

have joined with colleagues to lay out a series of benchmarks that should be met by Colombia before the Obama administration sends Congress any trade agreement with that country. These benchmarks are designed to reduce the violence, to protect human rights, and to end the impunity of the death squads and the army, and the actions they take against these families. They require on-the-ground results and verification.

The administration, however, has adopted an action plan for Colombia that does not demand the results on the ground. I appreciate that U.S. and Colombia finally are bringing labor rights into the equation, but their plan only demands results on paper. Under their plan, nothing really needs to actually change in Colombia. Colombia could have a record year of assassinations and still meet the requirements of the plan. Indeed, before the action plan has been fully implemented, the administration is already preparing the way with Congress to implement this trade agreement. If this action plan were made fully enforceable under the agreement and into the future, we could have something more than just results on paper. Unless it is enforceable, this is less than a serious commitment. It is not fair to Colombians, and it's not fair to the American workers, and it's not fair to our national values and does not reflect our national values.

The American worker can compete with any worker in the world. They're rated time and again the most productive workers in the world. But they cannot compete against currency manipulation in China. They cannot compete against the Chinese Army that breaks up the rights of workers to protest, and they cannot compete against the death squads that have been assigned to assassinate union members, union leaders, and union families.

#### NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD: PUTTING POLITICS BEFORE THE NEEDS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the recent unprecedented action by the National Labor Relations Board is simply the latest example of this administration putting politics before the needs of the American people. I honestly never thought I would see the day when our government sued a company over creating jobs in South Carolina or anywhere in the United States. The NLRB's position violates States' 10th Amendment liberties and attempts to roll back worker protections for the purpose of satisfying special interests and union bosses.

The NLRB was created to protect workers' rights, but now the worker is left out of the equation in favor of big

unions. I ask, what about the workers in South Carolina who lose out in this action? Where have their rights been considered in all of this nonsense? In fact, the National Labor Relations Act says in section 1 that the purpose of the NLRA is "to promote the full flow of commerce, to prescribe the legitimate rights of both employees and employers in their relations affecting commerce, to provide orderly and peaceful procedures for preventing the interference by either with the legitimate rights of the other, to protect the rights of individual employees in their relations with labor organizations whose activities affect commerce, to define and proscribe practices on the part of labor and management which affect commerce and are inimical to the general welfare, and to protect the rights of the public in connection with labor disputes affecting commerce."

The NLRB's ruling comes on the heels of previous threats by this radically out-of-touch panel to sue States like South Carolina for constitutionally protecting one of America's most universal freedoms, the right to a secret ballot. Fear that the Federal Government might take away that fundamental principle prompted voters in South Carolina, Arizona, South Dakota, and Utah to overwhelmingly support adding secret ballot protection to their State constitutions. If the NLRB hadn't already made a big enough mockery of individual freedom, they even refused to come to the negotiation table and talk about their concerns with States' attorneys general unless they were willing to first sign a nondisclosure agreement preventing them from sharing what was discussed during the meetings.

Demanding secret meetings, threats, and attacking the right to a secret ballot doesn't exactly create a good track record for the National Labor Relations Board. That's what prompted me to introduce House Resolution 1047, the State Right to Vote Act, which would stop the NLRB from suing States whose voters took a stand against union thuggery for secret elections. And if the NLRB doesn't change the course quickly, I know there will be many in this body, including myself, who will call for the panel's removal altogether.

But, Mr. Speaker, this latest outrage is a unique power grab. Against constitutional and Supreme Court precedents, the NLRB's actions are a clear attack on our State. Think about the context: This administration has spent our Nation into oblivion, doubling the national debt in 2 short years, running over businesses both large and small, mounting takeover after takeover, and reducing the size and scope of our economy in the process. South Carolina's unemployment rate finally dips below 10 percent, and what does this administration do? It sues one of the largest prospective employers in our State just as that company begins to hire workers, potentially costing South Carolina thousands of new jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I may be new to Washington, but I promise you I was not born yesterday. Looking at the NLRB's policy and examining recent electoral maps, it's not difficult to see a policy that clearly rewards blue States while severely punishing red ones. Under the NLRB's interpretation of the law, a company with a union workforce anchored in a blue State could not expand or relocate to a red State.

