

This administration refuses to promote legitimate and safe domestic energy resources by issuing moratoriums in the Gulf of Mexico and needlessly delaying very important projects like the Keystone pipeline. Instead, it chooses to roll the dice on unproven technologies that result in bankruptcies with hundreds of millions of wasted taxpayer dollars. That's not a way to move forward.

In south Louisiana, we know when it comes to energy production, domestic resources are waiting to be tapped safely, environmentally sound. Whether it's oil or natural gas or any other source, we must harness the resources of our land to create jobs here at home and to make sure that hardworking families aren't forced to feel the pain at the pump.

LET'S GET BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the responsibility that this institution has to the American people to finish the work they sent us here to do.

Partisan gridlock may make 2012 one of the Congress' least productive years in decades. That's why this institution has seen some of the lowest public approval ratings in history.

The American people expect better from their elected officials. They know that Members of Congress should be acting like adults and working with Members on the other side of the aisle to get things done. Each of us should remember the people we serve: the seniors who worked for years to secure a successful retirement, the students who took out loans to help pay for college, the middle class families who are concerned about their long-term economic security.

Rather than meeting for only 8 days this month, as Republicans propose, let's remain here, pass the American Jobs Act that the President proposed over a year ago, put aside partisanship, roll up our sleeves, and get back to work for the people we serve.

IN TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR CHRIS STEVENS

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that all Americans reflect upon the tragic loss of life in the American consulate in Benghazi. When one of our own pays the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our Nation, we're all touched by the loss. All four of these brave Americans will forever be remembered in the annals of American history as heroes.

In particular, I would like to take the time to pay tribute to Ambassador

Chris Stevens, a native of northern California. Although I did not know the Ambassador personally, his father, Senior Assistant Attorney General Jan Stevens, ably served our State in the California Department of Justice while I served as attorney general of my home State.

This tragedy hits close to home with all of the employees of the California Department of Justice who work with Jan Stevens. I wish to join with them, with friends and family members of the Stevens, and with all Americans in offering our thoughts and prayers as we mourn the loss of Ambassador Chris Stevens.

COACH JIM CALHOUN

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, in a few short hours, a giant in the State of Connecticut, Coach Jim Calhoun, is going to announce his retirement after 26 years of leading the men's basketball program.

When he arrived 26 years ago, it was an also-ran program. Today, he has secured three national championships, he was inducted into the Hall of Fame, and the NBA is populated with graduates like Ray Allen, Emeka Okafor, and Kemba Walker, who are all-stars and really make the State of Connecticut so proud.

He also has performed hundreds of acts of personal kindness, small and large, Coaches vs. Cancer, the Yukon Cardiology Health Center program, and his latest passion, which is to help families with the scourge of autism.

Coach Calhoun is not just a great coach, he's a really good person. To him and his wife, Pat, on behalf of the people of the Second Congressional District, I want to extend my congratulations for his great leadership and career, and wish them all the success in the world as they begin a new chapter in their wonderful lives.

NATIONAL CHILDHOOD OBESITY AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of America's 12½ million obese youth. I stand on behalf of America's 3.7 million low-income children between the ages of 2 and 4 who are either overweight or obese. Millions of our children depend on school meals and the generosity of food pantries for most of their nutrients. These are the children I've come to speak to you about today.

September is National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month, the month when Americans are reminded of the plight facing our children if we don't ensure they receive better meals and

build an environment that promotes physical activity.

It is time to get involved in the well-being of every child in America. So join me. Make a difference in a child's life during National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month and all year long.

MEDICARE CLASS WARFARE

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I refuse to participate in what I call "Medicare class warfare." I refuse to pit those who are 55 and above against those who are under 55.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that those of us who are above 55 ought to want the same health care for those who are under 55 that we're going to receive.

I refuse to participate in Medicare class warfare. I believe that those who are at the dawn of life should know that they will have the same health care benefits that we will have at the twilight of life.

Again, I refuse to participate in Medicare class warfare.

WATERBURY, VERMONT, THE BEST BEER TOWN IN NEW ENGLAND

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring attention to the town of Waterbury, Vermont.

There was an article in The Boston Globe identifying it as the best beer town in New England. In this small town, beer pilgrims from across the country flock to appreciate and enjoy the finest beer in America. It's the quality of the beer that's brewed that's really revered. Let me just tell you about a few.

