

home and leave no military footprint behind.

ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. BUEKLE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BUEKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the issue of elder abuse. Today is Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Hundreds of thousands of Americans each year are the victims of elder abuse. According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, this number could be as high as 1 to 2 million Americans.

Elder abuse, Mr. Speaker, is a broad term for the victimization of seniors 65 years and older. There is no one picture of what elder abuse looks like. It can be physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, emotional abuse or exploitation.

The perpetration of elder abuse also varies—spouses, partners, caregivers in nursing homes, even neighbors. Our older elder Americans are especially vulnerable to abuse, particularly those who suffer from dementia or other mental diseases.

I find it unconscionable that the very people who fought for us in World War II and Korea, who nurtured us, who taught us, who built this society around us, would be victimized in the twilight of their lives. Our elderly citizens have given us so much, and they deserve our appreciation, our respect, and most importantly, our protection, not just for what they've contributed, Mr. Speaker, but for the ways they still enrich our society and enrich us as a people.

This August my mother, Mr. Speaker, will turn 90 years old. Three years ago, when my father died, she was lost. She was particularly vulnerable. Fortunately for my mother, she has children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to help her and to support her. But how many other Americans, elderly folks are out there who don't have that support system, Mr. Speaker?

This is not a Democratic or a Republican issue. This is an American issue. Our seniors, our elderly, deserve our help. They deserve our protection. Please, as Americans, today is Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Let us be particularly aware of our most vulnerable, our elderly citizens.

AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of farmers and producers all across these United States, and especially in the Seventh Congressional District of Alabama. As we debate and discuss issues surrounding the Agriculture appropriations bill, let us remain mindful of the enormous impact that the agriculture sector has had on the United States and our world economy.

Agriculture employs more than 21 million American workers and accounts for 15 percent of the total U.S. workforce. In fact, in my home State of Alabama, agriculture contributes nearly \$5 billion to the State's economic sector every year. Any Agriculture appropriations bill must take into account the potential economic impact and the strengthening of the agriculture sector that is needed for the 21st century.

I understand that we are making very difficult budgetary decisions; however, I am concerned that the types of cuts proposed in this year's Agriculture appropriations bill are ill-advised and disproportionate. This bill reduces the funding for agriculture research programs, including the Agriculture Research Service and the National Institute for Food and Agriculture, by over \$354 million from last year's level.

Now, I know that that's a substantial cut in very important research that must be done, both nationally and within our individual States. In fact, the National Institute for Food and Agriculture fulfills this mission by supporting research education and extension programs at land grant universities like those in Alabama like Auburn, Tuskegee, Alabama A&M University and others. We must preserve funding for each of these critical and important investments in the future of agriculture research and food safety.

Under this Republican appropriations bill, food and nutrition programs like SNAP and child nutrition are funded at nearly \$2 billion less than the President's budget. SNAP is an important and essential program in these challenging times for low-income individuals who cannot afford to purchase food for themselves and their families. Since the program was created, SNAP has literally saved millions of lives, and currently provides essential support to over 165,000 individuals in my district alone.

The proposed funding for the Women, Infants and Children Food Assistance program, WIC as it's known, is far below what is needed to serve all those individuals who are eligible for benefits. WIC provides essential nutrition to new mothers, babies and small children under 5 that are nutritionally at risk.

Nearly 50 percent of the babies born in our country each year rely on WIC. In Alabama, WIC provides assistance to over 140,000 individuals and over 25,000 just in my district alone.

Contrary to popular belief, this program is cost-efficient, and it serves nearly 10 million people each year, costing less than \$100 per person receiving benefit. The lack of proper funding in this appropriations bill is yet another example of Republican attacks on hardworking families and children that definitely need assistance for nutrition. I cannot stand idly by and let this occur.

We must ensure that any appropriations bill provides robust and adequate

funding for these essential programs, both now and in the future. The Republican Agriculture appropriations bill reduces funding for essential rural development programs by \$337 million below last year's levels. These reductions disproportionately impact loan authority for 502 direct housing programs.

