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TAXES

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, time and time again Members from both sides of the aisle have spoken on the need to create jobs and cut government spending. This is what the American people want, and it is past time for Washington to start listening. We have just a few short weeks to take that message to heart and stop the \$3 trillion tax hike set to take effect on January 1. Our country needs real economic growth—which can't happen if Washington doesn't prevent these tax increases on farmers, ranchers and small businesses. We won't solve our fiscal challenges until we cut spending, stop the growth of government and extend the current tax rates. The sooner we can provide certainty to American businesses, the sooner they can get our economy back on track and start hiring again. Over the next few weeks, we have the chance to do what is right for our economy. Let's make it sooner rather than later.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, starting tomorrow, 31,000 of my constituents, 400,000 New Yorkers and 2 million Americans will begin to lose their unemployment benefits. Before Thanksgiving, 143 Republicans and 11 Democrats voted against extending unemployment insurance. With that vote they said the unemployed mother, or the husband who lost his job to outsourcing are the ones who should shoulder the burden of reducing the national debt.

In the same breath, Republicans call on Congress to pass a tax break for the wealthiest Americans—adding hundreds of billions of dollars to the deficit. Republicans say we can't afford unemployment benefits, but they are alone in their logic. Economists widely agree that extending unemployment benefits does far more to stimulate economic growth than tax breaks for millionaires.

Madam Speaker, as we enter the winter season when home heating, gas and other basic living costs will rise, I ask my colleagues to help those American families who are most in need, not those wealthiest who need it the least.

CONGRATULATING WAYZATA HIGH SCHOOL, MINNESOTA STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Wayzata High

School football team on winning the Minnesota State high school championship this year. Sophomore Chad Underhill ran for a remarkable four touchdowns, leading the top-ranked Trojans to a 31-14 victory over Rosemount. The victory gave Wayzata their fourth State championship.

Wayzata's perfect season included an overtime victory over last year's State champions in the final game of the regular season and a very gutsy victory over Minnetonka, converting a two-point conversion to win the game with no time left on the clock. In the playoffs, the Trojans held their opponents scoreless for 15 straight quarters.

Wayzata's State championship continues an outstanding tradition of football excellence at Wayzata High School. Since the year 2000, Wayzata has now produced an NFL Pro Bowler in running back Marion Barber, a Butkus Award winner in linebacker James Laurinaitis, and four State championships.

Congratulations to the student athletes, the parents, and the coaches at Wayzata High School.

TAXES AND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, we are now in a situation in this country in which we have the greatest disparity between the very wealthiest people and everybody else that we have had in 100 years. Already this year, the top 1 percent of the income earners in this country have earned 24 percent of total income. Despite all of this, our colleagues on the Republican side want to preserve tax cuts for those very, very fortunate people who have more now as a percentage of the American economy than they have ever had. Meanwhile, they're going to deny 2 million Americans an extension of unemployment benefits which every economist agrees is the best way to create economic activity.

The American people rightly wonder whose side their government is on, and the problem, the juxtaposition of these issues that we face this week, the question of tax cuts for the very wealthiest Americans or extending unemployment benefits for those people who are struggling, is a clear delineation of whose side this government is on.

We're on the side of the American people.

PLEDGE TO AMERICA

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, as I sit here and listen to my colleagues across the aisle, I want to remind them that the American people showed on November 2 that they're not buying the class warfare that our friends are still trying

to sell. We're a month away from tax increases that will hit every American taxpayer. The Obama-Pelosi-Reid spending spree that has racked up \$6.1 trillion in Federal spending in just 22 months is about to hand the American people a massive tax increase.

Democrats have majorities in both houses of Congress until January, and there's time for them to do something to stop the \$3.9 trillion tax increase. But so far all we're seeing on the agenda is more spending.

Republicans are ready to work in a bipartisan way to stop these tax increases and to cut spending. But if the President and congressional Democrats don't take action before the end of the year to stop all the tax hikes and cut spending, the new House majority will in January. That's our Pledge to America, and we intend to keep it.

TAX INCREASES LOOM

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, 98 percent of American families face a tax increase on January 1, 2011. That's right; 98 percent. Democrats are prepared this week to prevent that from happening. Our recovery demands keeping as much income as possible in the hands of those who need it the most—America's middle class. By extending the middle class tax cuts, we can protect American families and strengthen our economy.

But with a national debt already exceeding \$13 trillion, we simply cannot afford to borrow \$700 billion needed to cut taxes for the 2 percent richest families in America. It is also important to remember that the richest Americans would still receive substantial tax cuts on the first \$250,000 of their income.

This is not class warfare. I urge my colleagues to support permanent tax cuts for America's middle class. Don't hold the tax cuts hostage to help 2 percent of America's families.

