

many children that I see, to do the right thing, to get a high school diploma, to be in the United States service, to get a GED that happened to have come and they're unstated.

This issue has been before the Congress for 11 years. In fact, there was an effort passed by the House that moved to the Senate, as was instructed, and the Senate refused to move forward on something called the DREAM Act. If you look at all of our cases and our caseload in our respective districts, particularly those of us in the Southwest, there are tons of cases that have come in that will bring tears to your eyes, children being deported away from their families or families being separated.

Let me disabuse you of the notion that this is not done under the law. There is a regulatory scheme under the Homeland Security Department that allows discretionary determination about deportation or whether or not someone should go into deportation. These are children. The President did the right thing by having an executive order that utilized the powers by the Secretary of Homeland Security under the Code of Federal Regulations to be able to use that discretion. It's the right thing to do.

Congress, it's not too late, my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, to come forward and support the DREAM Act that has been introduced over and over again, that had bipartisan support. In fact, it's not too late to help the farmers, to help the high-tech industry, and pass comprehensive immigration reform. Who are we, other than Americans, who are humanitarians, who are empathetic, who love the values of this Nation and believe in opportunity?

I don't want people to be equating the loss of jobs with allowing a few children to be able to be saved from deportation, whether they come from South and Central America, they come from Ireland, they come from Italy, they come from the continent of Africa, the Caribbean. It is time to be the Nation that we know we are, which is lifting up people, giving opportunity. This is the greatest country in the world, and I look forward to corporations responding to at-risk boys, Mr. Speaker, and, as well, that we recognize the importance of helping children wherever they are.

THE WHITE HOUSE DECREE IS BAD FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, last week, the White House decreed partial amnesty for an estimated 3 million illegal aliens and mandated acceptance of illegal alien work permit applications. The White House decree is bad for America.

First, Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable for the White House to pit unem-

ployed Americans against illegal aliens in a competition for scarce jobs. In 2009, the Pew Hispanic Center found that 7.8 million struggling American families have already lost job opportunities to illegal aliens. America suffers an 8.2 percent unemployment rate. Even worse, Hispanic Americans suffer an 11 percent unemployment rate. Even worse, African Americans suffer a 14 percent unemployment rate. Even worse, American teenagers suffer a 25 percent unemployment rate. All are hammered by a White House decree that grants as many as 3 million illegal aliens work permits.

I understand heartfelt compassion for illegal aliens, but where is the compassion for millions of Americans who are unemployed and suffering from jobs lost to illegal aliens? Where is the compassion for American taxpayers who must pay higher taxes to support millions of extra unemployed?

Second, the White House decree grants amnesty to illegal aliens. Webster's defines "amnesty" as "the act of an authority, as a government, by which pardon is granted to a large group of individuals." Further, "pardon" is defined as "a release from the legal penalties of an offense."

A penalty for breaking America's immigration laws is not lawfully getting a job. The White House releases illegal aliens from this penalty; hence, the White House grants amnesty. While the amnesty is admittedly partial, it is amnesty nonetheless.

Third, Mr. Speaker, the 1980s amnesty taught foreigners that America won't enforce its immigration laws. The result is over 10 million illegal aliens in America and an immigration mess that is destructive to America. A 2011 Federation of Americans for Immigration Reform study found that illegal aliens cost American taxpayers a net loss of \$99 billion a year. Illegal aliens overcrowd our schools and need costly English interpreters. In 2011, illegal aliens drove up America's K-12 education costs by \$49 billion per year. Illegal aliens overcrowd our emergency rooms, delay treatment for Americans, and drive up health care costs. Illegal aliens commit crimes, sometimes heinous, against American citizens and burden taxpayers with higher jail costs. In my home county, more Madison Countians have been killed by illegal aliens than have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan combined.

Mr. Speaker, amnesty did not solve America's illegal alien problem in the 1980s, nor will it today. Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. Mr. Speaker, America must never again give blanket amnesty to illegal aliens.

