

So let's look at the surrounding Senators and what are their current positions as far as we can determine. Senator BOXER says that if the Yucca project is constructed, there will be thousands of shipments of high-level nuclear waste transported through California. She voted "no" on Yucca Mountain in 2002. Senator FEINSTEIN, after Fukushima Daiichi, said, "I had always thought we didn't need one. Yesterday"—and that was the day after the damage done because of the tsunami in Japan—"yesterday candidly changed my mind." She voted "no" to Yucca in 2002. I think she might be reconsidering.

Senator MCCAIN voted "yes" in 2002. "I was absolutely opposed to its closure," he said, referring to Yucca Mountain. "It's absolutely ridiculous to not have Yucca Mountain after developing it over a 20-year process." I would agree with Senator MCCAIN. We've already spent \$12.5 billion for Yucca Mountain. I think it's time that we finish the project. Senator KYL is quoted—these are the two Senators from Arizona, next to California—and he used this example of just everyday residential waste. He says, "It is a little like saying since every Wednesday morning, everybody in my area of Phoenix is going to put their garbage out, and because we keep producing garbage, we should not have a dump to where all that garbage is taken. If we produce more garbage and store it on-site, it is, in effect, storing it on the curb. That doesn't argue for the proposition that there should not be a central repository where that material is taken and disposed of in a proper way."

□ 1910

So I come back down to the floor to highlight another location where you have high-level nuclear waste near a major body of water, the Pacific Ocean, not in the desert as defined by law we should.

Other States and locations that I've talked about, I first went to Hanford which is high-level nuclear waste, 23 million gallons in tanks that are leaking a mile from the Columbia River. Then I went to Zion.

Mr. DOLD. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SHIMKUS. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. DOLD. The gentleman raises a great point. In Zion, just a sheer couple of miles from my district, right along the coast of Lake Michigan, next to 95 percent of the fresh drinking water, surface fresh water in the United States, and we're storing just literally yards off the shore of Lake Michigan spent fuel rods. That is obviously not the place to be doing that; and it's my understanding, correct me if I'm wrong, at Yucca Mountain we're talking about 1,000 feet underground, 1,000 feet above the water table, and at least 100 miles away from most of the individuals and inhabitants that are around. A perfect place. And we've spent \$14 billion constructing it. It

seems like common sense that we want this waste not around fresh water, not around some of the urban areas, but in a place specifically designed, as Yucca Mountain is.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Reclaiming my time, as my colleagues know, Senator KIRK is strongly in support of moving high-level nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain. Senator DURBIN said the right things. We just want him now to lead on that issue for the importance of the State of Illinois.

Another week I talked about the Savannah River site, nuclear waste right on the Savannah River, and highlighted the Senators there. And now I end up this week talking about California. This is not the only nuclear power plant that's on the Pacific Ocean. There's one in San Luis Obispo.

I appreciate my colleagues allowing me this time to do my weekly process of talking about high-level nuclear waste. It's the law of the land, and we're going to continue to work hard until we get this done and we move and have a central repository for high-level nuclear waste in Las Vegas, in Nevada at Yucca Mountain.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### GOP FRESHMEN HOUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) is recognized for the balance of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, tonight I am joined by several of my colleagues from the freshman class to talk about some of the greatest issues facing our country and what we are going to do in this country to get our job creators back on their feet so we can do something to address the unacceptably high levels of unemployment.

For the past 11 months in this Congress, we have been focused on what it would take to get government out of the way and let job creators do what they do best, and that's put people back to work. How can we restore the economic growth of this country? Obviously as part of that, you look at so many of the policies that this country has—whether it's regulations, whether it's overspending, whether it's our tax policy—but it all starts right here in the House of Representatives of what we are going to do, the policies we are going to pass to get this country hiring again.

Over the past several months, this is the 32nd month in a row, actually, where unemployment has exceeded 8 percent. For 32 consecutive months, the unemployment rate has been at or above 8 percent. Remember back when the stimulus was passed, they said if it was passed, the unemployment rate would never exceed 8 percent. But we're in the 32nd month in a row of unemployment over 8 percent. Fourteen million people, the number of Ameri-

cans who are unemployed. The number of net jobs the economy has shed from February 2009 when the stimulus was signed into law, 2.2 million people losing their work. The unemployment rate among job-seekers between the age of 16 and 19 is 24.6 percent.

This country faces a crisis. It's a crisis of jobs, and that's what we have risen to the task to accomplish, to find jobs and to make sure that we are creating policies to get this country back to work. The House of Representatives for the past 11 months has worked hard to pass legislation to find ways to get the private sector moving again.

I would start with a number of bills that we've called the forgotten 15. The forgotten 15 are a number of bills that this House has passed, many with strong bipartisan support, to get job creators going again and to get the private sector invigorated and hiring once again. One bill is Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act. My bill, H.R. 2021, No. 7 on the list, this bill, if signed into law by the President, would create 54,000 jobs around the country, creating opportunities to develop American energy and American energy security. There are actually more bills. This is just the beginning, and we've gotten 15.

The question I hear in town meeting after town meeting is: Where are those jobs? Well, I want to show you another chart that shows where those jobs are. You see the forgotten 15. We did a little Google search and the Google search showed us those jobs are right here in the United States Senate. They are waiting to be passed by the United States Senate. Where are the jobs? The forgotten 15 are piling up in the Senate. The bills that we have passed, bills like the Jobs and Energy Permitting Act that would create jobs—54,000 jobs waiting in the United States Senate; waiting to be acted on; waiting to be moved; waiting to be signed by the President of the United States.

