

While we applaud his release, we cannot forget how Pastor Youcef was abused and falsely accused over the past 3 years. He was subject to intense interrogation. His wife was arrested, taken away from their two young sons for a period of time. His lawyer was arrested on trumped-up charges.

Earlier this year the House drew attention to this persecution when it overwhelmingly passed a resolution calling for the immediate release of Pastor Youcef. We made it clear that the world was watching and would not tolerate the execution of an innocent man.

The Government of Iran continues to abuse religious minorities within its borders: Jews, Sunni Muslims, Baha'is, as well as Christians. Pastor Youcef's release is a victory for human rights, but we cannot forget about the other victims of this corrupt regime.

WIND POWER IS AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, wind power is an American success story. It is one of our fastest growing manufacturing sectors, with over 500 American-based facilities. It provides us with clean, renewable energy that both consumers and the environment demand.

But, unfortunately, it is threatened with the production tax credit due to expire at the end of the year. I am pleased to join with my fellow Ways and Means Committee member, DAVE REICHERT, from the Northwest, as cosponsor of H.R. 3307, to extend the tax credit so that we don't lose as many as 37,000 jobs to the uncertainty.

Congress shouldn't wait until the end of the year because people need to make investment decisions now. Until we enact a comprehensive energy plan for this century, the production tax credit is key to our energy future: clean, dependable, very low operating cost wind energy.

Please join us as we work to guarantee this production tax credit for our economy and our energy security.

AMERICA UNDER ATTACK

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

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, in Egypt our Embassy walls were scaled and the American flag ripped apart. In Libya, America's Ambassador and three other Americans were brutally murdered.

Ironically, our own Embassy in Egypt apologized by condemning Americans who exercised their religious and free speech rights as "misguided individuals who hurt the religious feelings of Muslims." The White House, rivaling the Keystone Cops of lore, distanced itself from its own State Department apology.

Let's be clear. In Libya, this White House spent American treasury and risked American lives to topple Muammar Qadhafi, thus empowering those who killed our Ambassador.

Not one to learn from history or its own mistakes, this White House says, America "will work to support a Syrian opposition to hasten the day when Assad falls."

Mr. Speaker, we must stop spending our treasury and risking American lives for those who neither appreciate our sacrifices nor believe in basic liberties like freedom of religion and freedom of speech.

Mr. Speaker, I pray the President is listening.

EXTENSION OF THE PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I too rise to promote the extension of the production tax credit. Thousands of jobs in Colorado and across the Nation are dependent upon this incentive for good, clean energy here in the United States, thousands of manufacturing jobs made right here, wind production right here in America.

In Colorado, we have substantial manufacturing plants with Vestis; we have vendors who supply these particular manufacturers for this good clean energy. Yet we have the production tax credit that's about to expire.

Bipartisan support is in Colorado where we have virtually every Member, Democrats and Republicans, as well as you heard Mr. BLUMENAUER say he has a Republican cosponsor for this. But the Republican leadership will not bring it up, and it's been removed from the platform of the Republican Party.

These are good jobs in America. It's clean energy for our country. It's good for national security. If we make these things, these big windmills in America, we will make it in America.

□ 1210

LIBYA

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, this is a tragic day for the United States and for all people across the world who stand for freedom—the freedom of speech and religious tolerance. It is also a day that serves as a powerful reminder of why we hold these core principles, of why each generation of Americans over the past two centuries has proudly fought to preserve and advance them, and of why we must confidently answer the call to do the same today.

My thoughts and prayers are with Ambassador Stevens' family and with the families of the three American diplomats murdered in the attack in Libya.

There is simply no excuse or rationale to be found here. There is absolutely no justification for violence and murder against Americans. This act of terror stands in direct opposition to the freedom and liberty that we champion throughout the world.

This is an extraordinarily volatile time in the Middle East. As Americans, we should expect—we should demand—nothing less than strong leadership from the United States. As is shown by the murder of American officials in Libya today, by the storming of the U.S. Embassy in Egypt yesterday and, most certainly, by Iran's flagrant march toward nuclear weapons, this is no game. I am sickened and outraged by these recent events. It is time to lead.

HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT FOR RETURNING VETERANS

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, tonight, I will join Members of Congress MIKE QUIGLEY and PAT MEEHAN in an ice hockey game with and to benefit the wounded warriors. The Wounded Warriors is a great organization that takes care of our returning injured soldiers. Congress, however, is not living up to its responsibility to do the same.

The unemployment rate for returning veterans under the age of 24 is 29 percent. Congress just approved \$53 billion for road and bridge repair next year—a very weak response to a big and important issue, particularly when you consider that we just spent \$90 billion rebuilding the roads and bridges of Afghanistan.

If you really want to say "thank you" to the veterans on behalf of a grateful Nation, let's nation-build at home and put our veterans to work in rebuilding the America they so honorably defended.

OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL DESERVE A FAIR MILITARY VOTING PROCESS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, both at home and abroad, the brave men and women serving in our Armed Forces dedicate their lives to protecting this great Nation. Access to absentee voter registration within our military's ranks has been increasingly difficult due to changing residencies and overseas deployments. In order to make voting for our servicemembers more accessible, Congress passed the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act. Unfortunately, the administration has failed in its implementation.

On Thursday, the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel will hold a hearing to investigate these issues in an effort to determine why the Department of Defense has failed to properly implement the legislation. As chairman of the subcommittee, I look forward to hearing witnesses explain and ensure that those serving in our Armed Forces are given the best available access to voter registration. Every reasonable effort should be made to enable a service-member's ability to vote.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Our sympathies to the families of Ambassador Christopher Stevens and our Foreign Service officers in Libya and Egypt.

ATTACKS ON OUR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN LIBYA AND EGYPT

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disturbed by the attacks on our diplomatic missions in Libya and Egypt. Four Americans have now been killed, including U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens. These Americans served bravely and with distinction, and this is a terrible, terrible tragedy. I have seen this amateurish and stupid video, and there is nothing in it, despite the fact that it is deliberately provocative, that could ever justify the murders of these innocent people.

The fact is this must be condemned in the strongest terms. These individuals who didn't like this video—and there is much to dislike about it—could have peacefully protested or could have written letters. They could have registered their disapproval in a number of ways, but they resorted to murder. This is morally objectionable, and the whole world must condemn it. Of course, it doesn't help to provoke people even if you have the right to do so, but it is always wrong to respond with violence and mayhem.

VOICE OF TEXAS, KELLY FROM CROSBY, TEXAS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texans have shared with me their stories about the businesses that they have built without the help of the Federal Government.

Kelly from Crosby, Texas, wrote me this:

Congressman, you are correct that small business owners carry the full load of government taxes.

On average, our small \$3 million-a-year business pays 35 percent in Federal taxes, pays Social Security of 7.45 percent, Federal unemployment tax, State franchise tax, school district and real estate property

taxes, and I am taxed on the computer used to send this email to you. And the President says I didn't build it? I beg to differ. During the first 3 years, my workweek was 80 hours a week. If the Federal Government's debt of \$16 trillion is not brought under control, it will not matter how hard I work, because the dollar's value will be worthless.

Federal Government, fix your spending problem, and put your House in order because small business is watching and thinking, If I ran my business like you run yours, the bank would foreclose.

Mr. Speaker, Kelly is correct. Big Government hasn't built America. American small business owners have built it—on their own.

And that's just the way it is.

THE WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition to talk about a critical issue for Massachusetts and our Nation: the wind production tax credit.

Providing a modest credit of 2.2 cents per kilowatt hour generated, it has encouraged over \$75 billion in private investment over the last 5 years. Now 60 percent of the average turbine is manufactured here in the United States. These companies hire a diversity of workers and provide good-paying jobs in a rapidly growing sector of our economy.

Bay Stater Nigel Greene worked for GE Wind as a wind farm parts runner. He says:

I can tell you honestly that nothing gave me more pride in my country than seeing a turbine go from "in-repair" status back to "on-line" and producing clean, renewable power. It is truly a sight to behold.

Last year alone, clean energy jobs in Massachusetts grew 11 percent. If it is allowed to expire, we will lose an important new manufacturing opportunity and too many good-paying American jobs.

IMPLEMENTING THE JOBS ACT

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

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, during our recess this past month, we held a small business roundtable in our Hudson Valley. Actually, everybody sat, transfixed—all the participants—for an hour and a half while talking about what our small businesses need to do and what we need to do to help our small businesses. One of the key considerations was to ease the climate for creating jobs and growing our businesses.

I am so proud to have supported the JOBS Act with our Democratic and Republican colleagues and with the Senate. It was signed into law, as we all know, in March by the President. To-

morrow, in the Financial Services Committee, we begin to review the implementation of the JOBS Act, and I hope that we can continue to work together to make true progress in growing our small businesses and in helping them by making sure that the path is clear for them to grow and thrive and prosper. This is a great example of how both parties can work together to achieve that goal.

EXTENDING THE PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, last month, our Nation reached a significant milestone in the growth of home-grown renewable energy. The United States surpassed 50 gigawatts of installed wind power capacity, which is enough to power over 13 million American households a year. This is a major accomplishment for an industry predicted to deliver only a quarter of that amount a decade ago.

We should be celebrating this success brought about by innovation, hard work, and smart policies. Sadly, the celebration may be a short one if Congress doesn't act swiftly to continue the bipartisan production tax credit, which is a key factor in wind power's expansion. My constituents who work at companies like Clipper Windpower and Infinity Wind Power have told me that letting the PTC lapse would devastate their industry and eliminate thousands of jobs.

It's time to give these companies certainty by taking up a multiyear extension of the PTC without delay. Our country cannot afford to pull the rug out from under a true American success story. Let's renew the production tax credit now and maintain our leadership in transitioning to cleaner, safer sources of energy.

□ 1220

ATTACK ON U.S. CONSULATE

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, just 1 day after the 11th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States of America, sadly the American flag flies at half staff today at the U.S. Capitol once again following the senseless and tragic attack against our U.S. consulate in Libya, which left four patriotic Embassy workers laying dead.

Among those murdered include American Ambassador Christopher Stevens, marking one of the rare moments in U.S. history where a U.S. Ambassador is killed representing our Nation abroad. This type of cowardly and brutal attack is an outrage, and those responsible should be swiftly brought to justice.