

that are used by our troops here at home and overseas for a variety of purposes. Thanks to the workers at Cottonwood, our soldiers have a great and much needed tool to help them do their jobs and keep them safe.

Cottonwood is a shining example of the potential within every American that can be developed and maintained when local community groups couple with the private sector to create products at a good value for our American military and other consumers. I am proud to use my voice on the floor of the U.S. House to praise Cottonwood and other organizations who provide meaningful employment for Americans with disabilities across the United States.

FREE TRADE

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, as policy-makers, it is our job to learn from the mistakes of the past and not repeat them.

Nearly 700,000 American jobs have been lost as a direct result of NAFTA. In my district, the 43rd Congressional District, we have lost over 2,000 jobs since the passage of NAFTA and other trade agreements; and the United States has gone from a \$1.6 billion trade surplus to a \$97 billion trade deficit with Mexico. Yet we stand this week ready to pass three more NAFTA-style trade agreements: Korea, Colombia, and Panama.

My constituents face a 15 percent unemployment rate. They need us to create jobs, not shift them overseas where thousands of jobs will be sent.

I ask you, who benefits from these trade deals? Not the American working families. Major corporations are the ones who benefit with this misguided agreement.

This is a debate about the haves and the have-nots. It is time to stand up for working families. I say it's time to stand up for working families and do the right thing for the American people.

COMMEMORATING 9/11

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

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, last month Americans around the country commemorated the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks. I had the honor and privilege to spend the day with some of the brave police, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and first responders that put their lives on the line every day to protect us from harm.

In Berthoud and then in Fort Collins, Colorado, I had the opportunity to speak with local firefighters and police as we remembered the tragedy of 10 years ago and the sacrifice and loss of so many lives.

The lapel pin that I have on this morning was lent to me by a friend of

mine, Ed Haynes. It's a pin given to New York Police Department police officers in the wake of September 11. An officer gave it to Ed in 2004.

The pin is a reminder of that day and the understanding that police officers and firefighters around the country share, the understanding that every day they go to work willing to give their own lives to save the lives of others.

As the 10-year anniversary of September 11 passed, we remembered the victims and the devastation, the fear and the anger of that time. But we also remember the unity, the sense of understanding that existed across the Nation in the days after that horrible tragedy.

The people that have observed September 11 over this past month, September 11 through today, the people that I saw that weekend, the firefighters, the police and the citizens, remember those days as well. And in today's political environment, we could do well to focus on how it should not require a national tragedy to bring us together.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, we talk a lot about our different concerns for the future of our Nation, but there is one gravely serious threat that exists in every single congressional district and could cripple future generations and the long-term strength of our Nation.

More than 12 million American citizens, children, 17 percent, are currently obese. In my home State of Kentucky, the number is even worse, with obesity affecting 37 percent of Kentucky kids. That's millions of children who are at a significantly higher risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer, millions at risk of having their dreams cut short and millions who may not get the chance to contribute all their potential to our Nation's growth.

I am proud to applaud the work of Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville, one of dozens of children's hospitals around the U.S. taking new steps to educate kids about the importance of eating healthy and getting active. Children's hospitals are essential allies in the battle to stop childhood obesity.

I urge my colleagues to support these initiatives and every effort to get our kids focusing on a fitter future.

PASS THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, unemployment numbers just came out for our country; and again we see the country at 9.1 percent unemployment. The

number one issue that we face here in this body and this government, I would argue, is jobs and the economy.

This week we have an opportunity to come together in a bipartisan fashion. The President has talked about the trade agreements with both South Korea, Colombia, and Panama; and I think this is an opportunity for us to be able to level the playing field to allow the American worker to win.

We know that if we level the playing field, the American worker can win; and we know that if we take South Korea alone, this is an opportunity for us to add \$10 billion to our GDP. For every billion dollars that we send in exports, we create 6,250 jobs right here at home. Seventy-three percent of the dollars are outside of the United States and 95 percent of the consumers.

We want to make sure that we're selling America abroad. This is an opportunity for us to put American workers back to work, try to lower the unemployment rate from 9.1 percent, and move the country forward.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together today and this week to pass the free trade agreements and move our country ahead.

OPPOSING THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, free trade deals are not an industrial policy. Unlike most industrial countries in the world, the United States is the only one that has no overall strategy for bringing back the 5 million manufacturing jobs that we've lost in the last decade or reopening the 50,000 factories that have been shuttered.

Without enforcing current trade laws, or pressuring China to adopt fair currency policies, or using U.S. taxpayer dollars to benefit U.S. companies, we are on the losing end of free trade before the deals are even negotiated. Where's the focus on industrial education? Where's the focus on requiring other countries to live up to their trade obligations? Where's the focus on making sure that U.S. taxpayer dollars are spent on U.S. jobs?

