

create \$2 trillion to \$3 trillion worth of revenue over the next 20 years.

What we need to be doing is making a commitment to invest that money in American infrastructure, American resources, American funds for American infrastructure.

Think of what this also does for our manufacturing. When you create that kind of demand for steel and concrete and that kind of demand for equipment to be purchased over a long time, this is a real jobs plan. We don't need to be going back hat in hand to other countries and saying, please let us borrow more from you. We don't need to be having class warfare. We don't need to be saying, let's just attack people who make a certain amount of money. We don't need to be saying, let's take all the revenue that comes from taxing these corporate jets for 10 years and use it to fund the government for a lousy hour and 45 minutes. Those may be great talking points, but they are not a jobs plan.

America wants to work and America wants us to use our resources. America wants to stop funding both sides in the war on terror. We can do this. And it doesn't take some sort of super plan to do this. It just says, America has all the resources.

I call upon my colleagues to continue to push for ways that we can free up American resources, stop saying no to American jobs, stop simply using political rhetoric to block these things, but really create this mechanism by which we can pay for rebuilding America.

We can do it. We have the resources to do it. We have to have the way and we have to have the will.

INITIATIVES OF THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Recently I had the honor of being reappointed to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, a committee on which I served during my first two terms in Congress. Consequently, caucus rules require me to, in turn, step down from the Small Business Committee, where I've proudly served for the past 5 years.

As I leave the Small Business Committee, I wanted to take a moment to discuss a few of the important initiatives on which the committee has played a meaningful role during that time. Some of the most important initiatives have been to support the brave men and women who have served our Nation in uniform. The Small Business Committee, over the past 5 years, has led the way in helping small business owners deal with the loss of key employees during long-term overseas deployments, and has helped incentivize the hiring of our military veterans.

Committee successes include the enactment of my legislation to increase business opportunities for veterans and

reservists, and support business owners who employ them. This bill was signed into law by President Bush in 2008 and has since helped countless veterans and employers.

We also successfully enacted laws to help returning veterans access job training programs and learn entrepreneurial skills to help them transition back into the workforce.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, I was able to convene hearings that gave voice to all sides on pending issues in Congress, including bringing more than a dozen people from western Pennsylvania before the committee to make sure that their voice was heard and their point of view understood during the critical early stages of the legislative process.

Our subcommittee held hearings that brought to light the unintended consequences of the Consumer Product Safety Commission's lead regulations on small businesses and home-based toy manufacturers. We also held hearings that raised concerns about the effect that various health care reform proposals might have on small employers, and the devastating impact that skyrocketing gas prices can have on businesses and consumers.

When CMS proposed a flawed Medicare competitive bidding program that would harm medical equipment suppliers and negatively impact patient access and quality of care, our subcommittee heard the concerns of small businesses across the country. And when necessary, our subcommittee also convened field hearings to discuss important issues, such as a hearing we held in western Pennsylvania to discuss ideas on how to increase access to capital for small businesses.

When flooding impacted businesses in western Pennsylvania, we brought the SBA to Aliquippa to personally inspect the damage and improve the SBA's response. And as gas prices continued to climb and the Nation looked for solutions to our energy crisis, I joined our former colleague, Mary Fallon, now Oklahoma's Governor, to cochair a field hearing in Tulsa to hear directly from the oil industries their explanation of why gas prices were so unacceptably high and what we can do to help bring them down.

Our subcommittee also led the way in twice passing through the House my bill to expand access to private capital investment through the SBIR program. And we held the first hearing in either Chamber of Congress on the controversial credit card interchange fee, an issue that since has grown into a top priority for businesses, consumers, and banks.

We worked in a bipartisan way to successfully advocate for repeal of the onerous 1099 reporting requirements included in the health care reform law. All in all, quite a record of bipartisan success.

As I leave the committee, I want to thank Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for

her help and support during my time on the committee, and I look forward to continuing to work on small business issues through my new committee assignments in the months ahead.

□ 1040

RECOGNIZING MATT PORTER, 2011 RECIPIENT OF NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME SOCIETY'S DAN PIPER AWARD

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Matt Porter of State College, Pennsylvania, the 2011 recipient of the National Down Syndrome Society's Dan Piper Award.

