

first step, but it won't fix Colombia's problems overnight.

You would hope that an international trade agreement would bring jobs with it. To give my colleagues some idea why there are problems with the Colombia FTA, the U.S. International Trade Commission doesn't predict that the Colombia FTA would create jobs. Now, the U.S. International Trade Commission always predicts very high and lofty job creation numbers for trade agreements, but even they are skeptical. That alone should be evidence for my colleagues that now is not the time for the Colombia free trade agreement.

Congress should be focused on creating jobs, and this trade agreement doesn't pass the smell test, although the Colombia FTA does stink when you consider that it is hardworking middle class families who will pay the price with this unfair trade agreement.

The Colombia FTA will kill jobs, drive down American wages, and drive small American companies that face unfair competition out of business. We can do better. I urge my colleagues to stop settling for not so bad and pursue a trade policy that means prosperity for everyone.

#### GREAT LAKES THREATENED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes are one of the most overlooked and unappreciated national assets. They are the largest source of freshwater in the world and contain 20 percent of the freshwater on Earth.

The Great Lakes face many challenges. Agricultural runoff, sewer overflows, and other pollution makes its way into the Great Lakes from across the northeast and the Midwest, leading to unsafe water quality and public health concerns. Also, invasive species hitch a ride in the ballast water of oceangoing vessels, like the zebra mussel, or swim up the Mississippi River, like the Asian carp, and threaten to alter the lakes' fragile, closed ecosystem.

In recognition of the importance of the Great Lakes and to combat the threats to their health, in 2010, 11 Federal agencies announced a plan to implement the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, an ambitious action plan to remove toxins, clean up the lakes, and protect them from further pollution and invasive species.

I am concerned that funding for this important program has been uneven. It was funded at \$475 million in fiscal year 2010, fell to \$300 million this year, and is funded at just \$250 million in the fiscal year 2012 Interior Appropriations bill the House will consider next week.

However, the mere existence of this special cleanup funding is evidence that Congress and the administration recognize the Great Lakes are a unique natural resource that deserves protection.

In 1969, the Cuyahoga River famously caught fire, symbolizing the abysmal water quality of the water in the Great Lakes basin. Legislation from the Clean Water Act and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has gone a long way toward returning the lakes to good health. However, the Great Lakes face a new threat beyond water quality: the diversion or removal of water from the Great Lakes basin.

In recognition that due to national and global trends, the value of freshwater will increase, as will the incentive to remove it from the Great Lakes, the eight States that border the Great Lakes entered into a compact with each other and two Canadian provinces on the use of Great Lakes water. Congress ratified the agreement, and it was signed into law by President Bush in 2008.

Among the most important provisions of the compact are restriction on the removal or diversion of water from the Great Lakes basin. The underlying goal was to prevent any one State from plundering the freshwater in the Great Lakes.

So it is with great concern that I learned yesterday that the Ohio State legislature had passed legislation to permit businesses to remove 5 million gallons of water a day from Lake Erie. In New York, we are about to adopt a far more reasonable limit by requiring a permit for the withdrawal of 100,000 gallons per day. The Ohio bill, if adopted, would violate the spirit of the historic Great Lakes compact and force a race to the bottom among the eight signatory States, which will result in an accelerated level of diversions and further reduce the water level in the Great Lakes beyond the impact of Ohio businesses. Such an outcome is unacceptable.

The consequence of such a large scale removal of water from the Great Lakes basin would have a devastating environmental and economic impact in my community. Water levels in the Great Lakes are already on the decline, and the additional large-scale removal of water will lead to algae blooms and reduced water quality, negatively impacting aquatic wildlife and the associated fishing industry, and reduce recreational boating and commercial shipping activities.

In my community of western New York, this action would threaten the progress we are making in Buffalo toward reclaiming the waterfront as an engine of recreational and economic opportunities.

I wrote to Ohio Governor John Kasich yesterday encouraging that he conclude, as have his predecessors Bob Taft and George Voinovich, that this legislation poses a danger to the health of our greatest regional asset, and suggesting that he veto this ill-advised legislation. I hope that he will heed that advice so advocates for the Great Lakes can focus attention on the restoration initiative and on cleaning up the lakes instead of having to fight to

protect them from massive withdrawals of freshwater for profit when the issue was supposed to have been settled years ago.

Now more than ever, it is critical that the Great Lakes remain vigilant and united against the threat of water diversion.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

Reverend Dr. George Dillard, Peachtree City Christian Church, Peachtree City, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, give us the strength to prove ourselves a people mindful of Your favor, gladly doing Your will. Bless our Nation with individuals who give honorable service, who live with integrity and govern with honesty.

Save us from prejudice, confusion, pride, arrogance, and evil. Help us that we might see truth and seek it. Defend liberty and fashion a united people out of many people and languages.