Now, I get the benefits of free trade, but come to Waterbury, Connecticut; New Britain, Connecticut; and Meriden, Connecticut, and what you will hear is a cry for help, not for more trade deals, but for a country that recognizes what every other developing industrial country has in this world, that we need a domestic industrial policy to protect and support our manufacturers here before we engage in free trade deals abroad.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR JOB CREATION

(Mr. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to job creation, the American people are not waiting for the right speech but, rather, the right leadership.

While the Obama administration claims to seek common ground on which to help employers hire workers, House Republicans have already produced and passed more than a dozen job-creating bills through the House this year. We're going to do that here later today with the three trade bills that will create 250,000 jobs.

Unfortunately, these measures have long been ignored by the Senate and the White House. Where was the leadership? If President Obama is serious about helping create jobs, then he must listen to what job creators are actually saying. More than anything else, they need long-term confidence that Washington will stop punishing them with reckless red tape and threatening them with new taxes.

House Republicans are ready to work with the President, but not if it means supporting policies that only work against job creators and job-seekers.

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JOBS

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

Mr. COHEN. Some few weeks ago, the President addressed this Congress in this Chamber about jobs and introduced the American Jobs Act. Something that would help small businesses, something that would help put policemen and firemen and teachers to work, something that would help rebuild schools, a bill that would appropriately put Americans back to work and address our problems, but the Senate killed it yesterday. We should have known, and we did know the Senate would kill it because Senator McConnell said right after the President was sworn in: Our main job is to see that he's not reelected.

The President is in support of these trade agreements. I'm not; he is. The Republicans are, but they don't give him credit for it. They condemn him today, the previous speaker, and yet he's for the trade agreements. He couldn't do anything for them. If he made them a kidney transplant, they'd want two. There's nothing he could do they'd think was right.

We need to create jobs. It's the main issue in my district and in this Nation. We need to work together to create jobs in America, and the millionaires need to pay their fair share.

JOBS

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, last night I was disappointed, although not

surprised, to see the Senate fail to arrive at the number of votes needed to bring cloture so that the American Jobs Act could be debated. They not only don't want to pass the jobs bill, they don't even want to debate the jobs bill. I thought that was an embarrassing moment for the U.S. Congress because, with 9.1 percent unemployment, with people who have been chronically unemployed for so long, one would think that we'd want to get down here and talk about jobs, bring forth our ideas, offer amendments, and do everything we could to try to help spur the American economy on. And yet we saw that jobs bill go down.

Mr. Speaker, the American people know that Congress can bring things up, and they can bring things up again. And as long as Americans are unemployed at the disgraceful rates that they are today, our Congress will never stop fighting to continue to bring jobs bills back to this Congress.

The Republican majority in this House has yet to bring a jobs bill. We hope to see one one day soon.

SUPPORT THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, passing the South Korea, Colombia, and Panama trade agreements will decrease our trade deficit and make it easier for U.S. companies to compete on a global level. Specifically, the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement levels the playing field for Texas exports and translates into a potential duty-free savings of \$180 million for this fast-growing regional market.

For example, in the district I represent, Texas 22, Schlumberger exported \$6.7 million in machinery parts to Colombia in 2010 and paid over \$336,000 in duty fees. In Texas 22 alone, over 107,000 jobs are directly supported by over \$57 billion in exports.

Free trade means more money—money that stays with the companies in America, money that can be used to expand American businesses and grow American jobs.

I urge my colleagues to level the playing field for American businesses by supporting these three free trade agreements. Let's export American goods and services, not American jobs.

CHINA CURRENCY MANIPULATION

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, the trade agreements are front and center for us right now. But I have to ask you: What are you waiting for?

We talk about deficits; we talk about debt; we talk about trade agreements; but what is it that really would have an impact, and that is if you would set

for hearing the whole concept of currency manipulation. We have got to address China's manipulation of its yuan.

I just came running over from HASC, the House Armed Services Committee, and one of the issues that was raised there was we've got to do something about the yuan. China is outbuilding us. China is going to try to take over the Pacific. China is building ships. China is doing all of these things that put our defense and our people at risk.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask you again: What are you waiting for? Let's hear that currency manipulation bill that has 226 of us, bipartisan support. Let's hear it. It's time to really come to grips with what is truly our problem, how this bill will then affect issues such as the deficit and the debt and increase our GDP. Think about it, Mr. Speaker.

JOBS

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, it's a very important day today.

Five hundred and nineteen years ago, Columbus discovered America. He was on a trade mission. But the problem is that today, instead of dealing with trade missions and all the rest, we ought to have the bill out here that the President presented on creating jobs for American workers.

Now, this Congress has been in session for 300-some-odd days. With the Republicans talking about all of the problems of this society and how the President's plan hasn't worked, they have yet to bring to this floor a presentation of a way to create jobs for American workers.

These trade agreements, they say, well, if we had a level playing field with Korea and all of these other places, suddenly we would have a lot of jobs here. There is a much better way and a much surer way to provide jobs here in this country. My predecessor here talked about manipulation by the Chinese of our currency, which has been estimated to cut out a million jobs. There are other things we ought to be doing today than these free trade agreements.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 12, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 12, 2011 at 9:11 a.m.: