

the Fennville Blackhawks, and the community that rallied around that family.

Wes was a star basketball player who, after winning a basketball game with the final shot of the game on March 3, collapsed and passed away a short while later. That was an undefeated season for the Blackhawks, and they went on 3 days later to start their first playoff game. They won four additional games.

At the visitation for Wes's family, I was struck by the rival teams that showed up in their letter jackets to come and honor and pay respects to Wes, his family, and the team that he led. This team played admirably throughout all of their final games. On Monday, this run came to an end. But a true mark of character, as I said to these young players, is how they respond to adversity. These young men truly are of character.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we rise today and honor Wes, the team, and the fans that supported them and that they accept condolences on my behalf and the behalf of so many others who have asked, as I have been wearing this ribbon, to pass those condolences along to the community and to his family.

We thank Wes for his leadership and all that he has done for his community.

□ 1210

#### DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI IN NORTHERN JAPAN

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I grew up in Fukushima, Japan, where earthquake preparedness is part of life, but nothing could have prepared any nation for the natural disasters that occurred on Friday.

While my mother has successfully contacted our relatives in Japan, many families haven't been able to find or contact their loved ones. Thousands of victims are in shelters. Many are still missing. The death toll continues to rise.

"Tsunami" is a Japanese word that the world understands. We have seen the 30-foot walls of water sweeping across farmlands, wiping out everything in its path.

"Gaman" is a Japanese word that describes strength and endurance. Gaman will help the Japanese people through this tragedy, but they do not stand alone. People from all over the world have sent messages of support, and donations continue. In the midst of tragedy, common humanity transcends geopolitical boundaries.

Hawaii's ties to Japan are deep. Hawaii's banks are donation dropoff points. The Hawaii blood bank is coordinating a national drive. Fukushima and Miyagi Kenjin Kai and the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce are among many helping.

Minasan, doomo arigatou gozaimasu—everyone, thank you very much.

#### OBAMA'S IRRESPONSIBLE ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, we in Louisiana had to suffer through the BP spill, which is bad enough, but look what the President has done to us since. First, he placed a moratorium on offshore drilling, killing thousands of Louisiana jobs. Then the President was held in contempt of court for not issuing permits, and now we have two token permits created when gas prices are headed to \$4 a gallon. On top of that we have a tax on coal, domestic oil, and hydrofracking, which is necessary for natural gas production. Finally, Secretary Chu told us higher prices may be a good thing.

Perhaps we're discovering President Obama's real agenda, and that is deliberately constraining fossil fuel production to make prices go higher so alternative energy sources, which aren't really cutting it in the marketplace, will appear more competitive.

#### NO JOBS PLAN AND ASSAULT ON MIDDLE CLASS HOMEOWNERS

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have had control of this Chamber for 11 weeks now, and yet there's still no plan to create jobs or spur our economic recovery. Instead of tackling unemployment, my Republican colleagues are again targeting vital programs designed to keep families in their homes.

The Republicans are proposing to terminate the Home Affordable Modification Program, which provides critical mortgage modifications to deserving homeowners who are facing devastating foreclosures. To date, more than 600,000 homeowners have received a permanent mortgage modification, and tens of thousands of Americans are joining their ranks each month.

The Republicans also want to eliminate the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which works to stabilize areas hard-hit by the housing crisis by helping States and cities purchase foreclosed homes and protect the value of our communities. My home State of New Jersey is slated to receive \$11.5 million through this program.

Mr. Speaker, this is funding that my constituents need to help redevelop our communities, create jobs, and grow our local economies. I urge my colleagues to stop blindly cutting programs and focus on legislation to create jobs and bring the economy around.

#### NO MORE SHORT-TERM CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, no more short-term continuing resolutions. All respected economists and the deficit commission have told us we should not make cuts in this fiscal year.

Is no one listening? These short and the longer CRs will make our recession worse and destroy jobs. At a time when the recovery is beginning to make small steps forward, these cuts will destroy the progress we have made.

Yesterday, the Republican majority cut wildfire suppression by \$200 million. Oklahoma, are you hearing this? Flood prevention, again. Are you hearing that, New Jersey? Funding for police. Don't Americans deserve safe neighborhoods? Programs that protect our food supply. Good for salmonella and E. coli but not for the American people.

It isn't enough for Republicans to deny the science on greenhouse gases; H.R. 44 and 48 cut funding from EPA programs that keep our air clean and our water safe. Are we creating jobs? No. Are we making a dent in the deficit? No. But are we hurting families? Yes.

Don't stop the recovery our people need. Listen to the experts. Extend the CR at 2010 levels. No more cuts this year.

#### THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans' budget would endanger American lives while it destroys American jobs. It will increase every American's likelihood of getting sick from unsafe meat and poultry, contaminated drinking water, and foreign food additives. Fewer police will make our streets less safe. The chances of curing cancer, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's disease are all seriously diminished. Most of the cuts target poor people, but the hundreds of program cuts will also endanger all of our lives.

We've thrown hundreds of programs into a dump truck Republicans call H.R. 1 bound for the trash compactor. Let's reach in, though, and look at just one of those: meat inspection. The law requires a Federal inspector to be present at all 6,000 slaughterhouses and packing plants across the country, but this Republican budget's 19 percent cut will require 8,600 such inspectors to be furloughed for 22 days, which means that packing plants like Hormel's may have to lay off thousands of people for that period of time.

Why do this when Federal inspectors stopped 9.5 million pounds of poisoned meat just last year alone in 71 recalls. Let's derail this dump truck called H.R. 1.

