

on which I serve. I am the ranking member of the Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response Subcommittee. I stand in opposition to Sections 1628 through 1634 and 1648 of this bill, which cut funding to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, also known as FEMA. I oppose these provisions because they are unwise, irresponsible, and they undermine what our Nation learned.

Do we want to go back? How many of us remember watching on television when we looked at 9/11. How many of us remember Hurricane Katrina. It wasn't that long ago, and I know I don't want to go back.

This bill that the Republicans have brought to the floor is reckless. It is not only reckless to our economy, it is reckless to the American workers, and, above all, it puts our national security in harm's way.

The terrorist acts of September 11 revealed the catastrophic consequences of our inability to communicate. Have we forgotten? We just got interoperable radios in my district in Signal Hill just last year. They are not all connected, and it is a huge vulnerability for all of us. Communication glitches also occurred during the response to Hurricane Katrina, yet the Republicans want to step back and terminate those grants for interoperable emergency communications.

Have we not learned anything? These draconian cuts will put our first responders at risk and slow down the response to terrorist attacks and natural disasters. I cannot in good conscience, and I don't think any of you can as well, accept these cuts to such vital pieces of emergency equipment that we all need and we depend upon.

Further, this shortsighted Republican plan also puts our Nation's firefighting ability at risk. Now, I am from California. We know about fires. We know about the need for firefighters. This bill would eliminate the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants program. You tell the resident who has lost their home that, oh, we will deal with this next year. Fires aren't something you plan. They are an emergency that has to be responded to.

So when we call upon our firefighters, the International Association of Firefighters, they are opposed to this. Why? Not because they are not being fiscally responsible, but because this bill would cut jobs, 5,200 jobs on top of the 5,000 firefighters we have already lost. Is your community willing to lose more firefighters? I don't think so.

The city of Compton in my district is the future home to an emergency operations communications center operated by FEMA. My district is home to several major oil refineries, gas treatment facilities, petrochemical facilities, and, of course, the challenges and opportunities of two ports, of both the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. These centralized major business eco-

nomics engines thrive. But we also have problems sometimes, and that is why we need the appropriate support of fire and communications to protect them.

This Republican bill seeks to destroy jobs, to end operation centers, all of the things that we have learned from the past. I can't support depriving first responders of the equipment they need to do their jobs. I can't support this bill and hurt our firefighters, our police officers and those who choose to serve us.

So, Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1, and I urge my colleagues to really look at this bill closely and make sure that our communities aren't paying. But the real abuses that got us here, that is where the cuts should begin.

#### CALLING FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE EASTER ISLAND CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. Faleomavaega) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I'm not wanting to detract from today's spirited discussion or debate on H.R. 1, which I will discuss at a later point of time in the day, but I want to discuss with my colleagues and the American people the current crisis now happening between the government of Chile and the people of Easter Island, also known as Rapa Nui among its native people.

Easter Island was settled by Polynesian voyagers about 700 AD. The island is famous for some 887 monumental statues carved out of stones weighing tens of tons. These statues are known throughout the world for their archeological wonder and mystery in terms of how these ancient Polynesians were able to carve and move these tremendous statues to different locations on the island. Less well-known is that Easter Island is home to roughly 2,500 indigenous people, known as the Rapa Nui Nation. The people of Easter Island carry a vibrant culture dating back centuries before the arrival of Europeans.

Like many other islands in the Pacific, Easter Island has had its sovereignty determined by more powerful outside influences. In 1888, the Rapa Nui Nation entered into a disputed treaty with the government of Chile. The Chilean government used the treaty as a license to treat the island and the indigenous people as property of the State. Chile confined the people to a small area, about 1 square mile, believe this, Mr. Speaker, today known as Hanga Roa. To this day, the validity of the 1888 agreement is contested by most of the Rapa Nui people.

Chile then annexed Easter Island in 1933 without the consent of or even consultation with the Rapa Nui people. The government of Chile unilaterally leased the majority of the island to private sheepherding enterprises, without the Rapa Nui Nation's consent.