We have got a great conversation tonight, and I hope participation from colleagues around the country will shed light on our efforts.

Mr. DOLD. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GARDNER. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. DOLD. You've talked about the forgotten 15. I'm just wondering if the jobs bills that we passed on the floor just moments ago would add 16 and 17 onto that list.

Mrs. ROBY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GARDNER. Reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentlelady from Alabama.

Mrs. ROBY. It's actually 22. Our work today on the floor put the forgotten 15 to a number of 22. I don't know if you're ready for us to start this discussion, but I would just like to read a couple of words.

We have all been carrying around "Where are the jobs?" Everybody has theirs, I'm sure, in their pocket to remind the people of the United States of America of exactly these bills and what

we have done to reduce regulatory burdens to allow for offshore drilling. The list goes on and on. And even today, the Access to Capital and Entrepreneur Access to Capital was right here on the floor just minutes ago.

But I found myself looking at the thesaurus, looking for a good word for “forgotten” because now we’re at 22. Instead of picking a great “T” word, although there is one and I’ll get back to that in a minute, we can look at words like “abandoned,” “blanked out,” “blotted out,” “omitted,” “left behind,” “drew a blank,” but the best one is “slipped one’s mind.”

I think as Americans we have to ask ourselves what’s on the minds of those in the Democrat majority in the Senate, because if they were to get out and travel around their district and look into the eyes of the people who are without jobs, who can’t put food on the table, who are struggling to make ends meet, I think it might slip them right back into reality.

The President is saying over and over and over again, We can’t wait. Yet now we’ve got the tardy 22. These bills need to be voted on by the Senate. It has been over 900 days since they have even passed a budget. This is unconscionable. This is the United States of America, the greatest Nation in the world; and yet we have a Senate that is unwilling to do the job that the people of America sent them here to do.

So as we continue through this discussion here tonight, we need to focus on the tardy 22, the bills that have yet to be voted on by the Senate.

I thank my friend from Colorado for having this hour tonight.

Mr. GARDNER. I thank both the lady from Alabama and the gentleman from Illinois who rightfully pointed out that with the addition of the bills that passed the House just today, we have added to the forgotten 15 bills that are creating jobs, that have passed the House, many with strong bipartisan support, that number now reaching 22, the bills that would create thousands and thousands of jobs around the country, recognized by people on both sides of the aisle as bills that would do what it takes to create jobs in this country.

I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. REED. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for taking the leadership role and putting this hour together, and joining my fellow freshman Members on the floor of the House to talk about the number one issue of the day, and that is our economy. That is jobs.

□ 1920

I come down here tonight to join my colleagues and to tell the American people that we here in the House of Representatives are going to be open and honest and will push forward an agenda that relies on the private sector being that primary engine that creates the economic environment so that people—hardworking Americans, hardworking taxpayers—have the oppor-

tunity to take care of their children for generations to come by having a good, solid job.

I’m looking at the vote tally from tonight’s two votes that we took just moments ago that added to the forgotten 15, the last two of the tardy 22. And look at the numbers on passage of each bill. It was 407–17, and it was 413–11. That is almost an unbelievable percentage of bipartisan support in the House of Representatives for two bills that are going to create a stronger private sector America so that we can put people back to work.

And yet we continue to engage in partisan politics in the Senate, and we don’t even allow these bills to have a vote on the floor of the Senate, at least to be debated in an open and honest debate, an argument about their merits to be heard by all Americans just like we do here in the House of Representatives on the floor of the House.

It’s interesting. I listen to the President as he goes around and he’s promoting his Jobs Act bill, and I would say that I clearly have an impression that the President is concerned about his job. But is he really concerned about your job? Because he’s spending an inordinate amount of time going around this country rather than coming here to Washington and working with us in the House and working with the Members in his own party in the Senate to say, Take up with these bills and have an honest debate. Send them over. If they strengthen the private sector of America—like essentially all of our colleagues here in the House agreed tonight would do by passing and supporting these bills with the numbers that we see—have that debate in the Senate and move forward.

We’re going to stand, and we’re going to continue to work for the hardworking taxpayers here in the House of Representatives. I know my colleagues share in that sentiment because that’s what we came to Washington to do. We came to Washington as freshmen Members of Congress not to engage in politics, not to engage in partisan debates, but to talk about fundamental policy issues that are going to move us forward as a Nation, so that we can have the great experience that we’ve all enjoyed and the opportunities that we’ve all enjoyed, so that all of our fellow Americans can give that opportunity not only to themselves but to their kids, to their brothers, their sisters, so everybody in this Nation can enjoy that opportunity.

Mr. GARDNER. I thank the gentleman from New York.

You bring up some great points in terms of what the American people are facing when they look at Congress and see the number of bills that we have passed with bipartisan support to create jobs. They see them passing the House with bipartisan support and going over to the Senate and are asking, Where are the jobs? Right over in the U.S. Senate.