#### GET AMERICA WORKING AGAIN

(Mr. WALZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, we've all been here since January, dutifully collecting paychecks, and no budget for the American public, creating uncertainties in the businesses and keeping job growth down. It's straining our national security forces and making difficult choices for our Reserve commanders to plan ahead. It's putting political ideology above job creation and facts.

My Republican colleague friends have often told me what they thought last November's election meant and what the American people were saying. I will tell you what they weren't saying: We want you to go to Washington and put party above what's good for America; we want you to play chicken with America's economic future; we want you to protect millionaire CEO's and then blame the middle class and make sure you cut programs to their children; we want you to hold countless hearings on issues that do nothing except divide America and won't create a single job; oh, yeah, and we want you to point fingers at the other side and blame them, even though you run the House.

Here's what I think they might have been saying: Be leaders, compromise for the good of the country, and get America working again.

#### PROVIDE HOMEOWNERS TIME

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

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, our homeowners need help right now, and I'm asking this Congress to provide homeowners with something they don't have when they're facing foreclosure. It's time—time to find more income, time to find another buyer to pay off the mortgage, and most importantly, time and leverage to negotiate with their lender and mortgage holder, who typically keeps losing the paperwork until the homeowner runs out of time.

So I'm asking this Congress to freeze all foreclosures for homeowners who deserve it, for homeowners who can afford to maintain their property, because that's the best way to stabilize our economy and to save family homes.

□ 1220

#### NOAA FUNDING CUTS

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am really concerned about the continuing resolution we passed yesterday with over \$1 billion in cuts to one of the most important Federal agencies, NOAA. That's right, our weather and natural disaster folks.

When some people think of NOAA, they think of an agency that only impacts the coastal States, so cuts to this agency wouldn't impact them or their families. But it's important to know that every time we get the day's weather so we can prepare and make sure we are warm or dry, we use NOAA technology. Every time we get alerts about tornadoes or earthquakes, it's NOAA's technology.

In the wake of the tsunami that devastated Japan, the House yesterday passed a measure that would hamper our own ability to detect tsunamis. Currently, seven of the 39 Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis, DART, stations are non-operational due to broken moorings and equipment failures. And the cuts that we made yesterday put us in jeopardy—that's right—in the Pacific Ocean, in the Atlantic, and in the gulf. We are all in jeopardy because of those cuts yesterday, and NOAA won't have an opportunity to repair them and to restore them, degrading the quality of our warnings.

Mr. Speaker, this is senseless, and it's time for the American people to speak up against this senseless policy.

#### THE REPUBLICAN WAR ON THE MIDDLE CLASS

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the majority's aggressive war on the middle class and those who aspire to be in the middle class. Today we're debating two bills that, if passed, will leave Americans with no Federal support to save their homes, and the worsening of the foreclosure crisis. Which, in effect, is a "body blow" that will leave millions of Americans who are struggling to find jobs even more vulnerable to losing their homes.

We are now in the 11th week of the 112th Congress, and the majority has yet to bring a single jobs bill to the floor for a vote. Instead, the majority has proposed a long-term continuing resolution that would eliminate 700,000 jobs while at the same time protecting tax cuts for multimillionaires and billionaires, the so-called job creators. The question remains, what exactly is the majority proposing to incentivize and encourage job creation? Where are the jobs? Mr. Speaker, the American people are waiting for the majority to stop the recalcitrant assault on the middle class and those who are aspiring to be in the middle class and work in a bipartisan way to do what we all were elected to do, which is to work for them, not against them.

#### WE NEED A REAL BUDGET

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I know we're not supposed to remind us of our history. I won't be long. But if you will recall, some 8 years prior to this present administration, day after day after day, our budget was simply imploding with millions, trillions of dollars going into the war in Iraq. So here we are. Someone wants to blame the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Well, let me explain to you, we were in double-digit unemployment. Look where we are today, going up and not down in terms of job creation and going down in terms of unemployment. The economy was sick, and it is coming back. But what do our colleagues want to do? Pass CRs that every economist says is the wrong direction to go in 2011.

It's like you started out with \$150 for the household expenses that you have. You had that money to pay for the expenses of that month, and all of a sudden, somebody came and said, You know what, I'm taking \$75 away from you, so you don't have that money to pay your expenses. And guess what, you are in the hole. Why are you cutting budgets in 2011? Why are you cutting 16,000 law enforcement jobs? Why are you cutting 800,000 jobs? Why are you cutting 800 Border Patrol jobs? This is the wrong direction to go. We need a real budget. We need real leadership. Adults need to come to the table and work together and solve this budget crisis.

#### HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO WESTMINSTER, COLORADO

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th birthday of the city of Westminster, Colorado, one of the Colorado Front Range urban corridor's principal cities. Westminster is framed by the natural beauty of the nearby Rocky Mountains. Westminster's scenic and convenient setting is located between the economic hubs of Denver and Boulder, which has attracted many residents and businesses to the city. Settlers from the East first came to the area of Westminster in the 1870s. It used to be known as the Village of Harris and was formally founded as the town of Westminster on April 4, 1911.

Westminster is notable in the Front Range urban area for its long-term commitment to the preservation of open spaces. It has received numerous national rewards and recognition for sustainable development, technology integration in city government, and quality of life. The miles of trails provide public access for outdoor recreational activities that are so important to Colorado residents. I congratulate the people of Westminster on 100 years of progress and prosperity and look eagerly forward to what the future holds for this forward-looking Colorado city.