

the 555,270 direct and indirect coal-related jobs that help supply America with nearly half of its generated electricity and pay \$36 billion in wages.

The nonpartisan U.S. Energy Information Administration has all but confirmed the President's aggressive push against coal development with a report detailing a record number of coal-fired power plants to be closed this year, largely because of the burdensome regulations and other compliance costs. That's why this week the U.S. House will pass H.R. 3049, to push back on the President's commitment to end coal as a source of domestic energy and protect the countless jobs that have been lost or put at risk as a result of his politics.

H.R. 3049 includes the following package of bills: The Coal Miner Employment and Domestic Energy Infrastructure Protection Act, which bars the Environmental Protection Agency from issuing any regulation before December 31, 2013, that would adversely affect coal mining employment.

The Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act, which establishes State-level permitting programs for the storage of coal combustion residuals under the Solid Waste Disposal Act, which is now primarily used to regulate the management of municipal solid waste landfills and sewage landed fills.

□ 1040

The Energy Tax Prevention Act, which prevents the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases and any effort to address climate change.

The Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act, which prohibits the EPA from issuing a new or revised water quality standard when a State standard has already been approved by the EPA.

The Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation Act, or the TRAIN Act, which creates an interagency committee to examine the effects of current and proposed Federal regulations on U.S. energy and manufacturing industries, U.S. global competitiveness, U.S. and energy prices.

Again, it's not just a war on coal; it's a war on the use of carbon-based fuels—coal, oil, natural gas—which supply over 80 percent of our energy.

CONDEMNING VIOLENCE AGAINST SIKH COMMUNITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CHU. I rise today as a proud cosponsor of House Resolution 785, condemning the hate crimes, bullying, and brutal violence perpetrated against Sikh Americans and all acts of violence against Sikh Gurdwaras in the United States. In the face of unrelenting and unprovoked violence, it is clear that action must be taken.

The Sikh community has a long history of contributing to this Nation. Sikh farmers shaped California's agri-

culture industry, farming a third of the land and providing nature's bounty for others to enjoy. The very first Asian American to be elected to the U.S. Congress was a Sikh American, Dalip Singh Saund, elected in California in 1957. And Sikh temples all across the country have shown their beautiful spirit by giving free food, called langar, to everybody in the neighborhood who is hungry. And yet time and time again we see the good deeds of Sikh Americans met with undue violence from others. And in the wake of 9/11, this behavior spiked sharply. Just days after the attacks took place—as the soot still lingered over Manhattan and smoke still smoldered from a field in Pennsylvania—Balbir Singh Sodhi became the first victim of misplaced retaliation. He was in the gas station he had worked his entire life to own when a gunman shot at him and took his life.

Through the years the violence has not abated. Last year, in northern California, Surinder Singh and Gurmej Atwal, two elderly Sikh Americans, were doing what they always did every afternoon, taking a walk in the neighborhood, when suddenly they were shot. They were murdered in cold blood, but not for money or jealousy or revenge. They were murdered because of their turbans. And then there were the overwhelmingly shocking events of August 5 of this year in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. The Sikh community was peacefully preparing meals for Sunday prayer inside their gurdwara. But that peace was shattered without warning at the hands of a gunman filled with hate and rage. He fired indiscriminately and without cause, and when the smoke cleared, six innocent people lay dead. Although it has been more than a decade since 9/11, hysteria and stereotyping are still far too common. We must combat the growing wave of violence and intolerance that threatens the safety and civil liberties of the Sikh American community.

Today, while the FBI tracks the overall number of hate crimes taking place, it doesn't even record attacks specifically on Sikhs, despite the fact that we've seen over and over again that Sikhs are singled out over and over again because of their appearance and faith. That's why this resolution not only denounces the violence befalling this community; we're calling on the Department of Justice to finally begin documenting and quantifying hate crimes committed against Sikh Americans. As many as three out of four Sikh boys endure torment and bullying from their peers. And so we're urging educators across the Nation to help end the epidemic of bullying against Sikh youths. We're urging law enforcement officers in every locality to do all they can to prevent violence against this and all communities.

America was founded on the principles of religious freedom, acceptance, and tolerance. Let's make sure that every American can live safely and in peace. Let's make sure that every American is protected.

TIME TO RETHINK OUR FOREIGN AID

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Over the last week, we have watched as anti-American groups throughout the world have killed Americans, attacked our embassies, had protests, burned the American flag, and destroyed our property in many parts of the world. These events and events that have preceded them bring up that question again that these countries that we give aid to seem to be countries where there is violence against America. So I want to spend a few minutes talking about the aid Americans, when they write that check to the government, our government, spend all over the world.

This is a map of countries in the world that the United States of America taxpayers give assistance to worldwide. You'll see there are three colors. The red are colors that the United States gives foreign aid to. And you can see that's most of the countries in the world—and it is most of the countries. There are 191 countries in the world. Sometimes there are 193, depending on whether those last two are really countries or not. And American taxpayers give money to 158 of them. So you see those that are in the red. The green represents countries that we give military aid to. And the few little blue countries—a couple in Europe, a couple in Africa—those are countries we don't give any money to. By far, the minority. So you see the massive world as we know it, American money goes to most of it.

Now you notice over here there's a red block in this part of the world. And I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, you would recognize this massive country here. That's Russia. Yes, American aid goes to Russia. And did you know even though China controls so much of our debt, American money, yes, goes to China as well.