Grant us wisdom for those entrusted with the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace, and through obedience to Your law we may show Your praise among the nations. Remind us, though the rule of law is the foundation of our society, laws without justice are empty words. In prosperity fill us with thankfulness; in trouble remind us to trust in You. Thank You for those brave individuals who stand in the gap protecting our lives and liberty.

Lead us to faith in You, to good character, knowledge, discipline, patience, and love for others. Draw us together as one Nation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. POMPEO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POMPEO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND DR.  
GEORGE DILLARD

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I want to thank Pastor Dillard for coming today and leading us in prayer. I want everyone to know that he loves his country and he prays for each and every one of us every day, as well as the other leaders of this country.

This is his fourth time to be here, only the first time as long as I have been in Congress; but his heart is to pray for each one of us and our leadership.

If you ask in Peachtree City where Pastor Dillard is located, they will tell you the big church with the red roof. But it's a big church with a big heart. He leads three services a day, and you can't say that he doesn't have some type of service for you, because he has a traditional service, he has a more jazzed up service, and then he has a coffee house service where he sits around and talks to the members of his congregation about things that they face every day in life.

So again I want to thank and recognize Pastor Dillard for coming and sharing with us today and for the heart that he has for his country and for each and every one of us.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

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

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, hardly a week goes by without this administration promulgating some new regulation that burdens the American people and our economy.

This week it's an environmental regulation that will drive up energy costs. According to a report by the SBA, regulations cost \$1.7 trillion annually. OMB has reported that regulations cost \$62 billion annually.

Regardless of which agency's number we believe, it doesn't matter. Both numbers are too high and hurt economic growth at a time when unemployment is too high.

Let me make this real simple and settle this argument between these agencies. The cost of regulations is not

simply a job, it's jobs, and every job has a human face.

If more spending and more regulations meant more jobs, then this President's policies would have produced the strongest economic recovery in our Nation's history. Unfortunately, it's made things worse.

TAKE CARE OF PEOPLE IN THIS  
COUNTRY

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

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, it is time that we get back to talking about what people in this country really need: the chance to live a healthy, prosperous life. Cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security should not be on the table at all.

After reckless spending sprees, Republicans want to balance the budget on the backs of our most vulnerable citizens. This is unconscionable, and I will not be silent nor complicit. We need to take care of people in this country, not promote policies that perpetuate a cycle of poverty.

Communities like those in the 11th District of Ohio need jobs. The Democrats have introduced many job-creating measures. The other side has not, and we are still waiting for the jobs Republicans promised.

SCARE TACTICS WILL NOT LEAD  
TO DEBT SOLUTION

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, rather than negotiate in good faith with the Republican leadership, the current administration has resorted to scare tactics. On Tuesday, the President threatened to withhold benefit checks for Social Security recipients and disabled veterans.

Threatening seniors, along with not paying our military, is a sad example of irresponsible political rhetoric. The American people have had enough of political games and threats. Liberals want to increase revenues, which means more taxes, killing jobs. The challenge is not too little revenue; it's too much spending.

The American people voted to see meaningful spending reform that really reduces the deficit. House Republicans have passed numerous bills that cut spending, curb government growth, and encourage job growth. Cut the spending. Do not impose new taxes which kill jobs created by small businesses.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. Our sympathy to the people of India who yesterday suffered another terrorist attack on the people of Mumbai.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP F.C. BARNES

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bishop F.C. Barnes, a great friend and distinguished American who has passed away at the age of 82.

Fifty-two years ago, Bishop Barnes founded Red Budd Holy Church in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, and continued as senior pastor until his death. During his pastorate, the church congregation grew from a few members to more than 800.

Bishop Barnes was a world-renowned vocalist known for his extraordinary musical talent. He recorded many productions, including the award winning "Rough Side of the Mountain."

The loss of this great saint of God is irreplaceable. His enormous contribution to Red Budd Holy Church, Edgecombe County and, indeed, the Nation are deeply appreciated and recognized on this day.

Bishop Barnes leaves a strong and loving family, including his church family, who will miss him so much. Their loss is heaven's gain.

□ 1210

EPA STIMULUS FAILURE

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, briefly, here are some examples of why the \$1 trillion in government stimulus spending bill failed to hold down unemployment or reinvigorate our economy:

Over the past few years, the EPA has spent more than \$27 million on grants to foreign countries. This includes funds for Breathe Easy, Jakarta, an Indonesian campaign to improve air quality. Now, President Obama may have some affection for a city he lived in as a child, but is that any reason to send them Federal stimulus dollars?

There have been 65 grants handed out since the stimulus bill was signed; six of these grants went to Russia and ten grants went to China. We already owe China interest on our debt. Why on Earth are we giving them grants to keep their own country clean? The Energy and Commerce Committee has launched an investigation into this spending. We need to know how much has been spent and if the EPA has further plans to send money overseas.

Our growing debt is hurting job growth. This is just another sad case of Federal spending wasted on projects that do nothing for the American economy.

JOBS

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, it's been 27 weeks since the Republicans took