

revenue neutral, if they carried no price tag at all, I would say it's not worth it. Just during the month of August, when Congress was in recess, 70 more brave Americans died in Afghanistan, making last month the single deadliest month of this 10-year war.

The notion that things are looking up in Afghanistan is ridiculous on its face. Our continued occupation is impeding progress, not making it; fanning the flames of the insurgency instead of putting them out; making us less safe, not more. And for this, we are asking our people here in the United States to go without.

Less than 12 hours from now, however, the President will be speaking from the Chamber, and he will be talking about his job creation strategy. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I fear, will react by saying we can't spend a dime more to solve our devastating economic crisis and put Americans back to work, yet the overwhelming majority of them have nothing at all to say about the trillions of dollars we've wasted and are continuing to spend on reckless, senseless, immoral wars.

It's true that budgets are about choices. Which will we choose: the human destruction of seemingly endless wars abroad or the pressing human needs we have here at home?

The supercommittee has a big job, Mr. Speaker. It will be grossly irresponsible for them to ignore one of the biggest ticket items when they're making their considerations. Let's help solve our budget crisis and our moral crisis at the same time by bringing our troops home.

JOB CRISIS IN AMERICA

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

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the current state of the economy and the jobs crisis that is facing Virginia's Fifth District and our Nation.

The August jobs report that was released last week showed that no net new jobs were added to the economy in the month of August, while unemployment remains unacceptably high at 9.1 percent, underscoring the urgent need for real change in Washington so we can get America working again.

To help jump-start our economy, the House has been laser focused on supporting those policies that seek to remove the Federal Government as a barrier to job creation, to unleash innovation and invite opportunity in the private sector. To this end, the House has already passed several pro-growth measures that could immediately help spur job creation in Virginia's Fifth District and across our country. Unfortunately, the Senate has inexplicably refused to take action on these bills, blocking progress on commonsense solutions that would help turn our economy around at a time when we need it most.

Continuing to build on our efforts in the House to grow the economy and create jobs, the majority leader recently announced the upcoming fall and winter legislative schedule for Congress, which will focus on reducing and repealing unnecessary government regulations to create a more certain economic environment to provide our true job creators with the confidence and the freedom necessary to expand and hire.

I was glad that the Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act, H.R. 1633, a bill I coauthored with Representative NOEM, was included as a part of this overall agenda on jobs and regulatory relief, and I am glad that the House will take action on this important bipartisan legislation. H.R. 1633 will prohibit the EPA from burdening farmers and small business owners in rural America with additional dust regulations so they can focus on growing their businesses and putting people back to work.

As the President prepares to address a Joint Session of Congress this evening to unveil his latest jobs plan, it is my hope that he will take this opportunity to urge the Senate to act on the bipartisan House-passed jobs bills, move past his failed stimulus measures, abandon his threats of more tax hikes, and join with us in the House in supporting those policies that put our economic recovery in the hands of the people of the Fifth District and all Americans instead of the Federal Government.

OUT OF POVERTY CAUCUS

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

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as the ranks of the unemployed continue to swell, all eyes have been focused on the plight of the middle-income working Americans. Many of their fortunes have changed dramatically for the worse. Many have lost their homes to foreclosure, many have seen their retirement accounts all but disappear, and, sadly, many of those who have been out of work for months have fallen below the poverty level.

From 2006 to 2009, more than 7 million Americans joined the ranks of the poor. Next week, on September 13, the Census Bureau will publish its annual report on poverty and income. We expect dire news again. These are not just poor people; they are poor Americans. The vast majority of poor people in this country are not poor because they are lazy and don't want to work or to do better. Many people are poor because they grew up in poverty and could not find the means to escape. They were trapped by failing schools, broken families, poor nutrition, and hopeless conditions.

