

hope and opportunity that people in our country have for themselves.

I urge a "yes" vote.

INCREASING THE NATION'S DEBT

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Yesterday, with one vote, the United States Senate increased the debt of the United States by \$858 billion. Is this the best we can do to help those out of work, the best we can do to begin a sustained economic recovery, to enshrine the trickle-down, supply-side tax cuts of the Bush years that have failed so miserably over the last decade and some of the worst aspects of the so-called stimulus debt finance consumption of goods made in China with money borrowed from China?

Worse yet, \$112 billion of this is going to come from Social Security, the first time Congress has ever broken down the firewall between the general fund of the United States and the sacrosanct Social Security trust fund.

No, we could do much, much better.

REJECT THE OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, when the Obama administration was faced with a massive omnibus in January of 2009, the President stated that he had to sign it because this is simply last year's business that he had no part of. Well, he's going to face another omnibus this year. This was all done under his watch by the Congress. It's not his fault, but he has a veto pen and he should use it.

This omnibus that's going to come to the President is going to contain more than 6,000 earmarks for things like a couple of hundred thousand that was mentioned for maple syrup research or \$500,000 for biodiesel research from sewage-based biodiesel and thousands and thousands of other earmarks like this.

The President recently said: I agree with those Republican and Democrat Members of Congress who have recently said that, in these challenging days, we simply can't afford what are called earmarks.

Well, Mr. President, please make good on that statement. Veto this omnibus bill coming. Better yet, convince your colleagues in the House and the Senate to reject it before it comes to the floor.

WE CAN DO BETTER

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress to fight for new jobs, protect the retirement security of America's

seniors, and give middle class families a fair shake in this economy. Yet our efforts, the basic bricks in the foundation of a working economy, have been cast aside by my Republican colleagues.

The Republicans have sweetened the tax deal today by demanding that American taxpayers fork over \$26 billion for an estate tax break that will go to about 6,600 families. I offer some perspective.

There are more than 6,600 people in Century Village, King's Point, and each of the major retirement communities I represent. There are more undergraduates at Florida Atlantic University in my district. And my teenage daughters and their high school friends are together on track to have more than 6,600 Facebook friends.

And \$26 billion? 16.2 million Americans who depend on food stamps to eat could eat for a year. 3.5 million American college students at our public universities could see their tuition paid in full. And most striking, more than \$175,000 could go to each of the 140,000 families whose sons and daughters are serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

We can do better, Mr. Speaker.

EXTEND ALL THE CURRENT TAX RATES FOR EVERY AMERICAN

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today is December 16, 2010. There are only 15 days left until the American people are burdened with one of the largest tax increases in almost three decades. We must act now to extend all of the current tax rates for every American. We must allow Americans to keep more of their hard-earned money.

Stopping the tax increases leaves more dollars and cents in the pockets of those who need them. It will also encourage small businesses and the private sector to invest and hire. We need to spur economic growth to pull us out of one of the worst economies in our recent history.

The President and his party currently control both Chambers of Congress and will maintain a majority in the Senate and will hold the White House come January. Let's not just tell our fellow Americans that we listened and have heard their concerns about the economy and their money. Let's show them by extending all the current tax rates for every American and do that without other items that add to the deficit.

WE MUST DO MORE FOR OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY AND JOB MARKET

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today proud to represent the third fast-

est growing high-tech job market in the country, that being Albany and the capital district of New York.

According to a new Tech America Foundation report, Albany grew its high-tech positions last year by 1.6 percent. While this is good news, there is also bad news. Nationwide, the number of high-tech jobs shrank by 3.2 percent. Albany's success is at least partially due to the resources available at the University at Albany's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. These jobs were not created by a government handout to millionaires or massive estates. They were created by investing in the local infrastructure and economy to create jobs.

While Albany added 900 high-tech jobs over the past couple of years, with an average wage nearing \$80,000, we must do more to lay the groundwork for our national economy and job market to grow the high-tech outcome. Those investments yield great returns and produce jobs.

OMNIBUS

(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, it's over 1,900 pages long. It contains more than 6,000 earmarks. It costs over \$1.1 trillion. It's the new Senate omnibus bill and it's a legislative travesty.

A lame duck Congress with Members who won't be here in just 3 weeks should not saddle the American people with hundreds of billions of dollars in new debt. This bill increases spending over last year, even though we ran up a \$1.3 trillion debt this year, and will run up a similarly high deficit next year. We don't need to be growing the Federal Government; we need to be shrinking it.

This bill totally ignores what happened in this country on November 2, but seeing as some of the earmarks come from Senators who won't be back next year, I guess we shouldn't be surprised. The American people are tired of paying their taxes so that \$165,000 can pay for maple syrup research and \$1 million can go to AFL-CIO training programs.

Congress' approval rating this session is at a record low, 13 percent. With bills like this, we shouldn't be surprised.

TAX CUT PROPOSAL DEFINES CONTRASTING PRIORITIES

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'm here this morning to simply say that Democrats continue to fight to maintain tax cuts on income up to \$250,000 for couples and \$200,000 for individuals. My Republican colleagues continue to demand tax cuts for all incomes, including millionaires and billionaires.