FIVE NEW AMERICAN FREEDOMS

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

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, earlier this morning I joined my congressional staff on a tour of our Capitol. What a wonderful place this is. And if there's any lesson we should learn from our Capitol, from our Nation's history, it is that our freedom is ours for only as long as we can hang onto it. It wasn't that long ago that the Democrats led Americans into five new essential American freedoms.

We are now free from discrimination due to any preexisting medical condition. We're free from cancellation by any insurance corporation just because you get sick. We're free from going broke just because a child has an accident or becomes seriously ill. We're

free to choose our own doctor. And we're free to go to the closest emergency room.

These five new essential American freedoms will be yours for only as long as you can hang onto them. We as Democrats fought very hard to secure them. We're going to work very hard with everyone in this country to hold onto these newfound freedoms. Your freedoms are yours for only as long as you can hang onto them.

MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUTS

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. During the worst recession in decades, should we be giving hundreds of billions in borrowed money to the rich? No. Instead, we should reignite the economy and focus on protecting the middle class. That's why I support extending tax cuts for them, who are 98 percent of American families.

But some in Congress are holding the middle class hostage in order to cut taxes for the wealthiest 2 percent. In tough times like these, millionaires should be giving to charity, not getting it. This will force our cash strapped government to lose \$700 billion over the next decade.

And where will this money go? Straight into the pockets of those making more than half a million a year. What's worse, the wealthy are less likely to spend this money, doing little to help our economy recover.

To me, the answer is clear—let's put our money where it creates jobs and helps the people who need it. Let's extend middle class tax cuts.

THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT PAY FREEZE

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I can understand why President Obama has chosen to freeze Federal pay for the next 2 years. From a political standpoint, it preempts what the Republicans would have tried to do next year, anyway, and it responds to an antigovernment attitude that was most profoundly reflected in this month's congressional elections.

From a policy standpoint, though, it is, as they say, penny wise and pound foolish. The Federal Government has been subjected to a brain drain over the last decade, where the best and brightest folks in procurement, research and development, information technology, program management, budget and accounting and a host of other essential skill sets have gone over to the private sector for more pay and, in many cases, better working conditions.

Most of the Federal civil service is eligible for retirement within the next

few years. This move, which saves very little money, sends a signal individually and collectively to accelerate that decision, thereby potentially leaving our economy and our society in a weaker position to compete globally and to prosper domestically.

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DEFINING CHOICES FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, as the American middle class continues to endure tough economic challenges, the deadline looms for extending middle class tax cuts that will provide continued relief when it is needed the most.

Standing in our way are Republicans who are holding the middle class hostage in favor of giving added tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires, even though these bonus tax breaks would add \$700 billion to the national deficit.

So what is at stake? These middle class tax cuts will provide 98 percent of Americans who face a tax increase on January 1 the much needed relief that they deserve. For the typical middle class family, that means the loss of \$2,000 next year. The Republican demands would mean that those making more than \$1 million a year would receive an average of \$100,000 annually, and the middle class would be saddled with \$700 billion in new debt to pay for multimillion-dollar tax cuts for billionaires. In tough times like these, millionaires should be giving charity, not getting it, and that is the choice that the American people should be demanding that we make.

AMERICA'S NUCLEAR WASTE PROBLEM

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, the incoming House leadership has signaled that they are once again resurrecting Yucca Mountain as a solution to this Nation's nuclear waste problem. This is the height of insanity.

Let me remind my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that we are talking about shipping 77,000 tons of lethal, radioactive nuclear waste across 43 States to be buried in a hole in the Nevada desert where we have groundwater issues, seismic activity and volcanic activity, and it is 90 miles from a major population center—Las Vegas.

There are no EPA radiation standards. There is no way to protect the shipments from terrorist attacks. It requires millions of gallons of water. We are in the desert; there is no water. We are in the middle of a drought.

This is a waste of taxpayer money. Let's bury this ridiculous idea and fig-

ure out what we are going to do with this Nation's nuclear waste before we continue to produce more nuclear waste that we still don't know what to do with. Let's forget this nonsense and figure out how this Nation is going to become energy independent. Nuclear is not the way to go.

TAX CUTS FOR MILLIONAIRES

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, Republicans are holding tax cuts for the middle class hostage as they try to extend tax cuts for millionaires. They say letting tax cuts for the very wealthy expire will hurt small businesses. It is just not true. Ninety-seven percent of small businesses would see no tax increase under the Democratic plan. If the Republicans think they are talking about small businesses, they are truly out of touch.

While they stand in the way of unemployment benefits for millions of Americans still reeling from the crisis Wall Street and the previous administration created, they are doing everything they can to give huge checks to millionaires. This is just one more example of who the Republicans are really watching out for.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 4783, CLAIMS RESOLUTION ACT OF 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1736 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1736

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4783) to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of the earthquake in Chile, and to extend the period from which such contributions for the relief of victims of the earthquake in Haiti may be accelerated, with the Senate amendments thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a single motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Natural Resources or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendments. The Senate amendments shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour, with 50 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources and 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the