

IN MEMORY OF MAERSK
MCKINNEY MOLLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FARENTHOLD). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor the legacy and achievements of one of the greatest friends America has ever known, Mr. Maersk McKinney Moller, who died recently at the age of 98 in his home country of Denmark. Mr. Moller, whom I've known personally for more than 2 decades, was a Dane and an American by virtue of his American mother, a loyal husband, a doting father, a brilliant businessman, and a leading figure in the development of the modern globalized marketplace.

I initially met Mr. Moller, Mr. Speaker, in his Copenhagen office. We spoke for 35 to 40 minutes, and it became apparent to me that I was in the presence of a truly great man.

Mr. Moller loved America. It is no coincidence that his company's U.S. flag business unit, Maersk Line, Limited, owns and operates the largest U.S. flag fleet of vessels serving our military today. In fact, these U.S. flag vessels employ more American mariners and have delivered more of the critical material to supply U.S. troops in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts than any other carrier. And the same is true of humanitarian aid and every other category of government-impelled cargo carried by U.S. flag commercial vessels. Maersk McKinney Moller believed in the mission and basic goodness of America, and he demonstrated that belief throughout his life.

Mr. Moller, Mr. Speaker, was born in Denmark in 1913. He grew up in the shipping industry that his father, Arnold Peter Moller, had started in 1904. In 1940, after the occupation of Denmark by Nazi troops, all the company's vessels in international waters were ordered to neutral ports and a third of the fleet sought refuge in ports controlled by the United States.

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Mr. Moller traveled to New York soon after the occupation and ran the operations from there through 1947.

Allied forces requisitioned the Maersk fleet and most were subsequently lost to German U-boats in the most devastating loss of merchant mariner life in history. At the conclusion of the war, Mr. Moller returned to Denmark and continued building a global business empire, becoming CEO of the group in 1965.

In 1991, Mr. Moller wrote a letter to then-U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney highlighting the longstanding connections between America and Maersk. Among other matters in the letter, Mr. Moller wrote:

Maersk is, and has always been, a strong advocate for uninhibited free trade and the principles of freedom consistently enunciated by the United States and Denmark. Our entire organization, and especially

Maersk Line, Limited will be ready to serve anytime should that be desired.

Mr. Moller stepped down as CEO in 1993, but remained chairman of the AP Moller Group until 2003. Even through the last few months of his life, however, Mr. Moller went to work every day, walking up five flights of stairs to his office.

Through his vision and leadership, Mr. Moller built the largest container shipping company in the world, but never abandoned his love and appreciation for the United States and its people. Over 70 years, he personally cultivated and sustained a valuable partnership with the United States, one that continues to support and advance our commercial and national security interests around the world.

Finally, Mr. Moller was a citizen of Denmark, indeed, the world; but he will always have a special place of respect, admiration, and appreciation from the people and the Government of the United States.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in this time of extreme weather events, our hearts go out to victims of the storms, wildfires, power outages, torrential downpours, the winds, trees crashing into homes. It makes our hearts ache, thinking of the suffering of hundreds of thousands of people in sweltering heat without electricity.

Beyond our shores, we see this extreme weather is global in scale, such as the flash floods that killed hundreds in Russia this last week. We must pause, shudder, and feel sadness for those families.

For many, the instinct is to help people resettle, rebuild, and reconnect. But the Nation's elected leaders should do more than comfort those in distress and try to help people recover. As policymakers, shouldn't we act to try and prevent the next catastrophe?

Some of this is relatively simple and straightforward, even if potentially controversial. Don't relocate people right back in the same flame or flood zone. We know they'll be ravaged by fire and flood. At a minimum, we shouldn't have the Federal Government pay to put people right back in harm's way.

This discussion is part of flood insurance reform and national disaster policy that I personally have been working on for decades. We have made some progress, but not nearly what we should.

You would think we would stop making it worse, yet we allow more and more people to move into the flame zone seeking to live with nature, and these people then expect government to prevent nature from doing what it's done for eons. In most cases, the fires in these areas not only cannot be

stopped, but we make the next fire worse by suppressing nature's natural fire cycle until there's so much fuel in the forest that the inevitable next fire burns longer and more furiously, putting more at risk.

