

legislation would make two important changes to the Federal grant solicitation process. First, my bill would require each Federal agency, within 2 months of the start of any fiscal year, to submit a forecast of all grants solicitations that the agency expects to issue for that year. Such a forecast would allow prospective applicants to determine in advance which grant opportunities they wish to apply for.

The second improvement my bill would make is to require each grant solicitation forecast or listing to be organized by detailed subject area. Grants.gov currently organizes grant opportunities by agency and by very broad areas such as energy or housing. As a result, when an applicant seeks to search for health-related grants, for example, he or she must scroll through 30 pages of grant listings. My bill would require grants.gov, as well as all other Federal agencies, to organize grant opportunities by specific subject areas so that the applicants can more easily identify those grants that are most likely to address their needs.

Now, let me turn to Puerto Rico, which I represent in this Congress. And it pains me that some statements were made earlier on this floor regarding my beautiful island and its government. Puerto Rico shines because of its democracy. Every 4 years we have free elections, and our voters go out and express their will at the rate of 80 percent, which is something that we are very proud of.

We do have a police department in Puerto Rico, actually the second-largest in the Nation, and there is an ongoing civil rights investigation by the Department of Justice. But I am sure, and I can vouch, that the police department of Puerto Rico is doing everything it can so that any civil rights violations are corrected and are not repeated.

Again, I wish when we talk about Puerto Rico in this Congress, we talk about all of the positive things that are happening in that island, including our people's love of their American citizenship and their rights under the U.S. Constitution.

TOUGH DECISIONS TO SOLVE FISCAL PROBLEMS

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

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, let's think about something very quickly. What is the most basic job that we can do—in the House of Representatives or in the Senate of the United States—in government?

One of the most basic jobs we do is to pass a budget; to figure out where we are going to spend money and how we are going to spend money. Yet it has been 799 days today since the other Chamber has passed a budget out of the Senate. Since that day, we have added \$3.2 trillion in debt to our country and we have spent \$7.3 trillion.

Now we are finding ourselves bumping up against this debt ceiling, against the statutory limit of where we can spend and borrow money. We are on this record clip, this record pace to blow through this debt ceiling, and we are here.

In 2006, now-President Obama stood in front of the Senate and said that raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure. Well, sounds like we are in that position today. Five years later, we are once again talking about an over \$2 trillion increase in our Nation's ability to borrow money, which we are tacking on to the responsibility of our kids and our grandkids. Once again, we're back.

We have an extreme failure of leadership in this country that is of epic proportions. We know, we look at our budget, we see over a trillion-and-a-half dollars this year that we are spending that we haven't taken in, and yet we are continuing to haggle about whether we need to just raise taxes or have spending cuts.

We have a spending problem in this country; we don't have a revenue problem in this country. We have a problem with how much money we are spending.

I am a new Member of Congress. I came here and was sworn in in January, and within a couple of days the President of the United States asked us to increase the debt limit without any corresponding cuts or anything along those lines. I actually thought it was a joke. I mean, really, we are going to add another \$2 trillion onto our debt and not even take seriously the fact that we are just piling on more and more interest.

I mean, we're spending more in interest right now than we do in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan combined. Think about that; two wars, and we are spending more in interest. And it is only going to increase every year.

I can tell you, the youth of America, the current generation that is in charge in America is all sitting around saying at some point the insanity has to end. You know, I travel around the 11th Congressional District in Illinois, which includes Joliet, places like Ottawa and Morris, Bloomington, Princeton, Peru. And you know what I hear from people? I don't hear them say, Congressman KINZINGER, boy, we sure have a revenue problem in this country; don't we? I hear them say, Congressman, we are spending too much money. We have a spending problem.

The President is asking us to increase the debt limit. We have to be willing to have at least as much as we are going to increase the debt limit or more in spending cuts for us to even consider it at this point. It has got to be done. And how best are we going to get out of debt? Yes, we have to have these spending cuts. And, yes, we have to get serious about our budget. But we have to get America back to work.

