

opportunities and reduces the cost of the cleanup of our waterways from animal waste, pesticides, and fertilizers. Help with research, marketing, and environmental protection will allow our farmers to be more productive and better stewards of the land while putting money in their pockets—in turn, increasing benefits and reducing costs for everybody else.

Now, I don't pretend this report contains any silver bullet. It's a collection of what I've learned in dealing with these issues in my 15 years in Congress but, more importantly, by spending a lot of time with Oregon farmers and ranchers, people in the nursery industry, the vintners, who are all short-changed by the current system and deserve better.

Joining me in the release of this report are Representatives who advocate on behalf of the taxpayers, who deal with deficit spending, who are environmental advocates, and people who care deeply about America's farmers and ranchers. There is across this country a grand coalition that is forming and coalescing behind a unified vision for American agriculture at exactly the time when the taxpayers need it, when most farmers and ranchers deserve it and when advocates on behalf of better health and nutrition for all Americans demand it.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Americans deserve a better Farm Bill.** Current agricultural policy spends too much money supporting large corporations, doesn't adequately help the majority of small and midsize farmers, and subsidizes manufactured food at the expense of fruits and vegetables. This report outlines a series of reforms to make the Farm Bill more accountable, more affordable, and fairer to taxpayers, farmers, ranchers and consumers alike.

**Commodity Programs:** The report advocates for eliminating direct payments and storage payments, and placing limits on counter cyclical, market assistance and ACRE payments to save taxpayer dollars and create a more level playing field for America's farmers.

**Conservation Programs:** While recognizing the important role that conservation plays for farmers, ranchers and the public, the report supports a shift to performance-oriented conservation programs, giving farmers and ranchers flexibility while ensuring that taxpayers get cleaner air and water, and healthier soil.

**Research and Development:** The report acknowledges the important role that research and development dollars have played in boosting America's farm and ranch productivity, and supports increasing or at a minimum keeping level research funding.

**Beginning Farmer and Rancher Programs:** Recognizing the importance of engaging younger Americans in farming and ranching, the report advocates for small changes to current programs to support beginning farmers and ranchers.

**Crop Insurance:** While the last negotiation of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement made some improvements to the crop insurance program, most economists agree that it is still in need of reform. This report advocates for several principles that should be used to guide the creation of any new crop insurance agreement.

**Nutrition:** The report recognizes the opportunity to improve the outcomes of nutrition

programs and local farm economies by coordinating the two. It also advocates for increased local flexibility so that communities can take steps on their own to increase access to fresh, local food.

#### H.R. 674, REPEALING THE 3 PERCENT WITHHOLDING ON PAYMENTS MADE TO VENDORS BY GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

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

Mr. DOLD. I came to this body as a small business owner, as someone who employs just under 100 people. For me, that's 100 families. I decided to run for Congress because it felt to me as if the Federal Government was making it harder and harder for me to put the key in the door and to open up my business each and every day. Frankly, they should be doing quite the opposite. We here in this body should be making it easier for American businesses to grow their businesses—to be able to hire more people, to invest back in their businesses and to grow.

I am pleased to say that we have an opportunity this week to vote on a bipartisan piece of legislation to end some of the barriers that are preventing businesses from investing back in their businesses. We're going to have an opportunity to vote on H.R. 674, which would repeal a provision that would force government entities to withhold 3 percent from the vendors that they do business with.

Earlier this year, we took care of some legislation that was some overburdensome regulation on 1099s for small businesses. This was going to be paperwork that was going to, in essence, cost small businesses hundreds of thousands of dollars and, in some cases, millions of dollars just to comply, just to cross the T's and dot the I's. Not a single bit would be added to their bottom line or would be helping provide services to consumers.

There is no question that this bill would help small businesses. It would also help governments and municipalities that would be forced to withhold. This withholding requirement is particularly harmful to small businesses, to contractors; and it would undermine our efforts to spur job creation. This requirement needlessly ties up the cash flow of small businesses, and that's exactly what we don't need to do at this particular time.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation, and I am confident that we will be able to pass it. We've got over 269 cosponsors today. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman who was just up here is, in fact, the lead cosponsor, Mr. BLUMENAUER, along with my colleague WALLY HERGER from California. It enjoys broad bipartisan support. It's commonsense legislation.