The more people who are permitted or even encouraged to build homes and live in an area that cannot be defended is a prescription for disaster. It's an example of political malpractice, a head-in-the-sand attitude that many today in this Chamber have regarding climate change, rising sea level and weather instability, which are all completely predictable, foreseen consequences of carbon pollution.

It's being played out in a variety of areas. We're watching oceans become more acidic, bleaching and killing coral reefs, which are the rain forests of the sea. Shouldn't we be doing something to try and prevent it?

On the land, it's becoming clear what warming will mean to our communities with more instability, hotter temperatures, heavier precipitation events, 23,383 all-time heat records set this year.

The worst example of government response, I think, is legislation in North Carolina, and it's already passed the State senate and is working its way through, that would prevent the State and local governments from planning based on the best scientific evidence about the accelerating pace of sea level increase.

In Congress, it's notable that one of our major parties has firm opposition to even using the words "climate change," let alone plan for or prevent it happening. It's not an energy policy to promote more carbon pollution and lavish support for old fossil fuel technology, nor to claim climate science is a hoax.

That's the mindset that puts at risk replacement of a vitally needed satellite providing climate data. With all the ominous signs, horrific events and high stakes, how can we, as policymakers, not at least give weight to the advice of the vast majority of scientists.

I'll tell you, this current generation of politicians will be asked by their grandchildren what could you possibly have been thinking. Indeed, I'll wager that some of today's policymakers, even the most obtuse and dogmatic, will live long enough to regret their hostility to science and their short-sighted devotion to politics of the moment over the future of the planet and their very families.

They are like King Canute, who ordered the tide not to come in until it washed over his feet. Unlike King Canute, today's policymakers could do something about it.

HEALTH TAX

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, several days ago I was one of only a handful of

Members of Congress who actually sat in the Supreme Court and listened to five Justices debate and say that they believed that the President's health tax was constitutional, and I watched them debate the four Justices who believed it was not constitutional.

Because one more Justice believed it was constitutional than the four that believed it was not constitutional, our friends on the other side of the aisle believe that we should now step back and do nothing and just allow this health tax to be imposed on the American people.

Well, we reject that suggestion, and the reason we do is because today the number one issue in the American people's minds is the economy, and the number one concern we have about the economy is the loss of their jobs. Yet we have watched as this administration has had 41 straight months of unemployment in excess of 8 percent.

We have watched as their policies have delivered us a net loss of 473,000 jobs, and we are about to unleash three enormous job killers on the American public. In just a few months, we will increase taxes on the American people if we refuse to extend the Bush tax cuts, which will cost thousands of jobs. Yet our friends on the other side of the aisle say we should step back and do nothing, and we reject that notion.

In just a few months, based on legislation this President approved and signed into law, we will have massive defense cuts that his own Secretary of Defense says will cost us 1.5 million jobs, and our friends on the other side of the aisle say we should do nothing and just let that come on the American people. We reject that notion.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, as this health tax gets ready to be imposed on the American people, based on the Congressional Budget Office, it will cost 800,000 jobs. Yet our friends on the other side of the aisle say we should take no action and just let it happen. We reject that notion.

The reason we reject it is because the American people realize that as we take an action to repeal this health tax, we are setting a new course for health care in America. As we set a new course for health care in America, we begin to do what the American people want us to do and set a new course and a new direction for America.

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AMERICANS NEED REAL SOLUTIONS TO REAL PROBLEMS

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Boy, my friend from Virginia could not be more wrong.

What exactly are the House Republicans trying to accomplish with today's 31st repeal vote of health care? One of the first votes Republicans brought to the floor when they became

the majority in January of 2011 was to repeal the health care insurance reform law in its entirety. That bill passed out of the House on a virtual party-line vote, so you'd think Republicans would move on to the real challenges facing our economy like unemployment and the expiration of individual and business tax cuts.