I ask my Democrats to please continue to extend the unemployment benefits to help out Americans to make it through this recession, and I plead with my Republican colleagues to not hold the middle class and unemployment hostage any longer.

I also recommend that we help the 155 million middle class Americans at a cost of \$214 billion, and I plead with my colleagues to join us in assisting to help because only 4.8 million of the country's wealthiest, at a cost of \$133 billion, is what we are trying to make a decision on.

Please join me and look out for the working people of this country, and let the billionaires continue to pay the bills.

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HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF CORPORAL CHAD STAFFORD WADE

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's bravest, Corporal Chad Stafford Wade of Bentonville, Arkansas, who valiantly sacrificed his life in support of combat missions in Afghanistan. Corporal Wade was a devoted family man and friend who was known to make those around him laugh. He shared his zest for life through the small things he did that put a smile on the faces of those who loved him, demonstrating his love of music, singing his favorite country songs, and enjoying the outdoors.

Corporal Wade taught others the importance of service, joining the Marine Corps in October of 2007. He was a member of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force based in Camp Pendleton, California, and served in combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

My prayers and the prayers of Arkansans are with Corporal Wade's family, including his wife, Katie, his mom, Tami, and his dad Terence. I humbly offer my thanks to Corporal Wade, a true American hero, for his selfless service to the security and well-being of all Americans, and I ask my colleagues to keep his family in our thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.

WHERE IS ROBIN HOOD WHEN YOU NEED HIM?

(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, where is Robin Hood when you need him? I rise today to express my profound sadness about the tax bill that was passed by the Senate and set to pass in this House that benefits the

wealthiest of Americans at the expense of putting billions of dollars of debt onto the backs of our children and grandchildren. Where is Robin Hood?

It's not just about the estate tax for 6,600 families or the tax cuts for the 2 percenters. This is so irresponsible. It contradicts everything, as Democrats, that we have been fighting for for generations. And for those who charge that it's purity or sanctimony, make no mistake, this is about our value as Democrats. It's about the prospect of creating hope and opportunity for our children and grandchildren, and we're not doing it here. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that it's time for us to do what's in the interest of working families in this country and not to continue to sacrifice for the very few.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the American people are hurting. We all know that. In my State of California, we have a statewide unemployment rate of 12.5 percent; and in part of the area I am privileged to represent, we have a 15.5 percent unemployment rate. There are steps that we should have taken that we still can take that will help deal with the joblessness problem about which we are all concerned.

I believe that the President has been right on target in talking about the need to open up new markets around the world as we seek to create good manufacturing jobs right here in the United States of America. We can do that if we move as expeditiously as possible to pass not only the Korea Free Trade Agreement, which the President has talked about and he believes is very important, which will be the single-largest bilateral free trade agreement in the history of the world, but also at the same time within this hemisphere, we need to pass the Panama and Colombia Free Trade Agreements. Jobs can be created for Caterpillar workers, for John Deere workers, for Whirlpool workers right here in this country if we can open up the markets within this hemisphere. Union and nonunion jobs will be created. We need to move now.

THE DEFICIT

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

Mr. LYNCH. Later on today, Mr. Speaker, we will address this bill which would award a tax cut for the richest 2 percent of Americans, and it's important that we understand the context in which this bill is being addressed. In this current year, the government has taken in \$2.4 trillion in revenue, but we have spent \$3.7 trillion. And so we have a deficit of \$1.3 trillion. If this bill

passes, it will add almost \$1 trillion to our national debt.

At current rates, by the year 2040, the interest on the debt will be double the amount that we spend on defense, education, transportation, agriculture, housing, the space program, science, and research and development. We can't keep kicking the can down the road and not address our national debt. We're running out of road, we're running out of time, and the American people deserve a better deal.

COSTLY AND UNNECESSARY SECOND F-35 ENGINE

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because, despite opposition from the Secretary of Defense, the President, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Marine Corps, the Senate spending package still includes \$450 million for a second engine for the F-35. Americans across the country are tightening their belts, 15 million are unemployed, and many of those with jobs have not seen raises in years. But the Federal Government seems to think that it is exempt from this shared cost-cutting.

Despite the recession and ballooning debt, we continue to fund wasteful projects like the second engine, which our own military has asserted they neither need or want. Sadly, the second engine is just the tip of the defense spending iceberg, the lowest of the low-hanging fruit. According to a recent report by the Sustainable Defense Task Force, hundreds of billions could be cut from our defense budget without harming national security. There can be no sacred cows. Cost-cutting has to include defense, and it should start with what Secretary Gates has called the "costly and unnecessary" second F-35 engine.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO HOUSE AMENDMENT TO SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4853, TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1766 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES 1766

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to debate in the House the topics addressed by the motions specified in sections 2 and 3 of this resolution for three hours equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their designees.

SEC. 2. After debate pursuant to the first section of this resolution, it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United