

## OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE

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

Mr. REHBERG. Many in this Chamber think jobs come from the benevolence of the Federal Government. But last week I visited businesses in four Montana towns to hear what small business owners who actually create jobs had to say. They told me the Federal Government has created a lot of paralyzing uncertainty.

Small businesses like Printing for Less in Livingston are eager to expand and hire, but Federal policies hold them back. Andrew Field, the owner, cited concerns such as uncertainty about health care, cap-and-trade, and expiring tax cuts. He said, for example, that he needs the threat of health care mandates defeated.

I've never met someone who would buy a car made by Congress. That's because we've seen how Congress works. But after touring those small businesses and seeing firsthand the ingenuity of American entrepreneurs, I can think of no better hands in which to trust our economic future.

## HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased that on Thursday we're going to have this health care summit because I do think there's an opportunity for us to work together on a bipartisan basis to achieve health care reform.

I think we need to achieve three things. First of all, we need to lower prices, or at least prevent the type of price increases we've seen in insurance premiums. We're hearing 20, 30 percent increases in many parts of the country.

Secondly, we have to try to cover as many Americans as possible. There are at least 30, 40 million Americans that have no health insurance right now.

And lastly, we have to get rid of discriminatory practices where people pay more or can't even get health insurance because of preexisting conditions or because of gender differences.

If we can accomplish the goal of all three of these items on a bipartisan basis, we can come up with a bill that can pass here and go to the President.

I believe that all of us would like to see health care reform on both sides of the aisle. We just need to sit down and work on it and get it done this year because the American people need health care reform.

## WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. LEE of New York. For months now my constituents in western New York have been asking, Where are the jobs?

It's very simple. The only city in the entire country that actually saw significant job growth is right here in good old Washington, D.C. The Federal Government is adding jobs at a rate of nearly 10,000 a month, the fastest pace since the 1960s when Medicare and Medicaid were created. There is definitely no recession going on in this city, while everybody else in this country is fighting to keep their jobs.

Instead of providing the right kind of incentives to grow the private sector and small business, the administration continues to bury this country further into debt.

Let's start working together to implement responsible solutions to the serious challenges facing our Nation. We have to stop this Federal takeover which is truly bankrupting our country.

## NEW JOBS IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, we've heard one after another of our colleagues from the other side come today and ask, where are the jobs? Well, I invite them all to visit my district because in Louisville, Kentucky, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has created hundreds and hundreds of jobs and will create hundreds more. Already, 1,800 certified jobs, doing things like building additions to two new schools, building a new facility at our TARC system, our bus system, a new maintenance facility, a new fire station in Louisville, paving miles and miles of interstate, all of these things are bringing people to work, creating jobs, not to speak of the 600 jobs in our school system that have been saved because of the stimulus funding.

No, anybody who wants to see jobs created can come to Louisville, Kentucky. And as I said, they're not finished because, due to stimulus funding, General Electric's Appliance Park is about to bring 400 new jobs to our community to build an energy efficient water heater.

And lest anybody think these are jobs that are moving from one place to another, they're right. They're coming from China to the United States.

## THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, at a town hall meeting in Faribault, Minnesota, just this past Friday night, a small business owner shared his frustrations that I am certain every Member of Congress is hearing from their constituents. And certainly, we heard the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG) describe the frustrations he heard from small business owners in his great State.

Whether it's the stimulus that failed to create jobs, or the job-killing national energy tax, or this massive government takeover of health care, small business owners are worried.

My constituent said, "I've had small businesses most of my life, so I understand when you would feel like hiring more people. Businesses want to know the rules, and they want a consistent future where they can project and plan."

"What's going on in the White House, with all these different bills and health care, it's a big unknown out there. Businesses are scared, and they have no idea what the future is. They don't want to invest, they don't want to hire. The economy's not going to rebound if they badger businesses the way they are right now."

I say "Amen" to that, Mr. Speaker. Let's push these job-killing bills off the table and get together and work in a bipartisan way.

## WHAT ABOUT THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS?

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

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago President Obama came and he addressed the House Republicans in our retreat in Baltimore, and I posed a question to him. And, in a nutshell, I asked, how about the free trade agreements?

This is an opportunity where we can come together, both sides of the aisle, frankly, at a no-cost job creation initiative. And we've heard a lot of consternation and a lot of hand-wringing today, and we've seen it on the House floor, where Democrats are very, very concerned about a debt that they've inherited, they claim. Republicans have pointed out the national debt has tripled under their watch.

And yet here is an opportunity to put together and to advance legislation that will open markets overseas in Panama, in Colombia, and in South Korea.

And in a moment of candor, President Obama acknowledged that the lion's share of the problem was on his side of the aisle, that in fact it was politics in the Democratic Caucus that was preventing that from coming to the floor.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, this is an opportunity for us to transcend those problems and do a no-cost job creator, and that is pass these free trade agreements.