□ 1050

Without these loans, low-income rural families could not find financing options that would help them purchase homes and simply be able to live.

This bill also seeks to reduce funding for agriculture business and rural business grants by \$20 million below last year's level. In a time of economic recovery, we must continue to make strategic investments in small and rural businesses, and not make reductions.

It is important that we who know better do better. Agriculture in our global society is of the utmost importance. As our global population increases, food security and adequate food production will be necessary for our national security, economic development, and our overall survival. It is my hope that all on both sides of the aisle will pass an agriculture approps bill that is both fiscally responsible, forward-thinking, and makes economic sense.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND AMERICAN JOBS

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about natural resources and whether or not they can create American jobs. The answer is yes; with oil production alone, 1.2 million jobs between the three bills that Republicans passed out of committee and off of the House floor; a total of 2 million jobs if you add in the American Energy Independence and Price Reduction Act; 2 million American jobs. Not only could we be energy independent in our great Nation, but we can put Americans back to work with 2 million jobs alone in this area.

We need to have States' rights, allowing States to explore oil exploration or natural gas or utilize all of their natural resources, whether you're in Alaska and you want to drill in ANWR, or you're the Governor of California and you want to pass Tranquillon Ridge and clean up the old oil wells off of the coast. States should have those rights to be able to do that and to be able to put their own people back to work in those States.

The President's policies on our natural resources are just flawed. My friends across the aisle continue to talk about the bills that come off of this floor, whether they create jobs or not. This is indisputable, 2 million jobs. You don't have to like these jobs, but nevertheless, they are American

jobs and it gives us our energy independence.

The President has said we have 2 percent of the world's oil, but we utilize 25 percent of the world's oil with our vehicles. Now I agree, we use 25 percent; we've got a lot of cars on the roads, we have a lot of goods movement, but 2 percent? The number is flawed again. As we went through the Natural Resources Committee, we have over 65 percent of the world's natural resources between natural gas, oil, and oil shale, we just have to be willing to go get it. So rather than going to Brazil, rather than going to the Middle East and putting our troops at risk, we ought to be self-sufficient and utilize our own natural resources and put Americans back to work in the process.

Now in my district, we've got natural resource issues as well. We've seen timber issues across the Nation. In Arizona, we've seen catastrophic disasters with national forests. In my district we've got national or natural forests as well. These national forests we've got to manage better. We've got to be able to take the fuel off of the forest floor. We've got to be able to harvest some of the timber. We'll never catch up at this point because our timber harvesting plants are so far behind. But nevertheless, we've got to put Americans back to work, we've got to put Californians back to work dealing with our timber industry.

And in the Central Valley, where we have the largest abundance of ag production, all of the fresh fruits, the nuts, packaged salads, we have so many different things that California produces and yet we see some of the highest unemployment in the Nation. As our national unemployment continues to escalate, we're at 9.1 percent now, we're double that in the Central Valley, and it's a direct correlation to the water. One of our natural resources, when you shut off the water to the valley and only give it 10 percent of the contracted allocation, you have 36 percent unemployment. And in some cities it's even higher. When you go to the food lines and you see Americans—44 percent unemployment in some cities—it seems un-American to not utilize our natural resources.

So we have the ability in this great Nation. We have the bills that we're passing off of this floor. What we need to do is have the will to move them through both Houses and encourage the President to have American jobs—not Republican jobs, these aren't Republican jobs, not Democratic jobs, but American jobs; putting people back to work; avoiding the natural disasters that happen with forest fires and the natural disasters we have with flooding when we don't manage our water; creating clean energy in the process. But the most important issue, when you've got 9.1 percent unemployment and escalating across the Nation, when you've got double that in the Central Valley and continuing to escalate but you have the natural resources and the

ability to solve your own problems but ignore the fact and don't do so, we have an American problem with jobs.