Fourth, Mr. Speaker, the White House decree is of questionable constitutionality. The Constitution states, and I quote article I, section 1, "all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States," and "the Congress shall have the power . . . to establish a uniform

rule of naturalization." The Constitution does not empower a President to make law. Hence, the only change to immigration law is as our Constitution demands, through Congress, not by imperial decree.

Mr. Speaker, in 2011, when it was not an election year, President Obama agreed. On March 28, 2011, the President stated:

With respect to the notion that I can just suspend deportations through executive order, that's just not the case because there are laws on the books that Congress has passed. The executive branch's job is to enforce and implement those laws. For me to simply, through executive order, ignore those congressional mandates would not conform with my appropriate role as President.

Last September the President again stated:

I just have to continue to say this notion that somehow I can just change the laws unilaterally is just not true. The fact of the matter is there are laws on the books that I have to enforce. And I think there's been a great disservice done to the cause of the DREAM Act that somehow, by myself, I can go and do these things. It's just not true.

Mr. Speaker, the President's own words speak volumes about the constitutionality of a White House decree that undermines America and the rule of law.

□ 1030

EXTENSION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TAX INCENTIVES

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this Congress' failure to extend renewable energy tax credits is already costing my home State, the Commonwealth of Virginia, jobs. As CBS News reported last month, Virginia is losing a wind turbine development to Spain because the United States doesn't have the right policies and tax incentives in place for renewable energy development. A spokesperson for the wind energy company Gamesa said that the uncertainty over the future of those tax credits for wind energy and the lack of Federal energy policy caused the company to invest in Spain instead of Virginia. The jobs to construct and maintain that turbine will be Spanish, not American.

The so-called Strategic Energy Production Act, coming to the House floor this week, actually perpetuates the problem by doubling down on oil and gas to the detriment of developing new and renewable energy sources in America. Even the Republican Governor of Virginia said that the lack of a national energy policy was one of the reasons we aren't moving forward with this project in America. President Obama has called on Congress to pass a "clean energy standard" that would guarantee a market for wind, solar, and other clean domestic energy sources. That legislation has not received any consideration in this House.

The House Republican leadership won't even bring legislation to the floor to extend critical renewable tax credits for wind and solar energy. Republicans consider it anathema to even suggest that they reconsider special oil and gas company tax breaks in the face of record industry profits. Yet while the extension of renewable energy tax credits would encourage the development of an innovative industry that would support America's energy independence, they allow it to wither. In fact, House Republicans actually attacked the renewable energy sector through a number of different amendments to the Energy and Water appropriations bill earlier this month.

As part of the Recovery Act, Congress and the President extended production and investment tax credits for the production of wind and solar energy. As a result of those investments, wind energy electricity generation has grown by 40,000 megawatts in the last 2 years. Between 2007 and 2010, wind energy represented 35 percent of all new electricity generation in America. Solar energy production in America more than doubled in that time period.

Approximately 173,000 Americans work now in the wind and solar industries, with 70 percent growth in the number of wind energy jobs since 2007. What other industry can we point to that has seen that kind of significant job growth? In fact, the growth in renewable energy jobs has helped offset job losses in the coal industry, which has been declining for many years. As the Nation continues to recover, and as monthly job growth moderates, it is essential to support innovative American industries, such as wind and solar, with extensive growth potential.

Wind and solar electricity generation creates American jobs throughout the supply chain. For example, Micron is a semiconductor manufacturer in my district whose components are used in solar installations. The value of solar installations completed in 2011 was \$8.4 billion. Thanks to Buy American provisions and other domestic manufacturing programs in the Recovery Act, we're increasing the share of wind energy components manufactured in America. Over 470 factories in the United States now build components for wind turbines. But as tax incentives expire, where will that future growth go?

In the global hunt for scarce resources, the renewable energy industry will not just be a job creator, though it will create jobs. It will also help support national security. If America is not at the forefront of this burgeoning field, then we will be left behind as global competitors seize that initiative.

Unfortunately, all of this economic growth is at risk as the Republican House leadership ignores renewable energy tax credit extensions. Failure to extend the production and investment tax credits for renewable energy will mean losing projects across the coun-

try. As our loss of a wind facility in Virginia demonstrates, Mr. Speaker, the failure to extend these tax credits in a timely manner already is hurting what would otherwise continue to be a growth industry.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I enjoyed listening to my Republican colleagues talk about the Constitution and how a bill becomes a law.

I taught freshman civics. And when a bill passes both Chambers, the bill then goes to the President. The President then signs a bill. It becomes a law. The job of the Chief Executive is to enforce the law, as signed and as passed.

Like the 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act, it is the law of the land. The amendments passed in 1987 identified Yucca Mountain as the sole geological repository for nuclear waste in this country. The problem is, it's not being enforced by the President, who is complicit with the majority leader in the Senate, Senator REID, in stopping the project.

So over the past year, I have been coming down to the floor and identifying where we're at on the status of what do we do with high-level nuclear waste. And I have gone through the whole country. I have identified all the Senators and where they stand. We actually have a majority of Senators—55 of them—who support high-level nuclear waste being stored at Yucca Mountain. We have 23 that either have made statements of "no" or 22 that we don't know their position. Can you imagine being a U.S. Senator on a very important position, never having to state your position on what to do with high-level nuclear waste or defense waste, especially if it's in your own State, and never being forced to come to a position.

Over the past year, we've been going around the country identifying all these locations. And now the time for truth has come, to really start narrowing down on individual States and Senators who should at least state their position.

So I return to my next-door neighbor State, the State of Missouri. I live in the St. Louis metropolitan area. I represent parts of 30 counties in southern Illinois. But I am very close to the State of Missouri. In fact, I root for the Cardinals, the Rams, the Blues. And if the University of Missouri's not playing the Fighting Illini, I'll root for the Missouri Tigers.

Missouri has a nuclear power plant called Callaway. And what I did months ago, I came down on the floor—these are old posters—and compared Callaway to Yucca Mountain. Right now, Callaway has 615 metric tons of uranium spent fuel on site; Yucca has none. Waste would be stored 1,000 feet underground; waste is being stored in

pools above ground. Waste would be 1,000 feet from the water table; at Callaway, it's 65 feet above the groundwater. At Yucca, the waste would be 100 miles from the Colorado River; at Callaway, it's only 5 miles from the Missouri River.

So the State of Missouri needs an answer by their elected Members of what should they do, how should we handle the nuclear waste at Callaway? Well, Senator BLUNT has already stated his position that he supports moving nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain. In fact, in a floor vote just 2 weeks ago, eight of the nine Members of Congress—a bipartisan majority—said nuclear waste should be in Yucca Mountain, or at least we should finish the scientific study to see if it's feasible versus keeping it in Missouri. The Members of the House who voted in support of the Shimkus amendment were Representative AKIN, Representative CLAY, Representative CLEAVER, Representative EMERSON, Representative GRAVES, Representative HARTZLER, Representative LONG, and Representative LUTKEMEYER. Of course we know Senator BLUNT supports it.

Now we focus on Senator MCCASKILL. This is no surprise to her—I've talked to her personally about this—that there would be a time when eventually she needs to state, does she support high-level nuclear waste being stored in Missouri? Does she support a long-term geological storage underneath a mountain in a desert in Nevada?

□ 1040

If she would make a statement, we could then move her from the undecided to either a nay or a yea. And if a yea, that would bring us to 56. We're actually trying to see if we can get 60 United States Senators to say, Yeah, we support moving forward. We've only spent \$15 billion, going back to 1982, to prepare, locate the site.

Yucca Mountain is not just a mountain on its own but it's at the nuclear test site. It's bigger than the State of Rhode Island, the Federal grounds. It's Federal property. And so we come down on the floor—and we'll be doing this in the following weeks—highlighting individual Senators who are either undecided, no commitment, no position on what should be the disposition of high-level nuclear waste in their State, where it should go, and at least get them on the record as far as this issue.

Again, this law was passed in 1982. The amendment passed identifying Yucca Mountain as the long-term geological repository was then signed in 1987. We would just ask the administration to follow the law.

2,000 DEATHS IN OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

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