Dan Piper was a young man born with Down syndrome who spent much of his life advocating on behalf of himself and others with Down syndrome. He, sadly, passed away on September 1, 2002. In order to celebrate Dan's life, the Dan Piper Award was created to recognize and celebrate an individual with Down syndrome that has made similar contributions to Down syndrome awareness and advocacy.

Today, I'm pleased and proud to recognize one of my constituents, Matt Porter, as the 2011 recipient of this great honor. I have met Matt Porter on several occasions. Most recently, I joined him and others at the Centre County Down Syndrome Society's annual Buddy Walk. My introduction to Matt, however, was sometime before that when he visited my Washington office in mid-February with his brother, Andy. Matt was visiting congressional offices to raise awareness for the Down Syndrome Society and to advocate on issues most pressing to those who are living with Down syndrome.

Matt's personality and attitude towards life embody the spirit of the Dan Piper Award. Much like Dan, Matt's accomplishments have opened so many doors to those with Down syndrome. I find Matt to be an inspiring individual, and I commend him on the hard work with his employment, participating in the Special Olympics, volunteering in the community, and advocating on behalf of others with Down syndrome.

We all stand to learn a lot from this young man's example and character. Congratulations, Matt Porter.

HAVE 10 YEARS IN AFGHANISTAN MADE AMERICA SAFER?

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I feel like I have a case of déjà vu. Two years ago, I stood on this floor, on the eighth anniversary of our invasion of Afghanistan, and asked: Have our 8 years, 791 American deaths, and billions of U.S. dollars spent in Afghanistan made America safer?

Today, I stand in the same place asking the same question. Now, 10 years have passed, 1,800 American lives have been lost, and we have spent almost half a trillion dollars, and I have to ask again: Have 10 years in Afghanistan made America safer? Sadly, just as I concluded 2 years ago, I must conclude again today, they have not.

We went into Afghanistan under the mantle of protecting America's national security. The perpetrators of September 11, al Qaeda, were in Afghanistan, and we had to go after them. But just as was the case 2 years ago, al Qaeda is no longer primarily in Afghanistan. In fact, only 50 to 100 al Qaeda operatives are estimated to be operating in Afghanistan. Al Qaeda's primary hub is still located across the border in tribal areas of Pakistan. And other al Qaeda cells are operating around the world in Yemen, North Africa, and through affiliated groups in Southeast Asia and Uzbekistan.

Threats to America are not from Afghanistan but from ungoverned spaces around the world and even right here on American soil. A review of recently foiled terrorist plots shores up the widespread origins of U.S.-centered terror attempts. The Times Square bomber is a Pakistani American who received training in the Waziristan region of Pakistan. The explosives hidden in ink cartridges and destined for an American synagogue in my own district in Chicago were planted by a Saudi militant and shipped from Yemen. The Christmas Day airline bomber was a Nigerian, inspired by Anwar al-Awlaki, who was based in Yemen. And another devotee of al-Awlaki was the Fort Hood shooter, Nidal Hasan, an American citizen born in Virginia.

Not one of these terror plots originated in Afghanistan, and yet still we maintain close to 100,000 U.S. troops on the ground there. Every major U.S. victory the U.S. has had in the fight against terrorism has come not on the ground in Afghanistan but through targeted attacks such as those that killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan and the recent strike that killed Anwar al-Awlaki in Yemen.

There have been at least 45 jihadist terrorist attacks plotted against the U.S. since 9/11, and each one of them was foiled not by our mass ground forces in Afghanistan, but through a combination of intelligence, policing, and citizen engagement.

According to terrorism expert Erik Dahl of the Naval Postgraduate School, "When it comes to domestic attacks and securing the homeland, what works is really good, old-fashioned policing—law enforcement, tips from the public, police informants."

Not only is our military action in Afghanistan not making us safer, but research indicates it could actually be making us less safe. As counterinsurgency expert David Kilcullen points out, rather than reducing the number of terrorists, the U.S. presence in Af-

ghanistan could actually be spurring new terrorism as locals band together to resist foreign occupation.

It's called accidental guerrilla syndrome.

