

The service of Ambassador Stevens and three other embassy staff will not be forgotten as their service represents everything that our country stands for in promoting peace and democracy and liberty for all peoples across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, God bless the brave men and women who serve our country everywhere, and God bless the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF DELAWARE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE BOB GILLIGAN

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Delaware Speaker of the House Bob Gilligan.

In November, Speaker Gilligan will conclude a 40-year career as a member of Delaware's house of representatives, making him the longest-serving member in State history.

Throughout his career, Speaker Gilligan has been one of the most effective leaders in Delaware State government. Speaker Gilligan has been a trusted and compassionate leader during times when Delaware needed him most. He helped lead the State through some of its most difficult fiscal challenges. He championed open government legislation that gave Delawareans unprecedented access to their representatives and oversaw the passage of landmark civil rights reforms. And he did this while maintaining the friendship and respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

On a personal level, I will always appreciate Speaker Gilligan's friendship and support. He gave me my first job in public service as a legislative fellow, an experience that inspired my work in government and politics.

It has been a real privilege for me to work over the years with Bob, and I would like to congratulate Speaker Bob Gilligan on an outstanding career and wish him well in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING DR. JAMES J. LINKSZ

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. James J. Links on the occasion of his retirement from his post as president of the Bucks County Community College in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

As its president for the last 20 years, Dr. Links has led the community college through some of its most ambitious expansions, including new investments in technology, the addition of distance-learning courses, and impressive updates to campus buildings and infrastructure.

William Arthur Wood once said the mediocre teacher tells, the good teacher explains, the superior teacher dem-

onstrates, and the great teacher inspires. During his time at Bucks County Community College, Dr. Links has inspired countless students through his leadership and dedication to providing men and women of all ages from Bucks County with a quality education.

On behalf of the people in Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District, I thank Dr. Links for his service to the community, and I wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT AND INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reiterate my support for the wind production tax credit and the investment tax credit for offshore wind.

The production tax credit has encouraged nearly \$20 billion in nationwide private investment annually over the last 5 years, while the ITC serves as the most fundamental Federal tax incentive for offshore wind development.

As we promote investments that will reduce our dependence on foreign oil and serve as a central part in our fight against climate change, it's essential to remember the spillover of job creation and specialized expertise that will follow.

In Massachusetts, we've witnessed firsthand the critical economic development opportunities of renewable energy projects provided to our States. Our region has undergone an economic regeneration with the development of Cape Wind, the Nation's first offshore wind fund. From the Port of New Bedford, which will serve as the staging area for turbine assembly, to the ferry captains who will provide eco-tours of the turbines, few communities will not be benefited by this.

Massachusetts is already recognized as one of the top three States for clean energy. We're home to nearly 5,000 individual clean energy companies, and nearly 2 percent of all Massachusetts jobs are now in this field.

It's important, as we go forward, that we not let this void occur, and we fill it with jobs made in America.

WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

(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, I rise today as a member of the House Sustainable Energy and Environmental Coalition to call on Congress to renew the wind production tax credit.

The wind production tax credit provides a small tax incentive to wind companies to produce clean domestic energy. This tax incentive promotes investment, creates jobs, and encourages deployment of wind energy. At the end of this year, the wind production tax credit expires unless Congress acts.

This tax credit is essential to level the playing field for wind energy. For instance, the oil and gas industry gets around \$40 billion in subsidies over 10 years. If we can eliminate oil and gas subsidies, let's do it. If not, we need to renew the wind production tax credit. The tax credit supports 5,000 jobs in Colorado and 75,000 jobs nationally. We cannot afford to lose these jobs.

Both Democrats and Republicans, Senators and House Members agree we need to extend this commonsense tax credit. I urge my colleagues to work together to extend the wind production tax credit to protect and grow America's thriving wind industry.

EXTEND THE WIND CREDIT NOW

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the Senate to highlight an important issue to Iowa, the wind production tax credit. It expires this year, as has been mentioned, and must be extended immediately.

Inaction has already led to job losses in Iowa and threatens thousands of more jobs in our State. The PTC actually has its roots in Iowa and bipartisanship. Senator GRASSLEY worked for its creation, and it has long had bipartisanship support. Last month, the Senate passed a bipartisanship package that included the wind credit. It's past time for the House to act.

Iowa is the second-largest producer of wind energy, and turbine manufacturing involves about 200 companies and 6,000 good paying jobs for Iowans. As we struggle to recover from the worst recession since the Great Depression, Congress cannot play games with people's jobs and pull the rug out from an industry employing thousands.

Congress must extend the wind credit now before more jobs are lost.

THE ENERGY FUTURE OF AMERICA

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today is a day of reflection and sadness, and also determination and resolve. The tragic killing of our Ambassador in Libya and his staff should remind us all of the dangers that exist around the world. So we offer our prayers to the families and to the survivors.

We also need to think about the future in America and about the necessity for developing alternative energy systems. The production tax credit for wind is absolutely essential. I represent two major wind farms, one in Solano and the other in Alameda County. Thousands of jobs across this Nation will be lost unless we extend the wind tax credit. Keep in mind that for a century we have subsidized the oil and gas industry. It's time for us to

provide the support necessary to create this industry.

We also ought to be making it in America. One of my bills, H.R. 6217, would require that 85 percent of the content of these turbines and solar systems be made in America.

WE HAVE TO BE PREPARED

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, we had an attack in Cairo on our Embassy yesterday, and we had an attack in Benghazi, and we lost the Ambassador there. He was killed along with three other people.

I've been on the Foreign Affairs Committee now for about 30 years, and I've never seen anything like what we've seen in the northern tier of Africa. All the way across the northern tier, we've seen the spring that they're talking about, and how things are changing and how democracy is coming.

The fact of the matter is Iran is taking advantage of what's going on over there by sending intermediaries into all those countries to undermine them. I was just in the Persian Gulf recently, and there is absolutely no question that Iran is doing everything they can to undermine all those governments over there.

When you look at what happened in Egypt with the Muslim Brotherhood taking over, we in this country ought to be very much aware that this is not the end of it. It's not going to go away. The administration or the new President, whoever it is that takes office in January, they're going to have to have a very strong foreign policy because we still get about 35 percent of our energy from that region.

This is not going to end right now. It's going to go on. We have to be prepared.

MINNESOTA EDUCATION INVESTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5544.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). Pursuant to House Resolution 773 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5544.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1230

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole

House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5544) to authorize and expedite a land exchange involving National Forest System land in the Laurentian District of the Superior National Forest and certain other National Forest System land in the State of Minnesota that has limited recreational and conservation resources and lands owned by the State of Minnesota in trust for the public school system that are largely scattered in checkerboard fashion within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and have important recreational, scenic, and conservation resources, and for other purposes, with Mr. SIMPSON in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I support H.R. 5544, the Minnesota Education Investment and Employment Act.

This bill will rectify a decades-old injustice that was imposed by Congress during the Carter administration to ensure that funding for schools and education in Minnesota is carried on.

When Minnesota became a State, it received certain parcels of land from the Federal Government set aside to help fund education. These lands, known as school trust lands, were specifically established to provide funding for Minnesota public schools. Responsible timber management, mineral development, and other economic uses of these lands would generate the revenue that would benefit every child in the State.

However, in 1978, Congress designated the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and a portion of these trust lands became trapped inside the wilderness area and inaccessible, therefore, for economic development. This caused a decline in funding, then, for local schools.

H.R. 5544 would implement a bipartisan plan that was passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by Democrat Governor Dayton to authorize a no-cost land exchange. It would allow Minnesota school trust lands, locked away within the Federal wilderness area, to be exchanged for Federal land from the multiple-use Superior National Forest. State forest lands would be fairly exchanged for Federal forest lands.

But typical of the attitude held by many Democrats that spending more of taxpayers' money will solve the problem, the critics of this bill have suggested that the Federal Government should simply buy these inaccessible trust lands at a potential cost of tens of millions of dollars. This is at the

same time when the Federal Government has had more than a \$1 trillion budget deficit for the last 4 years under this President.

However, the much-needed solution in this bill would consolidate State-held lands within the wilderness area and allow the State of Minnesota to access and develop new trust lands from the Superior National Forest. This will benefit State schools at no cost to the Federal taxpayers, with the additional benefit of job creation and economic development.

Let me elaborate on that, Mr. Chairman. It has been shown time and again that States are far more effective managing lands for sustainable use and revenue generation than the Federal Government. For example, in my home State of Washington, they have been able to produce more than a thousand times the revenue for education on 2.2 million acres of State trust land, as opposed to the U.S. Forest Service, which is able to generate only four times that amount, 9 million acres. In other words, regenerate a thousand-percent revenue on one-fourth of the land because it's administered by the State. I think the same principle can apply to Minnesota.

Putting these State lands back to productive use for education will increase funding for schools across the State, while at the same time creating new opportunities for job creation and economic growth.

This bill is more than a land exchange. It's about keeping a promise when Minnesota became a State. It's about correcting the 34-year consequences of Federal action that restricted access to this vital asset. It's about ensuring that children and schools have the funding that they deserve and were promised. So I urge support of this bill.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, Federal land grants to States for education have resulted in the transfer of more than 77 million acres of land to over 30 States. These well-meaning acts, taken over 200 years ago, have left communities across the country with a fragmented pattern of land ownership.

Through the Northwest Ordinance enacted in 1787, Minnesota was granted 8.3 million acres of school trust lands. Today, the State has only 2.5 million acres left, with 93,000 located in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Proponents of this legislation claim this will right inequities caused by the designation of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. For most of us, it would seem like common sense to do a land trade, but I think most of us would also want a land trade that is fair to both sides.

The State of Minnesota recently enacted State legislation that would allow an exchange of State and Federal