□ 1010

Limiting where companies can conduct business sounds like something that would take place in China or the old Soviet Union, not here in the United States. Since when did America stop being the land of the free?

Let me give this message to anyone looking to start a company in America. Choose your location well. If this action by NLRB is upheld, trust me when I say that we won't be talking about companies making decisions over moving to a right-to-work state versus a union state. We will see decisions made in the context of locating in America or another country.

And what this outrageous action by the NLRB tells you is that you're stuck with very few options. Give into the union's demands, close up your shop, or take your production outside of the United States. The NLRB's actions say build your companies somewhere else, but not in America. So much for the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, this action by the NLRB is unconstitutional and illegal. I call on my colleagues in the Education and Workforce Committee to hold hearings into this bureaucratic atrocity. My South Carolina colleagues and I have introduced legislation to defund this latest lawsuit.

I ask all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to rescue the American dream and sign on to this legislation. I also ask the American people, pay attention to this problem. Our Founding Fathers would be appalled by this bureaucratic tyranny. It's time to hold our elected officials accountable. Do we want to just say that we're a free nation, or do we really want to be a free nation? Our freedom is under attack. It's time we take a stand.

May God continue to bless America.

#### HONORING THE LEGACY OF WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the legacy of an extraordinary Marylander, Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer. He died just a few weeks ago after a long time of public service.

William Donald Schaefer was one of the great American mayors. Few mayors can ever say that they transformed a city as thoroughly as did William Donald Schaefer transform Baltimore.

But over his 16-year tenure as mayor of Baltimore, he led a dramatic and

historic turnaround. In 1971, when his mayoralty started, Baltimore was a struggling city, a city plagued by population flight, crime, and decaying urban infrastructure. When so many had given up on Baltimore, Mayor Schaefer made it his mission to stand up to that decay. And we can still see his legacy today. It is a legacy that includes physical landmarks like Camden Yards, the National Aquarium, Baltimore's Harbor Place, and an outstanding light rail system, projects that he saw through to completion as both mayor and Governor of our state.

Just as importantly, Mayor Schaefer's legacy came in thousands of gestures that showed just how deeply he cared about the people he represented and how seriously he took his work: Personally addressing illegal dumping in alleys or broken equipment at parks, driving through the city at night on the lookout for everything from potholes to crime trouble spots, and even jumping into the aquarium's seal pool, complete with a rubber ducky, when the city failed to complete the aquarium on time.

My colleague from Oregon is shaking his head because we all know that famous picture.

Above all, his colorful, passionate, and dedicated leadership added up to the change, not just in Baltimore's appearance and infrastructure, but in the mindset of the words of the Baltimore Sun when they said he "changed the way the city felt about itself."

How important leaders are to make that happen in the minds of their people. We have an agenda, by the way, that is Make It In America, that is trying to change that psychology as well, that we're going to make it, we're going to succeed, we're going to expand.

William Donald Schaefer brought that same dedication to his two terms as Maryland Governor. His trademark, no-nonsense style—"do it now" was his byword—was on display in Annapolis, where he pursued an agenda focused on job creation, strengthening Maryland's schools, which, by the way, now rank number one in the country, and protecting Maryland's natural heritage, including our beloved Chesapeake Bay.

After reaching the highest point in Maryland politics, many would have ridden off into the sunset. But not William Donald Schaefer. He couldn't get enough of the work he loved, and he ran for State Comptroller, and won twice. In his last job he was one of our State's most respected voices for fiscal responsibility.

Before he died, Governor Schaefer was asked how he'd like to be remembered, and he answered, "There are two words: 'He cared.' People," he said, "mock me and make fun of it. But it's the truth."

And as someone who worked closely with William Donald Schaefer throughout his years as mayor and Governor and comptroller, I can say, without any hesitation or fear of contradiction,

William Donald Schaefer cared. He was a man of the people. He listened, he acted.