Further, a report issued last year by the gentleman from Massachusetts, Representative TIERNEY, revealed the U.S. military is funding the multibillion dollar protection racket. A good portion of a \$2.16 billion transportation contract is being paid to corrupt public officials, warlords, and the Taliban to get needed supplies to our troops. We are funding the very insurgency we are fighting.

We went into Afghanistan to make America safer, but, for several years now, we have known that our enemies are no longer concentrated in Afghanistan. Al Qaeda is an enemy without borders, and so now we must have a strategy without borders. The question now is: Will we adjust our strategy to reflect today's circumstances, or will we continue to live in the past, repeating this destructive cycle of sending dollars and troops to a mission no longer central to American security?

We have to end our military presence in Afghanistan now, because I don't want to stand in this same spot a year from now with another case of déjà vu.

DRILLING EQUALS JOBS

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

Mr. LANDRY. Mr. Speaker, with the free trade agreements being debated this week, some of my Democratic colleagues have been talking about our trade deficit. However, if they really want to reduce the trade deficit, they'd help me end the President's de facto moratorium on offshore drilling.

You see, if oil were a country, it would be our biggest trading partner. Oil makes up 65 percent of our trade deficit. And it's simple: Drilling equals jobs. It equals American jobs.

You see what I have here is a parking lot to one of the heliports down in my district. In 2004, the parking lot was full. Last year, the parking lot was empty. And you don't have to worry because that parking lot, when we're drilling offshore, is this full 365 days a year.

Here is a port in my district which supplies over 30 percent of the oil and gas that fuels this Nation. You can see the boats in 2004 in the busy port; and today, it's empty.

If we really want a jobs bill, this is it. In the past year, deepwater permit issuance is 39 percent below the monthly averages observed over the past 3 years; and shallow water permits, permits that were supposedly never impacted by the moratorium, are off 80 percent over historical averages. As a result of this de facto moratorium, 11 offshore rigs scheduled to drill in the gulf have relocated to countries like Brazil, Nigeria, Egypt, Congo, French Guiana, and Liberia.

Now, what does this say about American policies when businesses prefer the regulatory certainty offered by Egypt over the bureaucratic uncertainty off our own shores? And while 11 rigs might not seem like a lot, each drilling platform supports 200 to 300 workers every month. Additionally, each exploration and production job supports four other positions. Therefore, 900 to 1,400 jobs per idle rig platform are at risk if production does not resume as soon as possible.

□ 1050

Wages for those jobs average \$1,800 per week, so the potential for lost wages is more than \$5 million to \$10 million per month, per platform.

Drilling equals good-paying jobs.

According to the Obama administration's own estimates, the 6-month "official moratorium" on drilling cost up to 12,000 jobs. However, the long-term impacts of the de facto moratorium could be significantly higher. A study by Louisiana State University predicts, if the de facto ban on deepwater drilling were sustained for 18 more months, we could lose 36,000 jobs nationwide, 24,000 of those along the gulf coast region alone. If the administration would accelerate the permit issuance instead of continuing this de facto moratorium, we could create a quarter of a million jobs in this country, and we could increase the GDP by \$8 trillion over the next 10 years.

As I said, the solution is actually very simple—at no cost to the taxpayer and with the ability to bring revenue into the Federal Government.

It's simple, Mr. Speaker: Drilling equals jobs.

LIBERTY, JUSTICE, AND THE ECONOMY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk on two subjects: one, liberty and justice and, number two, our economy.

On the first, as cochair of the House Ukrainian Caucus, I stand today and join my voice to the citizens of the free world who stand in solidarity with freedom lovers in Ukraine seeking liberty and justice for all. It is with the deepest concern that we raise strenuous objection to the political decision by Ukraine's Pechersk court that sentenced former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko to prison this October 11. The court's "guilty" verdict sentences her to 7 years in prison, bars her from holding office for 3 years, and effectively stops her from participating in Ukraine's upcoming elections.

Ukraine's actions should also call into question Ukraine's accession to the European Union. I join with the members of the Ukrainian Congress of America in supporting immediate congressional hearings on what has transpired in Ukraine. I urge our leadership