In recent years, we have witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of children living in poverty. It looked like we were making progress at the

turn of the century when the child poverty rate dipped to 16 percent. By 2009, the rate has risen to 21 percent, with 15.5 million children living in poverty. This disturbs me greatly. Children who grew up in poverty are more likely to be poor during adulthood. Children who were born in middle class families have a 76 percent chance of being middle class. Poor children only have a 35 percent chance of escaping poverty.

On Friday, September 16, in conjunction with the National Association of Social Workers, I will be conducting a forum on The Future of New York City's Children. One thing we will be doing is taking a look at what we are doing for children in poverty. This is still the greatest nation on Earth. We are still the richest nation on Earth. There is just no good reason why so many of our citizens are living in poverty. We must do better.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SPEECH ON JOB CREATION

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

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Mr. Speaker, when the President steps into this Chamber tonight, he will be addressing an American public that has grown weary of unfulfilled promises and empty, prepackaged rhetoric. He will be speaking to a restless Nation that grows louder than ever in its demand for strong, visionary leadership from its government leaders. They want solutions.

Not one job was added during the entire month of August. I will remind all of us that it requires 150,000 new jobs each and every month for this country's economy just to break even. For 31 straight months, the unemployment rate has been above 8 percent, the lowest percentage of Americans holding a job in 28 years, over half of my lifetime.

Two hundred nineteen newly planned regulations are on tap for the American people if not stopped, costing over \$100 million each. The average small business with fewer than 20 employees faces yearly regulatory costs of over \$10,000.

□ 1040

Total yearly regulatory costs equal \$1.75 trillion, according to the Small Business Administration. And according to the EPA Numeric Nutrient Criteria Standards, these standards would cost the State of Florida, my home state, over 14,000 agriculture jobs alone. And a GDP, I might say, that grew this year at just 0.4 percent in the first quarter.

The American small business people, Mr. President, deserve real results. They will expect that tonight. They will expect that from this entire body from this point forward.

American small business people are real people, people like Jay Trumbull.

Jay is a personal friend I've known for a long time. He lives in my own congressional district. Jay is an independent dealer for Culligan Water, a company with offices in Panama City, Tallahassee, and Fort Walton Beach. He has been in business for over 30 years delivering water purification systems and installing water softeners and drilling wells throughout north and northwest Florida.

Jay told me that he's never seen conditions as bad as during the past 3 years of this administration. Over the last 3 years, Jay estimates that his personal business has dropped over 25 percent. Jay says that continued economic uncertainty has made it very difficult, almost impossible for him to expand his work force and to purchase new work vehicles.

He has said that he receives 25 to 30 job inquiries each and every week, people seeking employment, but he says he's stuck in a "holding pattern" due to this administration's failed economic policies.

We've all heard similar stories. With 25 million Americans who are unemployed or underemployed, we can all count family, friends, and neighbors among those who are struggling to find work.

The American people will be listening very closely tonight to this address. They will be hoping, they will be praying that this President acknowledges we need to chart a new course. Government doesn't create jobs, but it certainly, certainly can destroy them.

We need tonight to reduce regulatory burdens on our small businesses. Small businesses make up 85 percent of this Nation's economy. We need to streamline our Tax Code to spur investment and create jobs.

We need to help the American manufacturers be more competitive. We need to expand access to safe, affordable American-made energy. And of course, we all know we should, by now, that we must pay down our crushing burden of our debt. Mortgaging our children's future is immoral. It is unacceptable.

That is the agenda that the American people want to hear about tonight, Mr. President. And until we do our jobs here in Washington, the American people will continue to find it harder and harder, if not impossible, to do theirs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

CONGRESSIONAL OUT OF POVERTY CAUCUS

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as one of the founding cochair of the Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus to, once again, bring to light an issue

that we have swept under the rug for far too long: The fact that millions of children, families and adults are living in poverty in America.

Last month, the Annie Casey Foundation released its KIDS COUNT Data Book, which includes state-by-state rankings and data on child well-being in the United States.