In the face of the Supreme Court ruling declaring important health insurance protections in the Affordable Care Act constitutional, House Republicans are not repealing that earlier vote but instead setting up a repeat of it. They have become so ideologically immovable that they can think of no more constructive solution than to simply replay this bit of political theater. Meanwhile, 56 percent of Americans say it's time to move on to the true pressing challenges facing our Nation, according to a Kaiser Family Foundation poll. A quick review of those challenges shows that this Republican House majority has not even tried to address them.

Let's start with the very real threat of expiring tax cuts creating a drag on our economy. There are a number of already expired and expiring tax cuts, including the alternative minimum tax patch, which could affect 34 million Americans. Then there's the payroll tax cut affecting 160 million Americans and numerous businesses, including the Bush tax cuts, which expire later this year. All combined, the expiration of those tax cuts could add up to a \$4,000 per household bill on Americans. So far, House Republicans haven't felt the urgency to hold a single vote to extend any of those tax cuts.

How about the Medicare doc fix? If Congress doesn't extend the sustainable growth rate patch, Medicare and TRICARE doctors will see more than a 27 percent cut in their reimbursements, causing many of them to stop seeing patients. Millions of seniors and military members and retirees could lose access to their doctors. But not a single vote has been proposed by the Republicans to stop that from happening.

Then there's the debt ceiling. Without action, the Nation will once again risk breaching its statutory limit, triggering a historic default. Last summer, we achieved a bipartisan agreement to raise that ceiling and lower the deficit at the same time, warding off the cataclysmic effects of default, but not before House Republicans pushed us to the brink, resulting in the first time ever a downgrading of U.S. credit. The American people don't want a repeat of that sad chapter in our history, and our economy certainly cannot afford it. Ronald Reagan knew the value of ensuring America fulfilled its commitments. He raised the debt ceiling 18 times with no conditionality.

What about a comprehensive jobs bill? After 27 straight months of private sector job growth, cleaning up the mess President Obama inherited, the base of U.S. job creation has begun to slow in the wake of instability in Euro-

pean markets. Before the July 4 holiday, we achieved a rare feat for this Congress in passing a bipartisan reauthorization of the transportation bill, giving a much-needed jolt to the construction sector. But we can and should do more to spur hiring in the alternative energy sector, manufacturing, health care, and more. But instead of focusing on jobs, which they claimed in the last election was their focus, Republicans are creating a sense of *deja vu* all over again on the floor by staging a repeat of the health care reform.

Lost in this political pandering is the fact that the Affordable Care Act is actually working. Seniors who fall in the prescription drug doughnut hole are saving an average of \$651 this year alone. Almost 13 million Americans are eligible for rebates averaging \$151 from their insurance companies, thanks to new requirements in the bill. Premiums for Medicare Advantage are down 7 percent for the first time ever and benefits are up and enrollment is up 10 percent. Medicare is on track to save \$200 billion by 2016, pursuant to the act, without one benefit being cut—in fact, benefits improving.

Mr. Speaker, the House majority is selectively ignoring those improvements to justify this repeat of its repeal vote. With so much to do—with American businesses and families waiting for tax predictability, with the economy bracing for the impending fiscal cliff, with almost 4 million people still searching for employment—House Republicans are still offering more of the same. And sadly, it's not enough. Americans need real solutions to real problems. Let's get on with them.

HIGH-LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I come back on the floor as I have almost weekly throughout this entire Congress for 2 years to talk about the issue of high-level nuclear waste and what are we to do about it. And I really applaud my colleagues who joined me on June 6, 2012, on an amendment to a spending bill. It was a bipartisan vote; 326 Members of Congress supported finishing the scientific study on Yucca Mountain. That's the money that we had appropriated and that Senator REID and President Obama did not spend for the scientific study. Then, in the last two cycles, Senator REID has been blocking additional money for finishing the scientific study. So 226 Republicans and 98 Democrats joined me to really stress the point that we've got to finish this.

Yucca Mountain started in 1982 with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. It was the defined location—it is the defined location—under current law under the amendments passed in 1987. To not fulfill and not to move forward is, in my estimation, breaking the law of the