fiercely to be left alone. Lobbying records show that BP is no free-market crusader, but instead a close friend of big government whenever it serves the company's bottom line."

It goes on to point out that British Petroleum has lobbied for tax hikes, greenhouse gas restraints, for the stimulus bill, the Wall Street bailout and for subsidies for things like oil pipelines, solar panels, natural gas and biofuels.

"Now that BP's oil rig"—this is the article written by Timothy Carney, "Now that BP's oil rig has caused the biggest environmental disaster in American history, the Left is pulling the same bogus trick it did with Enron and AIG: Whenever a company earns universal ire, declare it the poster boy for the free market.

"As Democrats fight to advance climate change policies, they are resorting to the misleading tactics they used in their health care and finance efforts: posing as the scourges of the special interests and tarring 'reform' opponents as the stooges of big business. Expect BP to be public enemy No. 1 in the climate debate."

Again, this is the article by Timothy Carney, June 9 of this year.

Carney goes on, "There's a problem: BP was a founding member of the U.S. Climate Action Partnership (USCAP), a lobby dedicated to passing a cap-and-trade bill. As the Nation's largest producer of natural gas, BP saw many ways to profit from climate legislation, notably by persuading Congress to provide subsidies to coal-fired plants that switched to gas."

Well, it goes on, it talks more. It mentions that "BP signed off on Kerry's Senate climate bill, which was hardly a capitalist concoction. One provision BP explicitly backed, according to Congressional Quarterly and other media reports: a higher gas tax. The money would be earmarked for building more highways, thus inducing more driving and more gasoline consumption.

"Elsewhere in the green arena, BP has lobbied for and profited from subsidies for biofuels and solar energy, two products that cannot break even without government support. Lobbying records show the company backing solar subsidies, including Federal funding for solar research. The U.S. Export-Import Bank, a Federal agency, is currently financing a BP solar energy project in Argentina.

"Ex-Im has also put up taxpayer cash to finance construction of the 1,094 Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline carrying oil from the Caspian Sea to Ceyhan, Turkey—again profiting BP.

"Lobbying records also show BP lobbying on Obama's stimulus bill and Bush's Wall Street bailout. You can guess the oil giant wasn't in league with the Cato Institute or Ron Paul on those.

"BP has more Democratic lobbyists than Republicans. It employs the Podesta Group, cofounded by John Podesta, Obama's transition director and confidant. Other BP troops on K Street include Michael Berman, a former top aid to Vice President Walter Mondale, Steven Champlin, former executive director of the House Democratic Caucus, and Matthew LaRocco, who worked in Bill Clinton's Interior Department and whose father was a Democratic Congressman."

"Two patterns have emerged during Obama's presidency: (1) Big business increasingly seeks profits through more government, and (2) Obama nonetheless paints opponents of his intervention as industry shills. BP is just the latest example of this tawdry sleight of hand.

"Once a government pet, BP now a capitalist tool." Again, this is from The Washington Examiner's lobbying editor, Timothy P. Carney. Interesting.

Some of my friends come to the floor and talk about, make it sound like the Republicans and BP are really tight. You look at the lobbying records for BP, you look at the contribution records for the Wall Street firms that benefited so dramatically from the ridiculous bailout, yes, it was a Republican President, should have known better.

You don't set aside free market principles to save the free market, because if only socialism works in a crisis, we got no business going back to free market in the good times.

□ 2140

But the trouble is it was no free market. In this world in which people are not perfect and you have some greedy people, you have some people that lust for power, you have got to have a government intervention to make sure everyone is playing fairly; not that everyone has equal assets but that people have an equal opportunity. That's what a free market is supposed to be about in this world. In the next, we won't need a government. God will reign. But in this one, we need a government, and it needs not to be a player on the field