I think it was put well yesterday. Mr. President, where are the jobs? Where are the jobs? Mr. Speaker, I'm asking: Where are the jobs?

It is time that we get America back to work. We turn people then from tax recipients to taxpayers. And as much as I like to say "where are the jobs?," let me ask another question: Where is the leadership?

We've got to make tough decisions. It's time that we stand up and say I'm tired of kicking the can down the road. I wasn't sent to Washington, D.C., to kick the can down the road. I was sent here to be a leader and to make tough decisions. And I can tell you, House Republicans are ready to be leaders and make tough decisions, but we have to have willing partners on the other side.

I know 2012 is just around the corner. I get it. I understand that. But 2011 is still now. America can't afford to forget that 2011 still exists and to just focus on the next election. We have to focus long term on the next generation. Let's get our budgets in gear. Let's have a real serious discussion. And for goodness sake, let's put politics aside and make sure that we are still the strongest country in the world.

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IN RECOGNITION OF NCTC DIRECTOR MICHAEL E. LEITER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished efforts of the National Counterterrorism Center Director, Michael E. Leiter.

Following his exemplary service as the Assistant Director and Deputy General Counsel for the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the U.S. regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction, Mr. Leiter continued his public service as the Deputy Chief of Staff in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. He was very successful in organizing staffing and in establishing processes for this new but critical office.

As such, he was elected to become the Principal Deputy Director at the National Counterterrorism Center. Because of his superlative efforts, in June 2008, he was confirmed as the Director of NCTC where he has focused on counterterrorism, community development and mission execution. His focus has prepared the CT analysts of tomorrow to meet the challenges ahead, and his management style has encouraged information sharing and the free flow of ideas.

Director Leiter has always understood that results mattered and that a success rate of less than 100 percent meant lives lost. Some of the center's most noticeable accomplishments will remain largely secret; however, Director Leiter's strategic investments will pay dividends for many years to come. Under his leadership, the center vastly improved its processes for screening CT data and deployed a new database, better known as TIDE, that has yielded

easier management, improved identity resolution and faster, more efficient processes.

In the wake of the attempted downing of a passenger aircraft in December 2009, Director Leiter reallocated significant resources to develop the Pursuit Group, which is a team of highly skilled analysts that sifts through considerable amounts of data to identify desperate pieces of loose intelligence and to find linkages that identify terrorists, their networks and their plans before they can be executed. His leadership in the areas of radicalization, extremist messaging and in countering violent extremism is particularly noteworthy as well as his focus on cooperation and engagement with outside communities. This has laid a solid foundation for the continued success of these initiatives.

Director Leiter leaves the Federal Government for some well-deserved time with his family and friends, and I wish him well. However, it is my sincere hope that he continues to use his expertise in counterterrorism to keep America and its citizens safe.

ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this past week, we were in our districts to visit with our constituents, to learn from them and to celebrate America's Independence Day. Much of my time was focused on the issue of energy and the need for energy independence because constituents are concerned with the high costs of energy and how these costs are impacting their businesses and lives.

Republicans believe in an all-of-the-above approach for energy independence. Republicans believe that energy diversity leads to energy security, and there were plenty of examples in the district for me to visit.

In Boone, students from Appalachian State University's Solar Homestead Team showed me the home they are preparing for the 2011 Solar Decathlon competition to be held on The Mall here in Washington, D.C., in September. The Solar Homestead team is advancing renewable energy systems through research on phase change, material energy storage, the integration of solar photovoltaic panels, and concentrating solar thermal systems for domestic hot water. While much money has been invested in this project by both the public and the private sectors, the hope is that the research will result in the ability to utilize alternative, renewable energy sources that will be able to provide low-cost energy homes for those in need.