As Republicans, we are willing to fix that problem. We will continue to pass these natural resources bills, but at some point we would ask our friends across the aisle to work with us. We will not solve California's energy problems or the Nation's job issue without addressing our natural resources.

REPUBLICAN AGENDA LACKS COMMON SENSE

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. I appreciate the fact that the gentleman who preceded me in the well talked about unemployment and creating jobs. I may not have agreed with his particular nostrums, but at least that's one Republican who's talking about creating jobs.

Unfortunately, the Republican majority, in the last 6 months of leadership in the House, has brought forward no bills to put Americans back to work except they say do more of the same. What? Yes, more of the same.

The last decade, George Bush dramatically cut taxes—twice—decreased regulations under the theory that that would create jobs. Unfortunately, the facts are in. We had the worst job creation post World War II in the last decade under George Bush and doubled the deficit and debt while doing it. It didn't create jobs. Trickle down economics doesn't work. It didn't work in the Reagan era. It didn't work then. Compare that to the Clinton era. We raised taxes, yes, particularly on rich people and big corporations. We actually balanced the budget, we paid down debt, we had 3.8 percent unemployment, and real incomes went up for the middle class. I'd love to go back to those "bad old days," but no, it's the Bush policies that will work, we've just got to do more of them. Reduce spending even more.

Government can't do anything to create jobs, they say. Well, what about investing in the Nation's infrastructure? Who built the national highway system? Who built the bridges? Who built the transit systems in this country? Who helped build the rail systems? Who has maintained our ports and waterways? The Federal Government—sometimes in partnership with States or local government or the private sector. But those investments pay off.

And what do the Republicans want to do? In the face of 150,000 bridges on the national highway system that are about to—or in the not-too-distant future—have the same fate as the bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota that is collapsed, they need either total replacement or repair 150,000 bridges; 40 percent of the pavement on the national highway system; \$60 billion backlog on our transit systems.

They want to cut Federal investment in transit. And they say if we give that

money to rich people and to the corporations—who are sitting on \$2 trillion worth of cash—they'll take care of the problem. Oh, really? What are you going to do, toll 150,000 bridges across the country in order to induce the private sector to come in and rebuild them? Are you going to toll the existing interstate in order to bring it up to a decent system of good repair?

And transit systems, they all lose money. Now some on the Republican side say, well, we should just do away with transit systems, we don't need those things. Come on, let's have a little bit of common sense here. You want to talk about saving fuel? Invest in transit. You want to talk about creating jobs? Invest in infrastructure. We have the strongest Buy American requirements in transportation and infrastructure as any program of the Federal Government. We create more jobs per billion dollars than anything else. Way more than the Defense Department—where they want to shower all their funds—can be created in transportation. You can put Americans to work; not only construction workers who have horrible unemployment, not only steel workers for the bridges, not only people who maintain these systems, but engineers, software engineers, people who make tires, people who make rail cars, people who make streetcars.

□ 1100

We are making street cars in America for the first time in 70 years in Oregon due to one of those horrible earmarks they want to ban. We were buying them overseas. Now we are making them in America. Is that bad? They seem to think it is, and they want to decrease investment in these sorts of things that are proven job generators.

Now, I have to give the Obama administration a big fat D-minus on this same issue. The so-called stimulus, which they rightly criticize, which I voted against, \$800 million, 40 percent of it was Bush tax cuts, which didn't work for Bush and didn't work for Obama. Now all the Obama administration is talking about is more tax cuts. Extending the payroll tax holiday on Social Security, that will put America back to work.

Give me a break. These things haven't worked. We need real investment. If you borrow money to build a bridge that lasts 100 years, at least you can look your kids and grandkids straight in the eye when they say, what did you do with all that money, because I am still paying the bills 30 years from now. And you can say, we built that bridge you drove over to go to work. We rebuilt that transit system that you took to work today. We made America more competitive in the international economy with those investments.

You have got to start distinguishing between investments and wasteful spending. If you want to talk about cut-and-spend, then let's talk about it.