The lands that were wrongfully taken from the Rapa Nui people have not been restored. Instead of returning the lands to their rightful owners, the Chilean government continues to favor private enterprises interested in exploiting the Rapa Nui culture for private gain.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, to the serious land rights disputes, several other issues threaten the livelihood of the people of Rapa Nui. For example, roughly 50,000 tourists each year flock to Easter Island to view these huge Moai statues. Yet the Chilean policies prevent the Rapa Nui people from benefiting from the tourism industry. Non-indigenous individuals and corporations possess most of the land, while jobs related to tourism often go to continental Chileans. Uncontrolled migration to the island has caused widespread unemployment among the native people, exploitation of natural resources and increased pollution.

Within this context, Mr. Speaker, the Rapa Nui Nation began taking a stand. In July and August of last year, the Rapa Nui people wrote several letters to the President of Chile, Sebastian Pinera, to negotiate a peaceful solution to the underlying problems of Chile's relationship with the people of Easter Island. The Rapa Nui people also began to peacefully reoccupy their ancestral lands, including the Hotel Hanga Roa, a five-star hotel supposedly being built by the Schiess family, a non-indigenous family, on ancestral Rapa Nui lands.

□ 1110

Mr. Speaker, while the Government of Chile attempted to initiate a dialogue with Rapa Nui individuals, the problem is that the Chilean Government also sent military police to this little island which is 2,300 miles from Chile. I can't believe, Mr. Speaker—we have 17 million people, good people, living in Chile—sending police forces to take control of this little island with some 2,500 Rapa Nuians and they have not even been given any consultation or even an opportunity to conduct consultations, serious consultations, with the Government of Chile.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that the Government of Chile can begin a dialogue for ways to help the Rapa Nui people achieve a greater sense of self-determination and self-governance in their lands. I ask President Pinera to advocate for a more positive approach for partnership and dialogue with the indigenous people of Easter Island. It is my honest belief that the indigenous people of Easter Island do not wish any harm to the good people of Chile. Nor is there a possibility that the people of Easter Island will ever pose a threat to the military and strategic or national security interests of the people and the Government of Chile.

Mr. Speaker, I also hope that the White House and the State Department and Assistant Secretary Valenzuela will take a stand against these violent

evictions and express solidarity with the Rapa Nui nation, especially in light of President Obama's planned visit to Chile next month and Assistant Secretary Valenzuela's recent testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee yesterday. I sincerely hope that even our international community will build pressure on President Pinera and the Government of Chile. Let's treat these poor people with justice and give them an opportunity to live in peace in this area. I ask that the good people of America make this appeal and that the Government of Chile be responsive to this request.

#### REGARDING THE REPUBLICAN CONTINUING RESOLUTION

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this continuing resolution, a continuing resolution that I call the silly, the dangerous and the hypocritical. Budgets are more than just numbers. They are a statement of our values as a Nation.

As a Congress, we are faced with several serious challenges: growing our economy, putting people back to work, investing in the future, reducing the deficit, and ensuring the most vulnerable in our society are protected. Judging on that criteria alone, this CR doesn't pass the laugh test.

It would cut 300,000 private sector transportation jobs, ensuring our construction workers are receiving unemployment checks instead of paychecks. It would stifle our competition. It would stifle competitiveness by making Pell Grants less accessible to students and families. And it would run roughshod over women, children and the environment. With such an extreme proposal, I assume my good friends on the Republican side would be coming forward with ideas to improve it. But what we've gotten this week is a combination of the silly, the dangerous, and the hypocritical.

In the silly department, we have an amendment preventing funds from being used to repair the White House. Now ironically right now, going on in the Rayburn Building, are remodeling of hearing rooms that I guess the chairmen of these committees have found no need to halt. How much money is being spent there?

Or how about the amendment preventing funds from being used for President Obama's teleprompter. Oh, right. We're going to cut \$3,000 from the budget. That's really going to help us. I would expect this sort of hyperpartisanship on cable TV, but not in a budget debate.

Under dangerous, we have: several provisions gutting environmental protection, rolling back EPA regulations on clean air and clean water, and reducing our investment in clean energy, making America even more dependent on foreign oil. How many more solar

panels do we want manufactured in China?

How about the amendment undermining a third party testing requirement at the Consumer Product Safety Commission? Great. So let's have Chinese companies pour in more tainted toys, more lead- and cadmium-filled toys for our kids.

How about the reduction in funding for our first responders, meaning there will be less cops and less firefighters in every single neighborhood in this country?

Or how about the amendment preventing funding for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, meaning big banks can call the shots again? Have we learned nothing from the financial meltdown over the last 3 years?

Or how about the unprecedented attack on women's reproductive health which will result in more unplanned pregnancies and more abortions; not less.

And finally, the category my colleagues on the Republican side seem to relish the most—hypocritical. The party that ran on jobs has authored a budget that would increase the unemployment rolls. Asked about likely job losses in the CR, Speaker BOEHNER said, "Well, so be it." It's like Marie Antoinette saying, "Let them eat cake."

The party that ran on cutting spending didn't take a scalpel to the defense budget; they took a toothpick. In fact, there's another \$2.2 billion in the budget for the V-22 Osprey, which is basically obsolete; \$495 million for nine Joint Strike Fighters; and \$450 for a second engine that the military defense budget doesn't want.

And the party that ran on fiscal responsibility has offered a budget that will balloon the deficit by continuing tax cuts for the millionaires and billionaires that don't need them.

I agree with President Obama, that we must out-innovate, out-educate and out-build the rest of the world. While not perfect, the budget he released this week will take an important step in that direction. As for the silly, the dangerous and the hypocritical CR we are considering today, I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Budgeting is a serious process, and what we're doing this week is unserious at least.

#### IMPARTIALITY AND THE SUPREME COURT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) for 3 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on a day that we're talking about the continuing resolution, I want to talk about a body that may someday be judging the continuing resolution—the Supreme Court. There is perhaps nothing more important to the preservation of our democracy than the continued guaranteed impartiality of our

Supreme Court. It's a uniquely American institution; it's been given enormous power to invalidate American laws; and it needs to be dispensed with complete blind justice, blind to outside influence.

However, this Nation's confidence in the blind justice of the Supreme Court has been badly shaken recently by a series of revelations regarding possible conflicts of interest by Justice Scalia and Justice Thomas in the Citizens United case. This landmark 5-4 decision overturned restrictions on corporate funding in elections that had been in place since 1947, and immediately thereafter, millions and millions of dollars in shadowy special interest group donations flowed into American campaigns. Two of the main benefactors of these groups were Charles and David Koch, billionaire brothers who operate a Kansas-based energy business. They spent about \$2.6 billion that we know about in the 2010 election cycle and likely a lot more in anonymous donations.

In addition to funding these outside groups, they also organize a lot of conferences in which they gather people of like mind to discuss their radical views and plot strategies to benefit their interests. Now if I were to ask somebody on a main street in my district if they would be comfortable with a Supreme Court justice attending a conference like this, having their plane flight and the hotel all paid for by the special interests, I know what their answer would be. They'd say, no way. Yet Justice Scalia and Justice Thomas did just that and they thought it was just fine. They didn't recuse themselves from the Citizens United decision at all.

But here's the real problem. This could be just an isolated problem to the Citizens United case. Or it could be much more widespread, with justices conflicted on several fronts, refusing to disclose their conflicts or recuse themselves when they have actual conflicts of interest. But we have no idea, because right now there is no law requiring Supreme Court justices to disclose their conflicts of interest as is required of all other Federal justices.

□ 1120

I don't believe we should be meddling in the day-to-day business of the Supreme Court. I get why there is great wisdom in separating legislative and judicial functions. But there's no undue burden in just requiring sunlight on Supreme Court proceedings.

So when we return to Washington after the recess, I will be introducing legislation to do just that, to implement a few reasonable reforms to add greater transparency and disclosure requirements on the Supreme Court. I hope my colleagues will join me.

My legislation will apply the Judicial Conference's Code of Conduct to the Supreme Court, which now applies to all other Federal judges. It will require the Justices to simply publicly disclose why they've recused themselves from a