We do not need to be taking dollars out of the economy at this point in time. It increases costs for goods and services. It increases the burdens on

administrative requirements. It increases the costs for recordkeeping. This is another instance of unintended consequences of legislation and ones that, I think, we cannot afford.

We must focus on how we can help small businesses across this land. We in this body need to create an environment where small businesses can have more certainty because, when I talk to businesses all across the 10th District of Illinois, the one thing I hear over and over and over again is that the uncertainty out there is preventing people from investing in their businesses, from moving forward. This would be yet one more burden. We don't need to do that.

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So I'm pleased to see that Members on both sides of the aisle are coming together to try to solve some of these issues. It's certainly what the American public is looking for us to do, to be able to find some common ground, to move forward, so that we can eliminate some of these barriers. The number one issue we face, without exception, is jobs and the economy, so it seemed like common sense to me that we try to enable small business to be able to have the tools necessary to forecast, invest in their businesses and to grow.

With 29 million small businesses in our Nation, if we can create an environment where half of those businesses can create a single job, think about where we'd be then. We've got 9.1 percent unemployment in our country. In Illinois it's at 10, and certain areas even in the 10th District we've got unemployment of 20 to 22 percent.

We've just been recognized as the number one manufacturing district in the country. We've lost 750,000 manufacturing jobs in Illinois. We have to step up and allow small business to be able to invest back in their businesses and to grow.

I'm delighted to see that we were able to come together 2 weeks ago on trade legislation to be able to help those manufacturers, to help farmers, to be able to increase exports and grow jobs right here in America. Those are exactly the efforts that we need to do.

So I want to encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together on H.R. 674 to help small businesses move forward and get America back to work.

#### HONORING MAYOR STEPHEN L. LUEKE

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

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Steve Lueke, who devoted his life to the service of our community. Raised in Freeport, Illinois, Mayor Lueke made South Bend his home over 30 years ago after graduating from Fordham University. He

and his beloved wife, Peg, the marketing director for the South Bend Museum of Art, have four children they are so proud of.

Steve has been South Bend's 31st and longest-serving mayor in the city's history. He took office in 1977, succeeding Joe Kernan, who became the lieutenant governor. Now in his fourth term, Mayor Lueke has championed the development of a city in which all residents can be proud to live and work.

Previously Steve served 9 years as a member of the South Bend Common Council, including two terms as president, representing the First District on South Bend's northwest side.

South Bend under his leadership has become a hub of technological diversity. Mayor Lueke spearheaded the demolition of nearly 4 million square feet of obsolete buildings in the former Studebaker Corridor and strengthened partnerships with leading community institutions, including the University of Notre Dame.

These efforts have come together as South Bend created Indiana's first dual-site, State-certified technology park, consisting of Innovation Park at Notre Dame and Ignition Park on the grounds of the former Studebaker Corporation. In addition, South Bend became the first U.S. city to create a broadband network, the Metronet, using its own traffic conduit.

As the owner of a small construction company, Steve took interest in neighborhood restoration, infrastructure improvements, and the revitalization of our city. Among other projects, he fostered the public-private restoration of the Morris Performing Arts Center, the Palais Royale ballroom, the Northeast Neighborhood revitalization, and the renovation of the former Engman Natatorium into the Indiana University South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center. Under his leadership, South Bend received a White House designation in 2008 as a Preserve America Community. He also directed the completion of the riverwalk along the St. Joseph River and added 50 miles of bicycle lanes and routes throughout our city.

He has served on the advisory board for Indiana University South Bend during a period of expansion and growth that positioned it as an active participant in the economic development of our region. Enrollment growth at Ivy Tech Community College has exploded and has led to a partnership between the city's Redevelopment Commission and the college as the commission acquires and relocates businesses to help expand the campus of Ivy Tech even more.

With concern for the future, Mayor Lueke's vision has helped provide the spark for several environmental efforts that led to South Bend's designation as Indiana's Green Community of the Year in 2009.

Our city has developed into an innovative, dynamic and progressive place, and in 2011 it was named an All-America City. Mayor Steve's progressive vi-

sion, collaborative leadership, and passionate advocacy for good government earned him the 2011 Association of Cities and Towns Russell G. Lloyd Distinguished Service Award. He is also the 2011-2012 IACT president.

So today, on behalf of all the citizens of South Bend, Indiana, I want to thank Mayor Steve for his unselfish years of dedication to the city and to its people. You will never be forgotten.

Thank you for everything. Thank you, Mayor, and God bless you, Peg and your family.

#### YUCCA MOUNTAIN

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, this is my third time on the floor to talk about high-level nuclear waste in Yucca Mountain. I started talking about Hanford, which is in Washington State, comparing it to the Yucca facility. In Hanford, 53 million gallons of nuclear waste; zero at Yucca. Nuclear waste is stored 10 feet underground in Hanford; waste will be stored 1,000 feet underground in Yucca. Waste 1,000 feet from the water table at Yucca; 250 feet from the water table in Hanford.

At Yucca the nuclear waste will be 100 miles from the nearest river. At Hanford, it's 1 mile from the nearest river. So what are the Senators' positions on Yucca Mountain in Washington State and Oregon, knowing that we have 53 million gallons of high-level nuclear waste 1 mile from the Columbia River?

Senator CANTWELL is not supportive of Yucca Mountain. Senator MURRAY is supportive, at least in her public statements. Senator WYDEN is not supportive. And Senator MERKLEY is silent. They should not be silent.

A couple of weeks ago I then moved to my home State of Illinois and the decommissioned Zion nuclear power plant that still has high-level nuclear waste on site. Again, the same statistics for Yucca are there in a desert away from a river.

Zion is on Lake Michigan. Zion has 65 casks containing 1,135 metric tons of nuclear waste, waste stored above ground 5 feet above the water table, 1,300 feet from Lake Michigan. And Wisconsin has two nuclear power plants also on Lake Michigan. So what do the senators from the two States say?

Well, Senator DURBIN is supportive of Yucca Mountain. Senator KIRK is supportive of Yucca Mountain. Senator KOHL is supportive of Yucca Mountain. Senator JOHNSON is still silent on Yucca Mountain. I imagine we'll know soon.

Now we move to Georgia and South Carolina. Look at the difference here. Savannah River has 6,300 canisters of nuclear waste on-site. The waste is stored right below the ground. It is 0 to 160 feet above the water table, and it's right next to the Savannah River.

Again, compare that to Yucca Mountain—no nuclear waste. Waste would be stored 1,000 feet underground, 1,000 feet above the water table, and 100 miles from the Colorado River.

So where are these senators from Georgia and South Carolina? Well, Senator ISAKSON says "We need to retain Yucca Mountain as our Nation's high-level waste repository." So he supports.

Senator CHAMBLISS says, "We have long advocated that the Department of Energy immediately halt all actions to dismantle operations at Yucca Mountain." He supports.

Senator GRAHAM: "No one should be required to pay for an empty hole in the Nevada desert."

"The decision by the Obama administration to close Yucca Mountain is ill-advised and leaves our Nation without a disposal plan for spent nuclear fuel or Cold War waste." That's what Hanford is, Cold War nuclear waste from our weapons sector.

What does Senator DEMINT say? "Without Yucca Mountain, America will not have a safe and secure place to permanently store nuclear waste and instead waste will pile up at existing reactors."

We will continue, and I will continue to come down on the floor and go through the Nation highlighting high-level nuclear waste all over this country when the Federal law under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 says we should have one site, and the law says that site is Yucca Mountain.

And so as we continue to go through the States, hopefully some Senators will get off the dime and state their positions, culminating with 60 Senators in support as we move this forward, this Nation forward, to a more secure location for high-level nuclear waste away from lakes, away from rivers, away from the groundwater tables.

There's no safer place on the planet than underneath the mountain in a desert, and that place is Yucca Mountain.

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#### INCOME DISPARITY IN AMERICA

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it appeared sometime yesterday that the Congressional Budget Office looked at statistically where the wealth of this country is being held and came to the conclusion that 1 percent of America's high earners have 42 percent of the Nation's wealth. It also pointed out that one out of every five kids, American kids, is born into poverty.

Well, certainly one might look at the income tax system to see whether or not this disparity is being dealt with. But if you do, you will find out that we have aggressively protected income for people who are wealthy enough to invest it at lower rates than lower income people who work hard every day