

spend \$50 billion creating hundreds of thousands of jobs. We would not punish millionaires and billionaires. What we would do is, people fortunate enough to make \$1 million in a given year, we would say that on any money they make over \$1 million, they would have to pay a surtax of seven-tenths of 1 percent. I said: Does anybody out here think that is an onerous suggestion? Nobody raised their hand because it isn't. But on a straight party-line vote, it failed.

So we are going to continue to fight for middle-class jobs, bringing to the Senate floor bill after bill, as we have done, and we will bring some more in the future to put Americans back to work.

The Republicans have taken a different approach. I talked about it yesterday. They have advocated a wholesale repeal of so-called job-killing regulations. We know and we were able to show yesterday that of the jobs that have been lost, about three-tenths of 1 percent have been because of regulations. Does that mean all regulations are perfect? Of course not. That is why the Obama administration—as did the Bush administration, as did the Clinton administration—had a review of what regulations are onerous and we should change or get rid of. So we understand that. For Republicans, that is their job-creating mantra: Get rid of regulations. It doesn't work. They say that rolling back everything from limits on air pollution to rules that keep our worksites safe will create jobs and revive our economy. The problem is it is just not true.

Business leaders and economists of every political stripe agree that this GOP mantra is a falsehood. A respected academic adviser to two Republican Presidents called this myth spread by Republicans to cover up their woeful lack of meaningful work plans to create jobs “nonsense” and “made up.” I talked about him in some detail yesterday.

The evidence, in fact, shows that government safeguards have little impact, if any, on employment. The Bureau of Labor Statistics study found that last year only three-tenths of 1 percent of layoffs were caused by regulation. That is according to executives who ordered those layoffs. Nearly 85 times as many jobs were lost last year because of the slow economy.

But rather than work with us to turn this weak economy around, creating hundreds of thousands, if not millions of jobs, Republicans spent 11 months fighting Democratic policies that would have created these jobs. Meanwhile, they spent these past 11 months focused on killing regulations that make America safer, healthier, more efficient, and more productive.

For example, Republicans want to halt updates to the Clean Air Act. Since its passage 40 years ago during the Presidency of Richard Nixon—do you know why President Nixon and the Congress got kind of interested in

that? In Ohio, the Cuyahoga River kept catching fire. The river started burning, they would put it out, and it would start burning again. So President Nixon and others felt that maybe we should do something about the Clean Water Act. We also, during that same period of time, did something about the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Air Act alone has reduced emission of key pollutants by 70 percent, while the economy has grown by some 200 percent during that same period of time. Long-planned updates to the law would reduce emissions of mercury, acid gases, and other life-threatening pollutants into the air, saving lives.

Last year alone, the Clean Air Act saved the lives of more than 160,000 Americans, and it prevented 86,000 emergency room visits and 13 million lost workdays. This is money in the bank for all of us when we can save lives, prevent emergency room visits, and keep people working and not being sick. The Clean Air Act has prevented hundreds of thousands of cases of heart disease, chronic bronchitis, and asthma.

It is wonderful that we have helped clean the air, but we also have medicines that help. I can remember as a little boy going out to visit a woman who lived on the outskirts of Searchlight—that is really a couple miles out of the main part of Searchlight—and I have never forgotten this. She had asthma, and my mom went out to see if there was anything she could do to help. There wasn't a thing she could do to help. This woman was in such a state of distress. She said, “I can't breathe,” and she was making horrible noises that I have never forgotten. So things are better. One reason they are better is because of medicines but also cleaner air.

The Clean Air Act has prevented hundreds of thousands of cases of heart disease, as I have indicated, chronic bronchitis, and asthma, and last year alone it saved American companies and consumers \$1.3 trillion by reducing medical costs and increasing productivity.

Of course, all these benefits come with a price tag, but for every dollar spent complying with the Clean Air Act, this Nation saves \$30 in emergency room bills, lost work days, and environmental cleanup. And repealing the law of the Clean Air Act wouldn't make the costs go away. Instead, it would shift them from corporations to consumers. Complying with environmental safeguards is one of the costs of doing business in the United States. It is a part of being a good corporate citizen. That is why two-thirds of voters say that scientists at the Environmental Protection Agency, not politicians in Congress, should set pollution standards. Seventy-one percent of voters, including the majority of Republicans, support the stronger environmental protections that are attacked by congressional Republicans. Eighty percent of voters believe those safeguards will improve public health and air quality.

There is plenty of evidence that smart, fair regulations save lives and communities lots of money and also consumers lots of money. There is more evidence that stronger watchdogs could have prevented disasters such as the 2008 financial crisis or the West Virginia mining accident that killed 21 people last year. Simply repeating the fiction that regulations kill jobs doesn't make it a fact. But even if there is one ounce of truth in the fable, there are many ways to steer the economy out of the ditch and create jobs that don't risk American lives.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

EPA REGULATORY RELIEF ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Today, I would like to begin once again by focusing on a piece of jobs legislation that Republicans in the House have recently passed with significant bipartisan support and by calling on the Democratic majority in the Senate to follow the lead of the House Republicans by taking up this legislation and passing it right here in the Senate.

The legislation I would like to highlight is H.R. 2250, the EPA Regulatory Relief Act. This legislation passed the House overwhelmingly last month. Forty-one Democrats supported it over in the House. Senator COLLINS has introduced a similar bill here in the Senate. It has strong bipartisan support.

Most Americans are probably aware by now that the Obama administration is crushing businesses across the country with a mountain of redtape and new regulations that it imposes outside of the legislative process. When asked about their challenges, small business owners now rank these regulations at the very top of the challenges they face.

One of the chief offenders is the EPA, and one of the most potentially damaging regulations this redtape factory has proposed relates to the boilers that are used by just about every manufacturer or institution in this country that doesn't get the power it needs from standard utilities.

Right now, EPA wants to force anybody with an industrial-sized boiler to change their facilities to comply with a burdensome new regulation that, according to one study, could put 230,000 jobs at risk.

So here is what Senator COLLINS has in mind that the EPA Regulatory Relief Act would do about all of this problem. Here is what it would do to protect jobs right here in America:

First, Senator COLLINS' bill would provide more time for EPA to issue regulations for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers, process heaters, and incinerators. This is the time EPA itself has indicated it needs in

order to collect more data and analysis and to finalize the rules, so it gives EPA what it says it needs. More specifically, it would provide EPA 15 months from the date of the bill's enactment to repropose and finalize the new boiler rules, which I want to emphasize the EPA has actually already requested at this time. This bill would also extend the compliance deadlines from 3 to 5 years, which would allow companies adequate time to comply with the new standards and install the required equipment.

Crucially, this bill would also direct the EPA to ensure that the new rules are achievable and realistic. We all recognize the vital role the EPA plays in keeping the air we breathe and the water we drink clean and safe. We also need to get some commonsense limits on its actions, and that means putting in place laws that protect Americans against the kind of regulatory overreach that too many unelected bureaucrats in Washington seem to live for these days, especially in these challenging economic times.

As I said, this bill has a lot of support not only from Republicans but from Democrats here in the Senate. In fact, 12 of the bill's cosponsors are Democrats. Like me, they understand and appreciate how these new rules would adversely affect jobs and manufacturing in this country, and they want to work with us to do something about it. So this is the perfect example of an issue on which the two parties actually agree. The perfect example.

Senator RON WYDEN supports this bill because it directs the EPA to go back to the drawing board and craft boiler rules that are more in line with what is realistic from mills and factories, he said. Senator WYDEN argues that the EPA itself has admitted its boiler rules need to be fixed.

Here is how Senator LANDRIEU put it over the summer:

With manufacturing being one of our bright spots in our economic recovery, we cannot afford to jeopardize the industry's health and the high-paying jobs it supplies to this country. This legislation will give the EPA the time extension it needs to craft a balanced approach that not only keeps our environment clean, but also our economy strong . . .

This legislation is supported by the American Forest and Paper Association, the National Association of Manufacturing, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Business, the Business Roundtable, the Biomass Power Association, and around 300 other business groups. Too many jobs are at stake for the Senate not to act on this legislation that has actually already passed the House. I have previously mentioned an Ohio paper mill where 200 jobs are at stake as a result of this rule. The American Forest and Paper Association says 700,000 jobs in the paper industry alone are also at risk.

The Republican House has done its job. Now it is time for the Senate to act. Let's take up the EPA Regulatory

Relief Act, pass it, and send it on down to the President for his signature.

If Democratic leaders cannot agree to take up and pass legislation the two parties actually agree on, then what will they agree to pass? Let's follow the House's lead and show the American people we can work together on this commonsense, bipartisan bill to protect jobs in American manufacturing.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND GENE HUFF

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, today I pay tribute to a good friend of mine, and a man who has been a good friend of the Commonwealth of Kentucky for decades. Whether as a State legislator, a pastor, an evangelist, a radio station operator, or as a dedicated and loving family man, the Rev. Gene Huff of London, KY, has been a good and faithful servant in his community for many years. He has my respect as a model Kentuckian.

Gene Huff was born October 6, 1929. Before he was 20 years old, he had heard the call to preach and began traveling Kentucky as an evangelist. His wife of nearly 60 years, Ethel, recalls the first time she laid eyes on Gene when he came to preach at her church.

"On March 13, 1949, he came to Newport, Kentucky, to preach his first revival at age 19," Ethel remembers.

It was my home church. I had never seen or heard a teenager preach before, so when I first saw Gene, I wondered what he would be able to tell us. He was so young-looking to be a preacher. But I loved his broad, friendly smile and wonderful voice from the very start. And to my surprise, he really could preach!

At that first meeting Ethel was a 16-year-old church pianist. She must have been smitten with the handsome 19-year-old preacher. They dated for 3 years and were married on July 4, 1952. That same year Gene found a permanent home as a preacher when he became the first pastor at the First Pentecostal Church in London, KY, the church that would eventually become his home for three decades. From 1955 to 1963, he followed some other pursuits, including serving as pastor at the Upper Colony Holiness Church and Carmichael Community Church in London, and at the Deer Park Christian Assembly of God Church in Cincinnati.

He also worked for a time as a public school teacher and a tutor. But in 1963, Gene returned to pastor at the First Pentecostal and remained in that capacity until 1989.

Many Kentuckians have also come to know Gene through his life-long experience in politics. He was first elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives in 1967. In 1971, he won a seat in the Kentucky Senate representing the 21st district and served there until 1994.

I worked with Gene in his legislative capacity over the years and can truly say the people of the 21st district could

not have asked for a more dedicated, loyal, or hardworking senator. Gene was always true and faithful to his convictions in the State senate. He was the leader of efforts to oppose a lottery coming to Kentucky. Although he was ultimately unsuccessful, I know he was proud of waging that fight. He would eventually rise to serve as both the minority caucus chairman and minority floor leader and as the ranking Republican on the Appropriations and Revenue Committee for 14 years. In 2000, he was inducted into the 5th District Lincoln Club Hall of Fame.

Gene continued to serve as a pastor while serving his constituents in Frankfort. In 1974, inspired by his son, Marty, who had seen a presentation on a bus ministry, Gene found four schoolbuses for his church to buy and fix up, and he began running these buses across the region to bring people in to hear him preach at First Pentecostal. They named the four buses Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Before the bus service began, Gene's Sunday school had an average attendance of around 150. Within three months over 400 people were attending Gene's services.

Gene traveled even farther than the back roads of Kentucky when it came to spreading the word. In the 1980s, while serving as a State senator, Gene successfully got a resolution passed to assist persecuted Christians in Romania. Shortly afterwards, Gene traveled to Romania to see the situation there himself firsthand. What he saw so moved him that he began an entirely new phase of foreign missions in ministry. Gene would go on to make 28 trips to Romania, and he and Ethel traveled to 33 countries. In 1990 they formed the Good News Outreach missions organization to support their work in foreign missions. Here's how Ethel puts the effect these trips have had on her and Gene: "Involvement and support of foreign missions has been a beautiful addition to the tapestry of our lives."

As if all this service to both congregants and constituents were not enough, Gene succeeded in many other pursuits as well. He has installed air conditioners and furnaces, repaired washing machines, rebuilt cars, worked in home construction, worked at a car dealership and an ice cream shop, and hauled hay, coal, lumber, and watermelons. He once worked as a travel agent for KLM Airlines. In the 1970s he became part owner of an airplane and earned his pilot's license. On the day he resigned from the State senate in 1994, Gene and Ethel raised a 50,000-watt tower for WYGE, a Christian radio station which he continued to operate until 2007. I remember doing two interviews with Gene on WYGE.

Gene played a key role in seeing the brand-new, state-of-the-art St. Joseph-London Hospital completed, an acute-care hospital that serves a population of over 50,000 in four counties. When construction for the new facility came