I will share with you some of the uncertainty that our constituents are fac-

ing. Consumer confidence has plunged. A measure of Americans’ optimism about the economy and their personal financial situations recently dropped to its lowest level in 2½ years in October. CBS News had a poll this past month. Americans say they feel worse about the economy than they have since the depths of the Great Depression. The Great Recession that we are in now, the fact that Americans feel worse about this time than they did about the Great Depression is simply unacceptable. And we have addressed legislation. We have passed legislation to deal with the uncertainty and to put people back to work.

I now yield to the gentlelady from Washington, one of the ladies who has worked very hard in this House to get people back to work.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Thank you so much.

We’re all here tonight because we really believe that America is the greatest country on the face of the Earth, and it is so because of her people.

Folks at home in my neck of the woods in southwest Washington are out of work. I can go through the statistics. It’s alarming. It’s very alarming. I have family and close friends who have been out of work now going on several years. Double-digit unemployment, and we’ve been at this rate for 3, going on 4 years now.

I had a jobs fair a couple of weeks ago. We invited employers who are hiring real jobs, good jobs to come. We got them in a room with job seekers and put out kind of an all-hands-on-deck call: Anybody who’s looking for a job, we have real job openings available. Come to this jobs fair. We had over 1,700 people show up. And as I walked through the line that snaked through the parking lot to say hello and to greet these folks, I was talking to men and women, young and old, very experienced or fresh out of high school or college who were looking to find work, experienced individuals who had that look on their face, some of them, of desperation. And they’re asking, What is Congress going to do? What is Congress going to do to help me find work to keep my mortgage, to pay for my kids’ education, and to put food on the table? What are you going to do?

Well, we’re here tonight to talk about some of the things we’ve already done. And right now what we’re doing is we want to put pressure on the other side of the rotunda to pass these bills and get some jobs flowing for the folks who stood in that parking lot.

That event was a success. We’ve had over 30 people find work, and we’ve had hundreds more who are in interviews. Great. I did that because I didn’t feel you could wait on an act of Congress. And watching those individuals who are on the other side of the rotunda who haven’t passed any of these jobs bills, it would seem like a good idea. But here tonight we are applying appropriate pressure to that group, saying, Pass these bills.

Let me talk to you about one of these bills that will make a huge difference for people across this Nation. It's called the EPA Regulatory Relief Act. It's a simple bill. It's a very bipartisan bill. And let me tell you about this bill. And people throw around that word "bipartisan." What does that mean? It means strong support from Republicans and Democrats.

I'm going to read for you, right here is H.R. 2250. That's the bill that we passed off this House floor. These are all of the folks, my friends from the other side of the aisle. Here are the Democrats in the House who have sponsored this bill. We have folks in leadership and we have newer Members. They have joined with the Republican House here and passed a bill, the EPA Regulatory Relief Act, that the Senate must take up if we are going to protect these jobs. These regulations, in fact, hit all sorts of industries.

There's a rule that the Obama administration's EPA has put forward that says business, industry, and hospitals, anyone that has a type of boiler, you have to put millions, in some cases millions of dollars into this boiler to bring it up to some standard. That standard hasn't been clearly defined. And, actually, the EPA itself has asked and said, Can we take a little bit more time to figure out what we are requiring of folks before we require major capital investments, capital investments that could otherwise be used to hire someone or to increase productivity in a business to create more jobs?

But what's happening is these businesses are now going to be required to put this money into an expenditure to bring this boiler up to some code that we can't prove has any environmental benefit, which is why you see so many folks who are advocates for the environment who have cosponsored this bill in the House. We need the Senate to pass this bill; otherwise, we could lose potentially over 20,000 jobs nationwide. That's in the primary pulp and paper industry alone. I'm not talking about hospitals. I'm not talking about other industries. In southwest Washington, we value the primary pulp and paper industry, which is 18 percent of that workforce.

At a time when we need to be creating jobs, we certainly should be getting rid of those regulations that cost us jobs. The way we do that is we get the Senate to join with us and pass this bill, get it to the President's desk, get that man to sign that bill and move forward for the people in our communities.

The EPA, the Obama administration's EPA alone has estimated that that regulation, if untouched, will cost employers over 5, almost 6 billion, and that's the low-end number. The industries have said it would be as high as 14 billion. Any way you look at it, that's a high price tag that's going to cost jobs. Over 230,000 total jobs are at risk if you count the related industries, not

just pulp and paper. So we're talking about major impacts to our national economy, and all we have to do—all we have to do to protect those jobs is we need to pass this bill off the Senate floor, get it to the President and get him to sign it into law. We really don't have time to wait.

I have talked to the men and women, the moms and dads, the young people who are hoping to find work. And when we let some of our industry just go out, basically die, death by 1,000 cuts, death by 1,000 regulations, shame on this institution. Congress does need to act, and I implore my colleagues on the other side of the rotunda to join with us in this bipartisan fashion. Send this bill to the President, and have the President sign it.

□ 1930

Mrs. ROBY. Will the gentlelady yield?

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. I yield to my colleague from Alabama.

Mrs. ROBY. I just want to say to all of our colleagues on the floor tonight, it's so important to the gentlelady from Washington not to wait, that she's spending her birthday night on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives fighting for the American people. So happy birthday to our friend and colleague.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Thank you.

With that, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. GARDNER. And thank you for the points that you raised.