It's a tragedy, Mr. Speaker, that this report reveals that the child poverty rate increased 18 percent from 2000 to 2009. Eighteen percent. Every gain in the fight against child poverty across America in the 1990s was lost from the year 2000 to 2009.

We now have 2.4 million more children across America living below the Federal poverty line. It's a moral outrage that, in this prosperous country, so many of our children are suffering, and we know that the impact is far worse in communities of color.

While the national child poverty rate is a staggering 20 percent, when we break it down, we find some tragic and heart-wrenching numbers. The child poverty rate for non-Hispanic White children is 12 percent. For African American children it's 36 percent. For American Indian and Alaska Native children, it's 35 percent. For Hispanic and Latino children, it's 31 percent. And for Asian American and Pacific Islanders, the rate is 13 percent. But among Southeast Asian American children, the poverty rate is 22 percent.

These statistics, these children, this childhood poverty rate, this is unacceptable. This data confirms what we've seen in our communities all along—the irresponsible fiscal policies of the prior administration plunged working families, especially those in communities of color, into poverty.

This report also reveals the impact of the Great Recession on children and their families. Nearly 8 million children lived with at least one parent who was actively seeking employment but was unemployed in 2010. This is double the number in 2007, just 3 years earlier.

That's why I again call upon the Speaker to bring my legislation and Congressman SCOTT's legislation, H.R. 589, to the floor for an up-or-down vote immediately, to help millions of children with job-seeking parents to get out of poverty.

We have 13.9 million people out of work, 6.2 million of whom are long-term unemployed. Worse yet, these numbers do not include those people across this country who have given up on trying to get a job or those who are unemployed.

And communities of color continue to carry the burden of higher unemployment rates than the national average of 9.1 percent. African Americans have an unemployment rate of 16.7 percent, and Latinos an unemployment rate of 11.3 percent. So the legislation I referenced increases unemployment compensation by 14 weeks for what we call the 99ers.

Our Nation has a job crisis, and this is a national emergency requiring sig-

nificant investment in the programs and projects that not only better our country but put Americans back to work. That's why the cochair of the Out of Poverty Caucus, Congressman JOE BACA, Congressman BUTTERFIELD, Congressmen CONYERS and MIKE HONDA, we sent a letter to the President asking him to create a big and bold jobs plan that will address the needs of workers and those seeking work across this country. This will result in helping our economy, our communities, and our Nation's children.

While we believe that the investment could and should take many forms, we urge President Obama to include key programs and proposals that will support low income people and grow our economy: Restoring TANF; maintaining the emergency extension of unemployment insurance benefits, extend these benefits by 14 weeks; expand targeted Federal on-the-job training programs; expand Federal programs that support, train and focus on youth; initiate a work-sharing program that would subsidize wages at firms that manage to substitute shorter hours for layoffs.

We look to President Obama to present a bold package of direct investment which is aimed at our Nation's most vulnerable, those facing or living in poverty.

And most importantly, we look to the Republican majority to stop obstructing Democratic efforts to put people back to work. I urge the Republicans to end their "no jobs" agenda that makes it easier for corporations to send American jobs overseas, protects tax breaks for Big Oil, and ends Medicare. I hope they know that to make it in America, we must Make It In America.

ISRAEL

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I came back from a trip to Israel, and I wanted to share with my colleagues some of the things that are going on currently in the Middle East and some of the things that will happen within the next couple of weeks.

First of all, it's always a pleasure to visit Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East. It's a pleasure to watch. Last Saturday night there were demonstrations throughout Israel, the young people, in the democratic way, voicing their feelings about important issues, just like we do here in the United States, and the people in Israel who are doing this. In a region where you have governments in Syria killing their own people, demonstrations and soldiers firing on people in Libya and Egypt, in Israel you have peaceful demonstrations and no fear of the police or the military the harming people because Israel is a full-fledged democracy, just like we are, just like the United States is, and it was a pleasure to be in that country.