## RECENT EVENTS

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I want to join all my colleagues in calling for jobs legislation that will get our people back to work and asking for a health care reform bill that will be affordable and accessible to all Americans.

But, Mr. Speaker, I rise also to ask my colleagues, as they think about recent events involving the Texas Federal building, where the IRS building was exploded by an airplane, and one of our colleagues has now called the act of terrorism a noble act.

The fact of the matter is, the gentleman that lost his life in that building, Vernon Hunter, is from, or was from, Orangeburg, South Carolina, which I proudly represent in this body. He spent two tours in Vietnam and was about the business of carrying out his duties and responsibilities to this great country of ours. If anybody is a hero, it is this victim. And I find it appalling that a Member of this body would call his death a noble happening.

#### DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, Americans are asking, where are the jobs?

Now, to create jobs there must be affordable energy. As it turns out, creating energy creates jobs.

First, let me compliment the President. Last week, he announced a commitment to developing new power plants in the United States. It's a great step in the right direction because domestic energy production means more jobs, with good benefits, lower energy prices, and greater energy security.

Now, although moving forward with nuclear energy, the administration has effectively banned, through delays, new natural gas and oil production. The National Association of Utility Commissioners recently reported that the administration's current delay on natural gas and oil production eliminates 13 million jobs, \$2.35 trillion in lower energy costs, and \$2.36 trillion in economic growth. By the way, it also eliminates royalty payments and billions of dollars to cash-strapped States.

Now I applaud the President for advancing nuclear energy. Let's do the same with domestic oil and gas. We know where the jobs could be. They're in oil and gas. Mr. President, allow their creation.

#### JOBS

(Mrs. HALVORSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HALVORSON. Mr. Speaker, it's critical that we get people back to work across this country. Nothing is more important to the American people at this time than jobs. That's why I was proud to announce \$22 million in stimulus funds for my district's multimodal transportation center located in the city of Normal, Illinois.

There are those who have said, and continue to say, that projects like this will not put people back to work; who still say that the stimulus isn't working. But here's the reality: The con-

struction of this center is going to put 300 people to work and give access to good transportation options to countless more residents of central Illinois. This project would not have been possible without the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

I'm proud that the Recovery Act is helping those individuals get back to work. We must continue to invest in American infrastructure, build upon the work that the Recovery Act is doing, and continue to work to create jobs.

#### HELPING THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. McCAUL. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot lift the wage earner up by pulling the wage payer down. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred. You cannot build character and courage by taking away people's initiative and independence. And you cannot help people permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

That was a quote from President Abraham Lincoln.

#### TRANSFORMING THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the economy in America did not transform overnight. Over a period of the last 40 years that I can account as an adult, or working person, many significant changes have taken place in this great country. It is obvious that there were Democrats and Republicans in the United States Congress during that 40 years, and that either party had control of either the House, or the Senate, or the White House, or all of the above, at some point.

In my view, it is a bit of hyperbole for someone to suggest that Barack Obama, once he became President of the United States, was to cure that 40-year transformation in our economy that led to joblessness and an almost clear financial disaster for this country and this globe. To expect this President to cure that problem in 1 year is just plain ridiculous.

We need a direct-hire job creation program, and we need it now.

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#### WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, as we left church yesterday, our pastor ended

his sermon with a prayer for all of those in our church that were unemployed. With this on my mind as I walked out into the foyer, I saw one of the largest employers in our area and walked up to him and said, "Sir, what will it take for you to begin hiring again?"

He did not hesitate. He looked me right in the eye and said, "Washington has injected too much uncertainty about what my health care expenses are going to be and what the health care that I have to provide my employees will have to be." He said, "There is also a great deal of uncertainty about my tax rates and about what taxes I am going to have to pay." He said, "Before I can begin to hire people again, Washington needs to clarify and remove that uncertainty."

This is what's keeping us from having jobs today in the United States.

#### THE JOBS ARE HERE THANKS TO THE STIMULUS

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, many times we come up here and we hear my Republican colleagues say, "Where are the jobs?" Well, I am going to tell you where the jobs are at.

In Houston, Texas, yesterday, we did an event with the Port of Houston and the industries along that channel—whether they be refineries or chemical plants or stevedoring companies or shippers. The jobs that we have through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are at the Port of Houston to the point of \$98 million that came through that act to create and to expand the jobs at the Port of Houston, to make sure we can bring in those ships, make sure we can get that dredging done so they can be competitive not only with our own country's ports but also worldwide.

The jobs are in our district that were awarded money to benefit Early Head Start in Houston areas Head Start; the Department of Education; Early Head Start in the Galena Park School District received funds; expanding Head Start programs in our district, hiring more teachers, but also expanding it so parents can have a child go to Head Start, and they can go to work and earn some money—including new centers, one in Channelview, Texas, we hope to open. Expanded federally qualified health clinics in our district are serving more people because of the Recovery Act.

#### WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. I want to join the chorus asking, Where are the jobs?