Talking about the EPA and the regulations they've issued, I had the opportunity at a committee hearing several months ago, the Energy and Commerce Committee, to discuss with the assistant administrator of the EPA—one of the assistant administrators, Mathy Stanislaus—where we were asking a very simple question: Does the Environmental Protection Agency actually take into account jobs, the impact on jobs when they do an economic analysis? And the answer we got was, no, he didn't take into account jobs when they did the economic analysis. And I find it hard to believe that anybody could actually have an adequate analysis of a rule or regulation's impact on the economy if they're not even taking a look at jobs and what it means for our economy.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GARDNER. I yield to the gentlelady from Washington.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. With that point, we're not saying let's erase or eviscerate environment protections, absolutely not. We want to protect our quality of life and pass it on to the next generation. We're simply asking, as with our Democratic colleagues, for some common sense to be used. Take into account, when you're going through the matrix of these environmental regulations, what the impact is on the economy. It's a very reasonable, very commonsense way to approach it.

Mr. GARDNER. I thank the lady from Washington and yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. I thank the gentleman from Colorado.

You know what's amazing about those forgotten 15? You know how much they cost? Nothing. I mean, isn't that great? When you think about it, we're talking about something out of Washington, D.C. that doesn't cost anything and is actually going to do something. I mean, how often does that happen? Well, if you look, a couple of years prior—or actually I guess a year ago 4 years prior—everything that came out of here cost a lot of money.

The President's own stimulus bill, as was mentioned earlier, when they said unemployment will never go above 8 percent if we pass this, in fact it has never gone below 8 percent since it was passed; and that cost almost \$1 trillion added onto our debt. And I actually remember once I was doing an interview and there was a fellow Congresswoman from the other side, there was a Democrat that said, well, you know, the problem with the first stimulus is it wasn't large enough. That's why it didn't work, it wasn't large enough. Okay. I disagreed, but for a moment of time let's say that's accurate; let's say it wasn't large enough. So why would you do a stimulus that's half as large as the original one?

Truthfully, to be honest with you guys, I think that the President has no intention of his jobs plan, his Stimulus II passing the House of Representatives. In fact, I think if we actually voted on it and passed it tomorrow, there would be some panic in the administration because they know that it's not going to be a job-creation plan; they know it's just a political thing to talk about.

This is a real job-creation plan right here, the bills that we have over in the Senate. And it's time that today we just—I mean, look, Senator REID, take up the bills, vote them down if you want to vote them down, but give the American people a voice. They can't have a voice when they sit on your desk. You don't have a voice when they sit on your desk. We don't need another \$450 billion added onto our debt. What we need is to pass these bills and this plan.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. GARDNER. I thank the gentleman from Illinois.

I know in Colorado that my neighbor the gentleman from Kansas has done tremendous work on getting this country back economically and what he's doing to create jobs.

I yield to the gentleman from Kansas.

Mr. YODER. I appreciate the gentleman from Colorado for yielding your time.

I was listening to the comments from the gentleman from Illinois discussing the unemployment rate being over 8 percent now for some time. In fact, it's been over 8 percent for 32 months,

which is the longest period of unemployment this high since the Great Depression. I mean, the things we're doing in Washington, D.C. frankly haven't been working, and so it's time to start pushing the types of bills that the House has been pushing this year to try to get this economy back on track.

I'm happy to join my colleagues tonight. I'm also happy to be a strong supporter of the forgotten 15 and the new seven bills and dozens of bills that are passing the House throughout this session that will help the economy recover and help small businesses create jobs.

Now, Americans are frustrated with what they see going on in Congress, with what they see going on in Washington, D.C., and there's a reason, because they see the policies that have failed in this town over the past few years and they don't believe that Washington can function and they can do things to help the economy recover.

That's because we've been doing all the wrong things. Whether it was the bailout, stimulus bills, Cash for Clunkers, the health care takeover, cap-and-trade, Card Check, you couldn't think of a more anti-business set of legislation that this Congress passed over the last few years than those bills. And what they did is they've held down the recovery and they've stopped small business owners, they've stopped entrepreneurs from growing and creating jobs.

Frankly, we know that jobs are not going to be created in Washington, D.C. They're going to be created back home in places like Illinois and in Colorado and in Kansas and in Alabama and, yes, even Wisconsin—all across the country—by innovators and job creators and entrepreneurs, the people that built this country and that create the jobs.

They're not going to come from big Washington programs, and that's what has caused the problems in this country. These big Washington bailouts run up national debt. All of it has not worked. And so it's time we changed course. It's time we start pushing legislation that will promote small business, that will promote the free enterprise system. And frankly, these things are common sense. The American people want Congress to pass common-sense legislation.

The point about these commonsense bills that the House is pushing, these pro-business, pro-job-creating bills that the House has been pushing and sending over to the Senate, is that they focus on the very things that built this country in the first place. This Nation was not built because we had the highest tax rates in the world, because we had more regulations than any country in the world, because we had national debt in the trillions. That's not what built this country. It was the hard work and determination, the sweat equity of the American people—who had no guarantees—who built this country brick by brick.

The commonsense things that Congress doesn't do, that they've been doing the wrong way for years—look, tax increases. Tax increases don't create jobs. Borrowing and spending doesn't create wealth, doesn't create jobs. Regulations don't create jobs. And so every day in Washington we're putting more barriers in the way of these small business owners that we want to have create jobs, and it's making things worse.

