

Henryville, a pizza shop was mostly destroyed, except for the freezer. The couple who owned it, rather than worrying about the loss of their business, asked officials how they could donate food from the freezer to those who needed it most.

In Marysville, the local Christian church remains intact, but little else. Pastor Bob Priest told me their decades-old building is no longer structurally sound, but the congregation has never been stronger.

For those of us who have seen the scale and scope of destruction up close, we know the path back will not be easy, but we will fix all that Mother Nature broke. Government at all levels will and must be there to help, from local authorities, to the State of Indiana, to our congressional offices. My staff and I, in particular, are eager to connect our constituents to whatever Federal services and funds might be available to help them get their lives back on track. But make no mistake, it will be the people of Indiana, the people of tight-knit communities like Henryville, Marysville, Chelsea, and New Pekin, who will rebuild their broken lives.

Now, during these tough times, Hoosiers are reminding us what it means to be a community of citizens—one Nation under God, indivisible, come what may. That sense of community has always bound Americans together in tough times, and it will get us through this tragedy as well.

May God be with those Americans who are putting their lives back together. We're praying for you and here for you.

VOTE "NO" ON AMERICAN ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE JOBS ACT

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, last month, the House Republican leadership commemorated Valentine's Day by planning a shotgun wedding between transportation reauthorization and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; between highway funding and Federal pension cuts. Many Members of this House spoke for and against this troubling bill, but I think it's time Congress started listening to the people.

Consider what my constituents wrote me when they asked me to oppose this transportation disinvestment plan. One concerned citizen in Vienna said:

I'm writing to urge you not to support the proposed American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act. This bill is anti-jobs, anti-business, anti-transit, and anti-environment. It slashes funding for transit, guts our Nation's environmental laws, and green-lights a set of controversial and damaging new drilling projects, including in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The director of a nonprofit in Dumfries, Virginia, worried about the utter lack of transit support in the proposed legislation, wrote:

I can tell you from firsthand experience that this proposal would have a profoundly negative impact on the ability of our clients to go about their daily lives. Many clients use public transportation to access our services, seek and hold employment, and remain independent. This legislation puts jobs and the services this agency provides to vulnerable populations at risk.

A constituent from Prince William County bemoaned the dearth of transit investments and commented:

For nearly 30 years, beginning with President Reagan, a portion of Federal motor fuels tax revenues has been dedicated to public transportation investment under Federal law. These revenues are a dependable and predictable source of funding and should remain dedicated to public transportation. The House Ways and Means plan would eliminate this reliable funding source and provides no funding for public transportation after 2016.

A senior citizen from Springfield, Virginia, worried about the impact of this legislation on alternative transportation options, said:

I strongly encourage you to vote "no" on H.R. 7. I am 65 years old and have spent the last 10 years of my life utilizing the paths and trails around Fairfax County and this area of the country for safe biking and exercising. Their existence has been critical to my efforts to improve my personal health. These trails cost so little compared to building highways and using automobiles and have tremendous benefits to all of us. Please do not allow this bill to halt the great progress that this country has made in its trails. Please vote "no" on H.R. 7.

□ 1050

A constituent from Gainesville, Prince William County, Virginia, where they have one of the longest daily commutes in America:

I am writing in opposition to the proposal to pay for any of H.R. 7 through cuts to Federal workers' pay and benefits. I urge you to vote against any plan that unfairly targets Federal workers and retirees to pay more for their fair share. Our nation's Federal workers are already doing their part to address America's deficit problem, which they did not cause. Their pay freeze will have contributed over \$60 billion to debt reduction.

A constituent from Fairfax echoed those concerns:

Congressman Connolly, I am contacting you about H.R. 7. I'm disgusted and appalled that those in public service are being targeted yet again to fix Federal budget shortfalls they didn't cause. As a Federal employee, I'm acutely aware of the shared sacrifices Federal employees have made in these turbulent times. I appreciate your support and representation in defeating this bill.

Madam Speaker, my constituents make a compelling case. Americans are looking for a long-term solution to transportation. Like any successful relationship, this one must be balanced, with sustained investment in highways, transit, and non-motorized transportation. We can't slash funding in 45 of the 50 States, including my home State of Virginia, while eliminating all dedicated funding for transit and hope to solve our transportation problems.

I urge my Republican colleagues, junk this bill. Let's start over again and work in a bipartisan fashion for

transportation in America for the benefit of all of our citizens.

REMOVE THE FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION DESIGNATION FROM THE MEK

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, for nearly a decade the United States has invested money, sweat, blood and tears, all in the name of a free and democratic Iraq.

Before the war, Iraqis suffered from the oppressive dictatorship of Saddam Hussein, and recent events have led me to believe that perhaps the new government does not value freedom any more than the last one did.

As a Member of Congress, I've been fortunate to go to Iraq several times to visit with our troops. And during my last visit with a bipartisan congressional delegation, we also met with Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki. During the 2-hour-long discussion covering many things, I asked one question: "Can we go see Camp Ashraf?"

Now, Madam Speaker, Camp Ashraf houses Iranian dissidents who are called the MEK, and I represent a good number of Iranian Americans who have family members in this camp. They are particularly worried at this point in time, since Iraqi forces had recently killed 36 residents at the camp just a few weeks before. Here are the pictures of those real people that were killed by the Iraqi forces that came into the camp.

Here is an example. You notice this is an American-made HUMVEE coming into the camp. And over here on this far picture, you see an Iranian dissident being run over by one of those HUMVEES driven by an Iraqi soldier.

So that is why the question was asked: can we go see the camp and see these Iranian dissidents? And of course, Maliki said, "no way that's going to happen." It left me wondering why he would refuse to let us see and talk to these people and get the other side of this invasion by the Iraqi soldiers. So we didn't get to go. And later I learned that one reason we were actually told to leave the country is because we asked to go see this camp and what happened to these 36 Iranian dissidents.

And now we have Camp Liberty. Camp Liberty, Madam Speaker, is the result of the fact that in Camp Ashraf, the Iraqi government is moving these dissidents to another camp called Camp Liberty. These dissidents are commonly referred to as the MEK, and Camp Liberty, ironically, should be symbolic of a name of freedom, but it's anything but that.

Now the Iraqi government, having moved these dissidents from Camp Ashraf to Camp Liberty, is still oppressing these Iranian dissidents. The reality is Camp Liberty is worse than Camp Ashraf.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani said it best: "This isn't a jail, it's a concentration camp."

Even in prisons, we allow lawyers to see their clients and their family to see their loved ones. But not in Camp Liberty. And remember, these people in Camp Liberty, these Iranian dissidents, have committed no crime. They have violated no law. You can't help but think that good old Maliki has something to hide again.

But word is leaking out that there's not enough drinking water in the camp, there are ruptures in the sewage system, and they're having to be fixed by hand by the residents.

Iraqi guards have their will at the camp, and they wander around with no rules. They violate the privacy of these Iranian dissidents, many of whom are women.

What's more, no one, not even the U.N., is confident that once political refugee determination is made by other countries, those countries will accept these dissidents into their country. Why?

Because our State Department incredibly, has the MEK, these folks in this Camp Liberty, designated as a foreign terrorist organization. In fact, Maliki told Members of Congress, one reason he treated the residents in Camp Ashraf so poorly is because our own State Department designates them as a foreign terrorist organization.

This designation is an old, failed State Department foreign policy that designated these people as an FTO as a favor to the Iranian government. That hasn't worked out too well with our foreign relations with Iran, has it?

Since then, we've seen that the real terrorists in Iran are the extreme mullahs and the tiny tyrant of the desert, Ahmadinejad, not the opposition groups that want democracy in Iran.

Both the EU and the United Kingdom have removed the foreign terrorist designation from the group, the MEK, but not the State Department. As Iran defiantly marches toward nuclear weapons, the best hope for the world is the people of Iran pushing for a regime change of their own government. The longer we keep opposition groups who want to do just that on the foreign terrorist organization list, the less likely it is that the light of liberty will have a chance to shine in Iran.

The Federal courts have even ordered the State Department to review this FTO designation, but the State Department continues to delay, to delay, delay making a decision. The State Department must remove the MEK from the foreign terrorist organization list immediately, and then let liberty prevail in Camp Liberty and let these people leave Iraq in a peaceful manner.

And that's just the way it is.

OUR LEGACY TO A NEW GENERATION: A WORLD FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, there was good news on the national security front last week. North Korea, one of the most dangerous rogue nations on the Earth, far more dangerous than Iraq was when we invaded 9 years ago, has agreed to suspend nuclear weapons activity. Through careful diplomacy, the Obama administration has secured this concession by offering badly needed nutritional assistance to North Koreans.

The North Korean regime has also consented to stop uranium enrichment, impose an important moratorium on long-range missile testing, and allow international weapons inspectors into the country for the first time in 3 years.

Of course, we must remain cautious, and we must remain vigilant in our dealings with North Korea. But it's clear that peaceful negotiations and diplomacy, as opposed to saber rattling that we've seen much too often in the recent past, is advancing our national security interests and moving us closer to a future of peace and security.

The President and Secretary Clinton deserve credit for this breakthrough. They have made nonproliferation and the securing of loose nuclear material top priorities. The New START Treaty represented a critical step in finally putting the Cold War behind us and increasing security cooperation between Russia and the United States.

It's my hope now that we will be bolder and more ambitious because it's time for the United States to exercise global leadership and true statesmanship, and move toward complete dismantling of our nuclear arsenal. That's exactly the long-term goal we committed to as a Nation when we signed the NPT 40 years ago.

To that end, Madam Speaker, I've introduced a resolution called NO NUKES, which stands for Nonproliferation Options for Nuclear Understanding to Keep Everyone Safe. NO NUKES. NO NUKES moves us aggressively in that direction.

It makes no sense at all that we have thousands of nuclear warheads when just one of them has the power to end life on Earth as we know it.

And if that's not good enough, eliminating nuclear weapons isn't just a matter of human rights and moral urgency, it's also a big budget item at a time when we must be exercising fiscal restraint.

□ 1100

We currently spend over \$50 billion a year on maintenance of our existing nuclear arsenal. How about we invest that money on programs that save lives instead of weapons designed to destroy life? For nearly a decade now, we've defended our country and its interests by sending thousands of troops to die in a foreign war that isn't making America safer but is costing Americans billions of dollars every month.

Madam Speaker, there has to be a different way. My SMART Security

Platform advances the idea that we make the world safer, not through acts of war and arms escalation, but through cooperation and conflict resolution.

For nearly my entire life, the world has lived under a shadow of nuclear confrontation. My oldest child turned 50 over the weekend. He was an infant in my arms during the terrifying days of the Cuban Missile Crisis. We can't make another generation go through that.

Actually, my 7-year-old grandson, Jake Eddie, is joining me in Washington this week, and I believe it is our responsibility to make a promise to him and to his classmates and his peers. Our legacy to them must be a world free of nuclear weapons. Our legacy to them must be a peaceful future. And one step in the right direction, in the memory of DONALD PAYNE, is to bring our troops home from Afghanistan.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 1 minute a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Today is a significant day for Americans in this election year. We ask Your blessing upon the American people, especially those who choose to participate this day in primary elections. Give them good judgment and a sincere desire for the welfare of this great Nation as they cast their ballots.

Bless, as well, the Members of this people's House. May they be filled with Your spirit this day and exercise their responsibilities with wisdom, understanding, and goodwill. May all they do be for Your greater honor and glory.

In the past few days, O Lord, many have been assailed by terrifying and destructive weather. Send Your healing balm upon those who have been afflicted and bless with rapid success the efforts of those emergency responders who are working tirelessly to rebuild shattered lives and communities.

And finally, with sorrow, we acknowledge the passing of DONALD PAYNE of the 10th District of New Jersey. We thank You for his years of service in this assembly and ask You to bless his family and loved ones. Eternal