It's the home to the Alchemist cannery, which makes an IPA called Heady Topper. I can tell you personally that it's really good. The Beer Advocate, the bible of the beer community, rates it as the third best in the world. The beer is sold in cans, but it sells out early, so get there early.

It's not hard to see why it's so popular when it's the third best in the world, but there are others there. Waterbury is the home to a number of restaurants: the Prohibition Pig, the Blackback Pub, and Arvad's, to name a few with great beers.

Vermont is coming back from Hurricane Irene. In Waterbury, it's one beer at a time.

□ 1220

CONGRESS IS DYSFUNCTIONAL

(Mr. MILLER of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, many of my Democratic colleagues today have criticized Republicans in Congress as do-nothings, but my own view is a little different.

It is certainly true that the Nation has real needs. Economists tell us that legislation held hostage here would create millions of jobs and put many Americans back to work. Instead of addressing those needs, Congress is just dysfunctional.

But considering what Republicans in Congress want to do, it is a great blessing that Congress has done next to nothing. They have repeatedly voted to repeal health care reform—33 times according to one count—as if denying health insurance for preexisting conditions would put Americans back to work.

They have voted to gut or eliminate the funding for Wall Street reform—putting us right back where we were 5 years ago with the Bush administration policies that created the painful downturn that we are now in—and at least 55 times voted to restrict women's reproductive rights and access to affordable health care, which included repeated attempts to eliminate funding for Planned Parenthood. It is hard to see that as a job creation agenda.

Mr. Speaker, better to do nothing than what they want to do.

CUT TAXES FOR AVERAGE AMERICANS AND REBUILD OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am ready to cut taxes for Americans, average Americans, the middle class and rebuild our infrastructure.

Unfortunately, after wasting the last 2 years and after spending the entire month of August at home without making even the slightest effort to fix the Nation's economy, the Tea Party Republicans plan to adjourn next week for another 6 weeks after being here for 8 days. Instead of going on vacation, why don't we fix the Nation's business? Why don't we handle the business that we have to take care of?

We act like petulant children around here. These Tea Party Republicans stick to their obstinate demand to cut taxes for millionaires and turn Medicare into a voucher program. We can't afford to continue to handle our business like this.

Ladies and gentlemen, it's time for Congress to get to work. I think we should stay here and not leave for another 6 weeks, leaving the Nation's business hanging.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6213, NO MORE SOLYNDRAS ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 779 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 779

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6213) to limit further taxpayer exposure from the loan guarantee program established under title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 90 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 112-31. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of September 20, 2012, or September 21, 2012, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules, as though under clause 1 of rule XV.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman, my friend from Massachusetts (Mr.

McGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 779 provides for a structured rule for consideration of H.R. 6213. This rule provides for the discussion and opportunities for Members of the minority and the majority to participate in this debate.

I rise today in support of this rule and the underlying bill. The underlying legislation ensures that all American taxpayers will never again be forced to pay hundreds of millions of dollars because of this administration's politically motivated risky bets.

H.R. 6213 draws on the lessons learned from the failed Department of Energy Loan Guarantee Program, which invested \$535 million into a solar energy company named Solyndra. Unfortunately, Solyndra went bankrupt, leaving hardworking Americans with a check for over half a billion dollars.

Solyndra has become synonymous with the Obama administration's reckless spending programs that have done nothing to create the jobs our country so desperately needs, nor those that had been promised by the President of the United States and the Democratic Party. Despite warnings that the company was unsustainable and would surely fail, the administration was blinded by their political agenda and committed over half a billion dollars in taxpayer dollars to a privately held company.

In fact, during a 2011 restructuring of the loan, the administration placed private investors ahead of taxpayers when it came to reimbursement in the event of bankruptcy. Given these practices, it's no wonder that our current President has created budget deficits in excess of \$1 trillion each year he has served as President.

In addition to ensuring that the Federal Government does not throw taxpayer dollars after the investments, H.R. 6213 also highlights the need of the Federal Government to stop propping up failed companies which cannot support themselves in the open market. The Federal Government should not guarantee hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer-backed loans to companies that do not have a business model that supports sufficient private investment. The administration should not pretend to be a venture capitalist with taxpayers' money.

In testimony before the Rules Committee yesterday, Congressman ED WHITFIELD, chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy