

a recent tele-town hall of our constituents, where 87 percent of the constituents said that they strongly supported the Keystone XL pipeline.

We cannot wait for more jobs and for better economic certainty for all generations.

SUPPORT THE KEystone XL PIPELINE

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. I ask that the President reconsider his reported rejection of this project. This project will increase employment while reducing our dependence on overseas oil.

Canada has already made its decision. The pipeline is going to be built. The question is whether it lands on the gulf coast of the United States or the west coast of Canada. And make no mistake: If it ends up on Canada's coast, that oil will only continue westward to China and their markets. The jobs and the economic benefit of the pipeline would then be lost here in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this pipeline is a foregone conclusion; who will benefit is not. This is a chance to employ Americans and help protect them in a volatile oil market.

I ask the President to reconsider his reported rejection of this project.

IT'S A "NO" TO KEystone?

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there is disturbing news today regarding our national security and economic security. Politico reports that the administration will say "no" to the Keystone XL pipeline today. So "no" to thousands of union and nonunion jobs to build the pipeline, and "no" to refinery jobs in southeast Texas. "No" to obtaining oil from a reliable nation and ally like Canada.

But "yes" to more oil from dictators like Chavez from Venezuela; "yes" to being held hostage to Middle Eastern oil and dictators like Ahmadinejad, who now threatens to stop oil tankers from going through the Straits of Hormuz. And "yes" to insulting Canada.

The Prime Minister of Canada says that he will build a pipeline, but now it will go to his west coast, and that crude oil will be loaded on Chinese tankers—China, our national competitor regarding the economy. Isn't that lovely.

If the administration chooses to say "no" to Keystone XL, the administration chooses poorly.

And that's just the way it is.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE BUDGET AND NATIONAL PLAN

(Mr. MARKEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARKEY. As we debate our national budget, we must address one of the largest costs threatening our economy and bankrupting our families—the Alzheimer's pandemic. 5.4 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's today, and as all the baby boomers retire, 15 million Americans will have Alzheimer's.

We already spend \$130 billion a year on Alzheimer's from Medicare and Medicaid. At this rate, in 2050, we will spend \$800 billion every year from Medicare and Medicaid on this one disease alone. That is more than the entire defense budget today.

Thankfully, right now, the Advisory Council for the National Alzheimer's Project Act is developing the first-ever comprehensive national plan to fight this disease. We cannot cut funding for medical research for Alzheimer's today if we want to balance the budget tomorrow.

We made a vow to care for our citizens as they age. NIH is the National Institutes of Hope. We must not cut that budget or else all of these families with Alzheimer's will have no hope.

□ 1220

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

(Mr. QUAYLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. QUAYLE. Mr. Speaker, it's not too often that a President of the United States has the opportunity with one swipe of his pen to increase private sector jobs by thousands of employees, while at the same time increasing our energy independence and our energy security. But that's exactly what's going to happen with the Keystone XL pipeline.

Unfortunately, the President, earlier this year, punted on that decision and punted it past 2013, even though his own State Department said that there would not be a significant impact on the environment. But we gave him another chance.

Unfortunately, there are reports that he will reject the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline. The thing that's confusing, Mr. Speaker, is that he's been saying that we can't wait for job creation. But with this decision, he's saying that we can wait for thousands and thousands of private sector jobs here in the United States and that we can wait for energy security. Mr. Speaker, this is the wrong decision at the wrong time. We need better decisions from the administration.

EXTENSION OF PAYROLL TAX

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, if I asked the average American, what should be the first vote in the House? For sure, she would say extend payroll tax, unemployment insurance, and the doc fix. What is our first bill? Disapproval of raising the debt ceiling. For what? To remind Americans that Tea Party Republicans brought us the loss of our triple A rating for the first time in American history? A new year demands a new start.

The payroll tax is the best way to eat into Congress' 84 percent disapproval rating. Do the inevitable. No poison pills. Any add-ons will be understood as just that by every American who draws a salary or who is unemployed or who is a senior.

Do it to get it over with and get on with a year of working on jobs. Come over to the side of the street with the 99 percent. You may grow to like it.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

(Mr. GARDNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, according to the Canadian Government, over 143,000 jobs in Colorado depend on our trade relationship with Canada. Further, crude petroleum is Colorado's top import from our neighbor to the north. And Colorado's not unique. Many of the jobs and energy around the country come as a result of our relationship with Canada.

It's been 3 years since the application was filed to build the Keystone XL pipeline, which would create a pipeline that extends from the oil sands in Alberta to the gulf coast, bringing significant oil supplies into the United States.

The United States as a whole, both economically and from a national security standpoint, will benefit immensely from the approval of this pipeline.

In my mind, it's a very simple question: Why import oil from countries that seek to do us harm when we can get it from our neighbor to the north? I'm continuously awed at how much energy potential we have in North America and how simple it would be to advance policies that would make us more energy independent. Isn't that what we're trying to accomplish?

But apparently there is an asterisk when it comes to job creation for this administration. Not these jobs, not these 100,000 jobs. Perhaps some others. This administration has done everything it can to stand in the way of a project that can help 100,000 Americans get back to work.

Mr. President, don't put a cork in our economy. Let's get this pipeline built.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to the President or other Members in the second person.

FRUSTRATION FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in frustration—frustrated with the lack of compassion for the middle class coming out of this body, frustrated with the lack of ideas and focus on job creation, and frustrated with the continued partisanship and division that have led to some of the lowest levels of confidence and trust for this body in its history.

America deserves better than this, Mr. Speaker. One hundred and sixty million middle class individuals deserve to have their payroll tax cut extended through the end of this year. Those who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own deserve to know that they will be able to continue to have a lifeline in the time of need. And seniors deserve to know that they can visit their doctor of choice without worrying whether or not Medicare will cover the visit. America and Americans don't deserve more wasted time.

Instead of a vote today on the debt ceiling, one that is partisan, divisive, and ultimately dead on arrival in the other Chamber, we should be focusing on jobs and creating jobs and protecting the middle class. Think of it: 61 percent of Americans always or usually live paycheck-to-paycheck, which has risen from 43 percent in 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I'm frustrated with the American people being also frustrated. It's time this body come together, put politics aside, and work on growing jobs.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, while the President campaigns on his "we can't wait" slogan, American workers are still asking, "Where are the jobs?" The President knows that 20,000 true shovel-ready American jobs can be created by approving construction of the Keystone XL pipeline.

Why is he rejecting 20,000 American jobs? Why is he not reducing our dependence upon Middle Eastern sources of oil? Why is he not increasing our energy security, which increases our national security? Why isn't he taking our debt crisis seriously by increasing revenue from taxpayers with American jobs? Why is he not listening to the American people?

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better from their President. He should focus on the 20,000 new jobs he could help create—not the one he wants to keep.

BE FAIR

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, as I was home, I was asked to explain the payroll tax extension, and as I did it, it was clear to me. The Republicans in the House are toying with the wellbeing of the working people, the seniors, and our most vulnerable.

Everyone will say we support a year's extension; the question is, how do we pay for it? The bipartisan Senate, only 10 voting "no," gave us the 2-month extension to do that negotiation. It is time to pass a year's extension.

People are watching this House. They want to be sure that we don't limit unemployment insurance benefits to those who only have a high school diploma because unemployment is an earned benefit for those who are unemployed through no fault of their own, and it would just not be fair.

Mr. Speaker, be fair. Do not make our seniors, our most vulnerable, and the middle class pay for the extension because that just would not be fair.

CONGRATULATING WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

(Mr. MCKINLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, on January 4, the West Virginia University Mountaineers football team faced the Clemson University Tigers in the prestigious Orange Bowl. Through an outstanding record-setting performance, the blue-collar work ethic of the West Virginia Mountaineers prevailed.

Eighty-four percent of the country had predicted that West Virginia would lose, but in case you missed it, the final score was 70-33. West Virginia's unheralded players proudly showed once again that as a team, they can dominate the best of schools on any given day, just like they've done defeating Georgia and Oklahoma in previous BCS bowl games.

Everyone in West Virginia should be proud of their State and their flagship university.

So let me end with this: For those Clemson supporters who still don't know where West Virginia is, look in your end zone.

□ 1230

COMBATING ONLINE PIRACY

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, today many Web sites across the Internet, from Reddit to Wikipedia, have blacked out their sites in protest of a bill before this body, the Stop Online Piracy Act, and its accompanying bill in the Senate, the PIPA Act. These bills threaten free discourse, free speech, and the

very infrastructure of the Internet, itself.

The Internet has brought this country and the world so much, not only in terms of the millions of jobs and economic productivity of American citizens, but far-reaching changes in terms of the Arab Spring and the Voice of Freedom desires across the world. SOPA and PIPA directly threaten the very Internet that has brought humanity great prosperity and greater peace.

I call upon my colleagues to join in solidarity with Internet users across the world in making sure that we tackle online piracy in a way that doesn't throw out the baby with the bathwater.

THE AMERICAN ECONOMY: PUT AMERICANS FIRST

(Mr. TIPTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIPTON. I appreciate following my colleague from Colorado, who recognizes the importance of jobs. Unfortunately, the President of the United States has turned a blind eye to the needs of the American people.

In my own district in the State of Colorado, according to the Colorado Department of Labor, we have 17 counties that have unemployment in excess of 20 percent. We have an opportunity to create jobs in this country. The Keystone pipeline will help provide energy certainty for this country in a responsible way, and will create American jobs on American soil to be able to put American people back to work.

Today, we hear the President is throwing his hands up and turning his back on the American people. The people deserve better. We must get this economy moving. We must create those opportunities for jobs for the American people. This is our time. This is our opportunity, and we call upon the President to join us in putting Americans first.

THE MUHAMMAD ALI LEGACY ACT

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, Muhammad Ali's contributions to the world continue to transcend his achievements in the boxing ring.

Although he won three heavyweight championships, Muhammad has never believed in resolving differences through conflict. He is a man of peace and justice, of patience and grace—a visionary who changed the boxing world so he could change the entire world. In 2005, he founded the Muhammad Ali Center in my hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. The center is a cultural attraction and an international education hub, whose work is based on the core values by which Muhammad lives—respect, confidence, conviction, dedication, giving, and spirituality.

Yesterday, Muhammad turned 70. Today, I'm introducing the Muhammad