Clyde and Pat Colwell have developed Carolina Heritage Vineyard in Elkin, North Carolina, an energy-efficient small business which is benefiting from a taxpayer-funded solar system. The

Colwells are very educated people who are retired from their first careers. Clyde served in the U.S. Marine Corps, earned his Ph.D., and served as a teacher, principal and superintendent. Pat earned her MBA and retired from IBM. However, while their graduate degrees were helpful in general, both of them returned to Surry Community College to earn associate degrees in viticulture so they could pursue developing their organic wine business. They work full time in the vineyards and on the winemaking process, and bring many skills to the area and to others in the business.

The Gilbert Hemric family farm in Hamptonville, North Carolina, where Gilbert Hemric and his family work hard on their poultry, cattle and tobacco farm, is a microcosm of the problems that this administration has created. Mr. Hemric made it very clear to me that the high cost of energy and regulatory burdens are having a negative impact on his business. The Hemrics are paying more and more for feed and for fuel to run their equipment. Because fuel costs have almost doubled since President Obama came to office, the Hemrics have not replaced two of the 10 workers they had last year. They can't afford to replace them.

At Holland Transfer in Statesville, CEO Jeff Harvey told me that the skyrocketing price of fuel and regulatory burdens are counterproductive to job creation and the growth of his business. The Harvey Family practices Christian values throughout its business, and has established nonprofits that feed the needy. When possible, they hire homeless people, which enables the homeless to leave shelters, but all this great work for the community depends on his business performing at a level that will allow him to continue contributing to the community.

As I visited with constituents during the Independence Day work period, one thing was clear: that we need another independence movement—independence from Middle Eastern oil.

Unfortunately, rather than pursuing energy independence, the Obama administration keeps fostering an energy dependence policy at the cost of American jobs, higher prices at the pump and at the cost of endangering our national security by making us more dependent on unstable Middle Eastern governments.

House Republicans have responded by introducing and passing four bills to increase our domestic energy production and to create American jobs, but the Senate has taken no action. Liberal Democrats are obstructing the opportunity for jobs for Americans, lower energy costs and a new era of independence.

It is time we declare independence from Middle Eastern oil and start using our own resources for the benefit of all Americans.

AMERICA'S FISCAL CRISIS

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, our country truly is facing a financial crisis. I guess the good news is that even Congress is beginning to ask a question that is part of that financial crisis, which is simply this:

How long can we continue to spend almost twice as much money as we bring in?

The unfortunate part is that we've waited so long to ask that question. I wish we'd asked it before we embarked upon the series of bailouts and stimulus bills that we have embarked upon over the last several years. I am happy that I'm one of only 17 Members of Congress who voted against each and every one of those, but I'm unhappy where it has brought us, which is the fear that we had: that this runaway spending would bring us to a point where we had to begin cutting the national defense capabilities of our country.

Today, we will vote on the Defense appropriations bill, H.R. 2219, which will reduce the President's budget for national defense by \$8.9 billion. That's only a downpayment of the cuts that are going to come. The next cuts, we are told, could be \$400 billion to \$700 billion from our national defense. Before we do that, there are two crucial questions we need to ask.

The first one is: What is the risk assessment that the United States faces today?

Now, that should be answered by our Quadrennial Defense Review, but if you look at a bipartisan independent assessment of that Quadrennial Defense Review, you'll find out that we are a train wreck that is on its way to happening because that defense assessment has truly become no more than a reaffirmation of what we are already doing.

The second thing that we should be asking before we decide what we can cut is how much we are currently spending and what the risk will be if we make those cuts. Unfortunately, the Department of Defense hasn't provided us with the audited financial statements the law requires so that we know where we're spending those dollars and so that we know the true risk of making those cuts.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, let me just tell you that there is a way you can find out. Our commanders in the field provide us with the Quarterly Readiness Report to Congress, which is a classified document. Now, I know as chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee for the Armed Services Committee that I'm in the minority, and am probably going to vote against this bill today.

□ 1050

But, Mr. Speaker, I am also in the minority of the individuals who have read this classified report. And the one thing that I would encourage our Members to do before they cast their vote