In fact, just looking at the regulations that are coming out every week out of Washington, it's unbelievable. This is just a stack of the regulations that have come out just this week in Washington, D.C. Monday, a new set of regulations. Tuesday, a new set of regulations. Wednesday, a new set of regulations. That one was pretty thick there. Thursday, another set of regulations. Just this week, these regulations, they just don't stop. It just keeps coming and coming and hitting our small business owners and stopping the economy from recovering.

Let me just give you an example of what these regulations have. On Wednesday alone, 188 pages of new regulations dealing with the health care takeover. Is that what the economy needs? Is that what you hear from your small business owners at home? Is that what Americans are crying out for, 188 new pages of regulations dealing with health care? It's got to stop.

And yes to the President: we can wait on having new regulations, we can wait on the President's big tax increases, we can wait on this stuff. We don't need 188 new pages of ObamaCare regulations. We don't need this new stack of regulations this week. It's not helping the economy recover. It's making it more difficult.

That's why I'm proud to stand with my colleagues today on the House floor and fight for the American people and fight for the prosperity of this country that we all believe in. We know we can restore it, but we've got to stop doing the stuff in Washington that's making it hard to recover.

Mr. GARDNER. I have a question for the gentleman, if he would entertain it. You're talking about, what you're holding in your hand, that is this week, that's just 1 week, 1 day of regulations?

Mr. YODER. These are the regulations that have come out since Monday. You have Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, the regulations. These didn't create jobs. These made it harder on the economy. Every day—in fact, I think there's been over 65,000 new pages of regulations coming out of Washington, D.C. Frankly, to the gentleman from Colorado, the people at home, they hear us talking about the regulations, but they may not always see and understand what Washington is actually doing. This is what we're doing to the job creators; this is what we're doing to the entrepreneurs of this country. We are strangling them. These regulations are making what was once the most prosperous Nation

in the world, that was a beacon of hope around the world that we all still believe in, it's trying to strangle that and we've got to stop it.

Mr. GARDNER. I thank the gentleman from Kansas.

One of the most common things I hear at town meetings is the issue of uncertainty in our economy, and the issue that regulations are forcing businesses to make decisions not to hire new people, but to actually either prevent them from growing or to actually reduce in size.

With that, I would yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. DOLD. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I still am just thinking about the regulations from this week, and the week is not over. We've still got another day of regulations that are going to be coming out.

And we hear time and again from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle that it's been 10 months and still no jobs bill. We hear it time and again with the 1-minute speeches when we open up session; the other side says "still no jobs bill."

□ 1940

Well, I beg to differ. We've got jobs bills. We talk about the forgotten 15. We've got several more. We passed some tonight.

Part of our plan is to empower the private sector. Part of our plan is to make sure that we're eliminating some of the uncertainty that's out there. And let me just tell you, the week of regulations, just 1 week of regulations that are out here that literally shakes the desk when you drop it is certainly not creating more certainty.

Now, the one thing that I am pleased to say is that I believe that we were sent here to be able to work with those on the other side of the aisle to move our country forward. I am pleased to say that we passed bills today talking about access to capital for job creators, like many of us here coming from the private sector—broad bipartisan support.

The President of the United States came and spoke before the Chamber here in a joint session talking about a jobs plan. As opposed to saying no, I don't want it, what I tried to talk to others about, and I know many agree, is what are the areas that we agree on?

Let's talk about free trade or the trade agreements. We agree. We passed those. That's about 250,000 American jobs, increasing our bottom line in terms of our GDP by \$10 billion this year alone with South Korea as the only one. We add Colombia and Panama and that number obviously rises.

The President talks about the burdensome regulations. We agree. We need to make sure we have regulations. As the gentlelady from Washington noted, we want them to be smart regulations, not just more of them. I mean, my goodness. How much does it cost us to even print these?

The long and the short of it is that we need to create an environment, we need to create an environment for the private sector out there with broad bipartisan support. And I believe that if we ask those on the other side of the aisle what's the biggest issue facing our country today, it's jobs and the economy. We just have a different view of who should be creating those jobs.

I believe it should be the private sector. I believe the private sector, entrepreneurship. The United States of America has been and continues to be the greatest force for hope the world has ever known. We have 29 million small businesses in our Nation. If we can create an environment where half of them can create a single job, think about where we'd be then.

Let's just take a look at this because these are some bold points, and I think if I asked the gentleman from Illinois to talk to me about empowering small businesses and reducing government barriers to job creation, I guarantee you he can give me a couple of things that we're doing right now here in this Congress.

If I talked to the gentleman from Colorado about fixing the Tax Code to help job creators, I know that he'd come up with some things because we've already done it. We passed a budget.

We're at 918 days in the United States Senate. 918 days, and still no budget. Yet, the law requires the Congress to come up with a budget every April 15. And yet that responsibility—by the way, it's against the law—has been shirked by the United States Senate.

We're going to hear more about this "Do-Nothing Congress." And I want to make sure that the American public knows that we are here passing what we believe is commonsense legislation, in a bipartisan fashion, to move the country forward.

We realize that unless things pass the United States Senate and go to the President's desk for signature, we're not going to be able to move the needle.

The American public is frustrated. We're frustrated too, because I believe that the American Dream is at stake. The American Compact that we all came to Congress to deal with, that we leave the country better for the next generation than we received from our parents and grandparents, I believe, is in jeopardy today. That, to me, is completely unacceptable.

Mrs. ROBY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOLD. I yield to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mrs. ROBY. I'd just like to say, I had asked for the totals; I didn't have them written down. But you take the kind of bipartisan support that you're talking about that we received on the two bills that we passed just today, the access to capital and the access for entrepreneurs, you take that kind of bipartisan support—the American people are

frustrated because the President is calling this the Republican Congress. This is a bicameral Congress, and whereas we hold the majority in this House, we don't in the Senate.

But you saw the actions that took place on the floor tonight. The first one passed 407–17. The second bill passed 413–11. There is a way to find common ground without compromising principle, and that is what we are doing because the American people are hurting, and we've got to create that environment, and we have by passing these bills.

We are calling on those in the Senate to see our bipartisanship in this House to get Americans back to work.

Mr. DOLD. I thank the gentlewoman for commenting on that. There's no doubt. Look, bipartisanship can be done. The American public is frustrated because they don't think that we're working, and, in some instances, we know that Washington can be broken.

We want to work together because we know we've got to move the ball down the field. We know we've got to get people back to work. We've got a 9.1 percent unemployment. What is it in Wisconsin?

Mr. DUFFY. About 9 percent.

Mr. DOLD. About 9 percent? In Illinois it's at 10 percent. In certain areas of the 10th District in Illinois we've got areas of 20 to 22 percent. I can tell you that jobs right now, absolutely number one priority, and that's why I'm willing to work with anybody here in Washington that's willing to listen, that's willing to reach across the aisle to come up with solutions. And I want to let you know, people are saying that we don't have a plan—we've got a plan: Jobs.gov. I welcome everybody to go get it.

Mr. GARDNER. I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois for his comments because when he started talking tonight he talked about his great hope and optimism for this country, the fact that we really do live in the greatest Nation on the face of this earth.

But we face tremendous challenges. The unemployment that you spoke about for your State, the unemployment in Wisconsin, the unemployment levels in Colorado and across this country are significant. Fourteen million people who are out of work, and if you start looking at the people who are underemployed or who've simply given up looking for work, that number increases even more.

I want to share with you something that I think is very difficult for all of us to realize is happening, and that's the fact that there's more fear about our future than at many other times in our history. According to a recent newspaper account, a resounding 69 percent of respondents said the country is in decline.

But yet we know this country is better. We know this country is great. We know that the bills that we have passed, the leadership that we have

provided will restore the greatness of this country and get this country working again.

I have worked with my colleague from Colorado for many years in the State legislature. He is a small businessman, somebody who knows how to sign a check to employees, to work under regulations that he has had to deal with, and in the State legislature he stood up for jobs, and I know he's doing the same thing here.

I would yield to my colleague from western Colorado, and thank the gentleman for being here tonight.

Mr. TIPTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

We talk about unemployment in this country—over 8 percent, 9.1 percent nationally.

Let me tell you the story in my district in Colorado, the two largest communities: 10.7 percent unemployment in Pueblo, Colorado; 10.5 percent in Grand Junction, Colorado. I have 29 counties in Colorado. We have one county that has higher than 17 percent unemployment.

There's a lot of discussion on this floor in Washington, DC, about jobs and the economy, and it's well placed. We talked about businesses. But what we often forget to remember is that these businesses are made up of moms and dads, grandparents, people with hopes, with dreams for a better future. These are the employers, the people who make America work, working together in business.

Let me tell you a story about a man named Jim Bartmus in Pueblo, Colorado. Just about a month ago, Mr. Bartmus, who was a contractor, was faced with a real dilemma. Just a few years ago he qualified under the President's definition as wealthy. A small contractor. That wealth he reinvested back into his business to try and grow it, to try and create more jobs in this country.

Mr. Bartmus made that investment. He paid down his line of credit to zero. When he went to the bank to re-up that line of credit to be able to keep that business going, to keep his 24 core employees at work, he discovered that, because of regulations, because of Dodd-Frank, that he couldn't get that line of credit re-upped once again. As a result, Mr. Bartmus lined up his equipment and auctioned it off.

When you talk to a grizzled contractor, and you hear his voice crack as he has to describe how he laid off 24 people that we call employees—and he called family, you know this hits America at home.

As I travel throughout my district, as I know my colleagues travel throughout the rest of the country, we hear the same lament from small business, from the number 1 job creators in this country. They're overregulated. They're worried about that pile of regulations that we see dropped upon the desk on a weekly basis. Being able to have access to capital. What is that tax rate going to actually be?

□ 1950

What is the President's health care plan actually going to cost? Those are the questions that they raise and why they are afraid to invest. If we will unleash American entrepreneurialism once again, if we will create that certainty for Americans to do what we do better than any people on the face of the Earth—that's to create, to innovate, to build—we can get this American economy moving.

My colleague from Colorado and I have discussed oftentimes there's something very unique about being an American. The very blood that courses through our veins is infused with something that people from around the world simply can't understand. We don't look for government to be the answer; we don't look for a government program. We want the freedom and the ability to be able to build our own future.

Government should not be a stumbling block to that success, but a stepping stone. And in this case, it means the government should get out of American businesses' way, the American employees' way, and let us do what we do best: get America back to work.

Mr. GARDNER. I thank the gentleman from Colorado.

I was speaking to a pharmacist the other day. You mentioned the issue of regulations, what it's doing to business, and they actually wanted to create a little different business model for their pharmacy by placing a pharmacist instead of behind the counter within the pharmacy, they wanted to move them up in front of the counter so as customers came in, they could go and talk to the pharmacist about what they needed help with. They actually had to change a regulation to allow that pharmacist to sit in front of the counter instead of behind the counter.

I now yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin who has been working hard to create jobs as well.

Mr. DUFFY. I appreciate the gentleman from Colorado yielding, and I commend my colleagues for your hard work and the focus that you have all had on jobs and job creation and legislation that's actually going to help move our economy forward.

I think we're in a unique time in American history. If you look at where we're at and the level of competition that we are under from countries like China, India, Mexico, Vietnam, Brazil, this is a whole new environment that we haven't seen before. It's not 1950, it's not 1980, it's not even the 1990s. This is a different form of competition.

If we're going to be successful in this new environment, we have to do it right because if we get it wrong, you see massive unemployment.

And as we came into this recession, I think the American people said to the President, We are willing to go along with you, Mr. President, if you tell us that we could spend a trillion dollars and from that you can take the pain

away, you can create jobs with that kind of spending. If you tell us that we can pass a health care bill and that's going to create jobs, we can pass more regulation and that's going to create jobs, okay, Mr. President. We'll go along with you because the pain is too great.

When one of my family members is out of work and I see the pain and suffering in their family, it's worth it, Mr. President. I will go with you.

Now, this is a path that we haven't traditionally gone down because we're an economy, we're a society of free markets and free enterprise where we look to the individual who invests, works hard, innovates, and creates wealth, creates opportunity, creates jobs in their community.

But we're willing to go for a while and say, Let's try it out, Mr. President.

A couple years down the road, we now look back and say where are we. Are we better off today than we were 2½, 3 years ago? And I think if you ask the American people, they will give you a resounding, No, we're not.

So what we're doing here today is saying let's go back to our great history. Let's go back to our roots of free markets. Let's try to streamline the regulatory process that this government has given the private sector. Let's make sure we free the American people, we free the entrepreneurial spirit. And if we do that and we engage in this new competitive environment against China, India, Mexico, I don't care who it is, if you set America free, we will compete, we will win, we will thrive, we will grow, and we will prosper.

That's why we in this House have passed bills with bipartisan support that advocate for free markets. And listen, some people come at us and say, You don't want regulation. That's not true. We want smart regulation. They'll say, listen, the Tax Code needs to be reformed. And we'll say, yes, absolutely it needs to be reformed. We want to make sure that there aren't loopholes that don't make big corporations and big industry and the wealthy not pay their fair share.

We were the first ones in Washington to say let's root out the loopholes. That was in our budget that we said let's root it out. And it was only after we did it did we see the President come out and say he wanted to follow. And I will tell him that I'm a willing partner to join him in tax reform.

I think as we look at what's happened here, as one of the Members here said, we sent over 22 bills to the Senate. And with that, the Senate hasn't taken up any of them. And as the gentleman from Illinois noted, at least the Senate should take them up and give them a vote. And if they want to vote them down, that's okay. But at least take them up and give them a vote.

They took the President's bill up, gave it a vote and on a bipartisan effort it failed.

So my point to my colleagues and to the American people is that if we are

going to move our economy forward, we have to tap in to the principles and the ideals that made this country great. That is what this freshman class is talking about tonight. That's what we've been talking about for the last 10 months.

I look forward to the work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. As you might notice, I'm on the left side here. I'm on the Democrat side of the aisle. I'm willing to work with my friends on both sides. But let's get it done. Let's not do it for parties. Let's do it for the American people, putting them back to work.

With that, I thank my colleague from Colorado for yielding.

Mr. GARDNER. I thank you.

I'd be curious to hear from my colleagues tonight. Over the 55 town meetings that I've held, I've never heard somebody come up to me and say, hey, when is the government going to start creating all of these jobs to replace 15 million unemployed, to give them jobs, 15 million unemployed. I don't know if you're hearing the same thing.

Mrs. ROBY. I get asked the question, or I did early on, What has been a shocking thing in your experience in Washington? And I unequivocally can say the most shocking part of this experience of representing Alabama's Second District is really beginning to understand how huge this government is, how the Federal Government right now today trickles down into every crevice of our lives.

And to go with the gentleman from Wisconsin's remarks, we are trying to get government out of the way and allow the private sector to thrive. And we don't have people coming up to us at our town halls saying, when are you going to pass more regulations?

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. What's amazing to me is we've conditioned—I mean Republicans and Democrats, not “we.” We've only been here less than a year. But the American people have been so conditioned to believe that if there is any difficulty, the answer is a giant government expenditure package, a giant bill with a lot of money spent. We've been conditioned to believe that.

So if the economy is bad, it obviously is because the government is not spending enough. Well, that's not true.

The reality is we built this country—and this is what I hear from people—we built this country based on people just having an idea and going out and getting it done. That's what we're talking about, that idea.

Mr. GARDNER. The statistics speak for themselves. Two million people, the number of net jobs the economy shed from February of 2009 when the stimulus was passed.

Are you hearing the same thing in the great State of Washington?

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Absolutely.

And here's an important point. We as Republicans understand that the Federal Government has responsibilities



and duties: security, our Nation's infrastructure. There are certain things we're responsible for. We're not against those things. We just think they need to be done in a smart and efficient fashion.

When you look at the last time the stimulus, giant amounts of money were spent before this most recent round of stimulus spending under the Obama economy, the last time we got things out of it like the Hoover Dam. We got something for it.

Out of the stimulus spending, which was sold primarily as a jobs bill because it was going to create transportation infrastructure, less than 7 percent of that \$800 billion stimulus bill actually went to transportation and infrastructure.

So it's not that Republicans don't support making sure those things take place. We're here to require some accountability. We're not going to throw money at it and hope that that works. We recognize there's something broken here in Washington. We have now passed well over 15 bills to get jobs growing to fix that thing that's broken. And we just need some help from folks on the other side of the rotunda.

Mrs. ROBY. I would just say this, too: I think the American people ought to be begging the question to the Senate as it relates to the tardy 22 bills that they have sitting over there on their side that we know will create jobs. They need to ask them specifically, their Senators, why are you opposed to this? What is your sound objective? What is your reasoning? We want to create jobs. We're out of work.

□ 2000

Earlier, I said another word for "forgotten" because the forgotten 15 has slipped our minds. It has just slipped our minds. We need to remind these Senators over there. All Americans do. They need to pick up the phone and ask, What's your opposition to these 22 bills that will create jobs and put America back to work so that we can be a thriving economy once more?

Mr. GARDNER. America's job creators, the plan that we have come up with to get this economy moving forward again, it's embodied in the forgotten 15, and the other bills that we have passed to join the forgotten 15 are piling up in the United States Senate, all these bills with the simple goal of empowering small businesses and reducing government barriers to job creation.

Fix the Tax Code to help job creators. Nobody opposes these ideas. Nobody opposes these ideas. If you go to Americans around this country and ask them, should we be encouraging entrepreneurship and growth, they're going to say "yes," and that's exactly what these bills do.

I'm sure that you're hearing the same thing in your meetings.

Mrs. ROBY. The private sector is sitting on trillions of dollars. We know that. The money is there to jump-start our economy, but because of all this

uncertainty, no one is spending these dollars to reinvest in their private businesses.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Yes.

How many times is Washington going to be dishonest with us and just say, I know it didn't work in the past, but it's going to work this time? The President himself said the shovel-ready jobs—chuckle, chuckle—weren't so shovel-ready after all.

That's fine—because it doesn't work.

This plan right here, this will work. The American people are our jobs recovery plan. The American people doing what they can do best, that's the recovery plan. It's not another \$500 billion.

Mrs. ROBY. And getting the government out of the way so that they can thrive.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Absolutely.

I think, for those controlling this time, it's important to recognize, if you want more details about these jobs, the forgotten 15, jobs.gop.gov is a good place to go. If you want pick up the phone and call your Senators, there's the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act, there's the EPA regulation bill, and there are several more bills that the other side needs to hear from the folks from home on.

Mr. GARDNER. I want to thank everybody for participating in tonight's discussion about our plan for jobs, about what we're going to do to get this country back to work. For 32 months, this country has faced unemployment of over 8 percent.

I want to share a story that happened just a couple of weeks ago when I had the opportunity to sit down with some employers around the State of Colorado. We were in a restaurant, and had the opportunity to discuss what regulations are doing to our economy—over-regulations, as mentioned here tonight. We all believe in smart regulations, in those regulations that make sense but that aren't overly burdensome to job creators. As we had this conversation, we talked about what burden we were placing on future generations, the high unemployment rate, with nearly 14 million people who are out of work, and what we were going to do to help America's working families make ends meet once again.

We had a waitress who was coming in and helping everybody, taking orders and working very hard that morning. After we were done, we walked away, walked out. The conversations were going, and I was the last one to leave this meeting. Just then, the waitress who was working in that room came up to me and grabbed me by the shoulder.

She said, Hey, I liked what you guys were talking about, because this is my second job. This isn't my only job. I'm trying to start a business, and I'm trying to work here while that business gets off the ground. We're trying to make ends meet so that I can get that business going, and I'm trying to work here.

As to what you talked about, the regulations that are hurting businesses, the taxes that are giving an uncompetitive advantage to people right here, that's hurting her ability to get her job going, and there she is, working a second job, and there are people out there with third jobs and trying to make ends meet.

I want to thank everybody for participating tonight, and I encourage people who may be interested in the Republican jobs plan to visit jobs.gop.gov.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 818. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to allow for prepayment of repayment contracts between the United States and the Uintah Water Conservancy District.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1487. An act to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to establish a program to issue Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards, and for other purposes.

#### THE PROGRESSIVE MESSAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ELLISON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me for this hour.

I am going to speak for a time, and then I am going to yield my time to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON), who has an important message, but I would like to start by just talking to the American people about the Progressive message.

You can sit at your television sets and you can watch this broadcast. For the last hour, what you would have heard is people claiming that you can get jobs by just taking away our health and safety rules, by just getting rid of regulation—and magically, we're going to get jobs. Well, we've had the Clean Air Act in place since the early seventies; we saw record job growth in the 1990s; and we have seen the Bush era, which was when the Republicans had the House, the Senate and the White House—the lowest job era in modern memory. They have tried their way, and they got us into this mess.

I will never forget that it was January 2009 when this country lost 741,000 jobs in that month alone, and the