It is the truth and it mattered because, at the time when so many wrote off our cities, caring took remarkable courage and strength.

A great architect, Mr. Speaker, was once laid to rest in a building he himself had designed. His tombstone read, and I quote, "If you seek his monument, look around you." Those words apply just as well to William Donald Schaefer, and I hope that the people he served will bear him in mind whenever they enjoy the best of the city of Baltimore and the best of the State of Maryland.

Well done, our good and faithful servant.

#### HONORING JOHN SNIDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALDEN. For the past 12 years, John Snider of Medford, Oregon, has been my district director. He's decided to move on now to pursue other opportunities and other careers. But to me, he was more than just district director. He was my mentor, he was my partner, and always my friend.

John Snider is a terrific man, a great fan of the Oregon Ducks, and he served three Members of Congress in this district as district director, including my most recent predecessor, Robert F. Smith.

He was born and raised in Medford. His roots run deep in the Rogue Valley. He is a guy's guy. He is a terrific man.

My current district office actually sits adjacent to the former Snider Dairy, which his family had and which is now part of downtown Medford.

John and his wife, Candy, currently live in the Rogue Valley, and John's daughter, Robyn, lives up in Grants Pass.

John graduated from St. Mary's High School and was its student body president. He graduated from the University of Oregon, and is a rabid, to say the least, Oregon Ducks fan. And my wife and I had the opportunity to be with John and Candy at the championship game in Arizona earlier this year. And among the 10,000 or 20,000 people at the reception ahead of time, we actually bumped into each other there, as fate would have it, and had a wonderful evening.

John served our country as a member of the United States Coast Guard and as president of the Rotary Club of Medford, where his attendance always spiked when I was the speaker. He was always so busy, he never got to his own Rotary Club; so they always fined him extra heavily when I was there because then he was with me and they had their opportunity to get at him.

John was my eyes and ears throughout the Second District, which is 70,000 square miles of eastern, central, and southern Oregon. We, I think, have

traveled in about every conveyance possible, from a wagon behind a tractor to jet engine aircraft, single engine aircraft, twin engine aircraft. We've traveled in those airplanes, small, chartered, with others on our staff who didn't fare as well as John and I. They turned a little green and white and had problems at times. John and I always sort of traveled through it.

We have driven in snow and rain and ice and sleet, and everything we hear about postal officials, from one end of the district to the other. We have flown, we have driven, we have hiked, we have walked, we have been on boats and airplanes, and you name it.

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And always at my side, John Snider. When the water was cut off to the Klamath Basin 10 years ago, John was there with me at the bucket brigade, where we took water symbolically out of Lake Ewuana and passed it through 15,000 people into the A Canal, symbolizing this horrible thing that the government had done to the farmers. That deeply affected all of us in the Second District, and especially John and me; and his commitment to those farmers and ranchers continues today, as does mine.

When it came to saving the Medford Tanker Base so that firefighting aircraft could make their circle around the Rogue Valley quicker rather than being shoved out to another hour's flight away, John was there day and night working with Commissioner Walker and others to make sure we could preserve that firefighting base in Medford. And we did, and it's made an enormous difference in saving lives and property.

When President Bush came out to both Applegate and Redmond, John was there helping organize the events ahead of time. And any of you who have been involved in a Presidential visit to your district, you know it happens quickly and you basically go 24/7, and things get changed in the middle of the night and requests come and go: We need a band; no, we don't need a band. We need a garrison-sized flag; no, we don't. John was there making sure it all happened.

John has served as one of my most important advisers, and is passionate about issues related to water and timber, small business development, and the people. He is well-liked by everyone who has ever met or worked with John Snider. He was a true leader in our community and remains so today.

So today, I rise to take the time in the House to honor and recognize my longtime—only until he decided to move on—district director, John Snider, to wish him and his wife Candy and John's daughter Robyn the very best in the years ahead.

We look forward to continuing our friendship and to working together for the betterment of our great State of Oregon, and always to cheer on the Oregon Ducks.