So maybe we need to rethink how we do this. With all the problems we've got in the United States, the taxpayers are writing checks for countries throughout the world. And here's how we vote on foreign aid. And I suspect the Senate does it the same way. We put all the countries in a list and in a bill and the State Department usually submits an amount of money they would like us to give to this country. And then this House votes "up" or "down" on all 158 countries.

Now maybe we ought to do business a little better. Maybe we should vote country by country. Some say, Oh, it'll take too long. Hey, we're talking about American money here. It wouldn't take very long at all. I think that if we voted "up" or "down" country per country, most of these countries are not going to get any aid from the United States in a bipartisan way. Of course, probably Israel would. And 80 percent of the money given to Israel is spent back in the United States. I

think most Members support Israel. Maybe one or two other countries.

Let's vote "up" or "down" country by country. And some of these countries that we've had unrest in in the last couple of weeks—like Libya, like Egypt—maybe we need to reevaluate the money we send to them. At the very least, what we ought to do in countries like Libya and Egypt, and in some of these other countries that are destroying American property as we speak, who have looted, pillaged, and destroyed our embassies, like in Egypt, the money that we're going to give them in aid, take a portion of it out to help rebuild the embassies that are in that country and pay for the property damage, and probably even take money out we've given to Libya and pay reparations to the four Americans that were killed in Libya.

Let's use some common sense when we're spending money overseas. And maybe we shouldn't be trying to go all over the world and play nice with people. We've had a foreign aid problem since before I was born. We continue to give money to countries in the hope that they will like us. Well, how's that working for you? Not too good, is the way that I see it.

Mr. Speaker, we don't need to continue to support countries like Pakistan. I'm astonished we will still give money to Pakistan. They harbored Osama bin Laden. They put in prison the informant that told us where he was hiding. I believe some of the money we give Pakistan ends up in the hands of the Taliban and corrupt military government. But yet we keep paying them.

This summer the House did vote to cut \$625 million from Pakistan. But yet when the CR came through last week—the continuing resolution—that money is back in, going to Pakistan. Pakistan is just one of many examples, Mr. Speaker. We don't need to pay these countries to hate us. We don't need to pay them to betray us. They will do it for free.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1050

VOTER DISENFRANCHISEMENT

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the United States Constitution's 225th anniversary.

Our Constitution is a product of realistic compromise and intelligent consensus—a trait, I might add, sorely missing in this Chamber.

It lays out the central principles for a democratic government and the rights that citizens can expect to enjoy in that government. With the inclusion of six voting rights amendments, we have formed a more solid democracy.

The voting rights amendments fundamentally changed our system of government—outlawing poll taxes in Fed-

eral elections, giving ordinary Americans the right to elect their Senators, allowing the citizens of our Nation's Capital to vote for President, and guaranteeing that all Americans—regardless of race, religion, gender, or age—would enjoy these protections.

With these protections and these amendments, we affirmed the inherent values of our Constitution and our democracy.

The right to vote is still, to this day, the essential piece of our democracy.

Think about it. To deny an eligible voter the opportunity to vote is to undermine the very freedom that defines us as a Nation. The right to vote is essential to our democracy.

However, while the marches of student demonstrators and religious leaders once drove electoral reform in the United States, a new and dark movement is sweeping across the country. State lawmakers have been pushed by corporate interests and driven by a cynical point of view that says: We must deny other people the right to vote in order to continue to keep our power, and we must target those groups and individuals who may not agree with our point of view. With this cynical selective process, we keep power and we only concentrate on the people and extend the privileges to those that agree with our point of view.

New voter laws that are now being proposed and have passed in State legislatures make voter registration more difficult and cumbersome, cut the availability of early voting, and require voters to present current government-issued identifications as a prerequisite to casting a ballot. These efforts threaten the integrity of our democratic system and are very clearly targeted.

The new restrictions on voting would disproportionately burden African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, young voters, and Americans new to the political process.

Plain and simple, these restrictive voter laws threaten to disenfranchise young, poor, minority, and elderly voters who lack formal government-issued IDs despite the fact that it is more likely that an American will be struck and killed by lightning than he would impersonate another voter at the polls. We know exactly what these voter suppression laws mean.

In Texas, a Federal court recently found that the Texas voter ID law violated the Voting Rights Act because it made it harder for African Americans and Latinos to vote. The court stated that evidence conclusively shows that the cost of obtaining a qualified ID will fall more heavily on the poor, and a disproportionate number of African Americans and Latinos in Texas live in poverty.

In Pennsylvania, a July 5 Philadelphia Inquirer article reported that 758,000 registered voters in Pennsylvania do not have an ID, a new State law requirement for voting. That figure

represents 9.2 percent of the State's voters that could be stopped from voting.

A report by the Brennan Center for Justice found that allegations of widespread voter fraud often proved greatly exaggerated. Moreover, these claims of voter fraud are frequently used to justify policies that do not solve the alleged wrongs but could well disenfranchise legitimate voters.

In some States, veterans' ID cards won't be sufficient as a photo ID to vote.

In the last 12 months in my State of Arizona, there has been an accelerated effort to suppress the vote. These new efforts represent a coordinated effort clearly designed to suppress the vote of those people who need to make sure that their government is paying attention to their needs.

People of color, women, young people literally risked, and some lost, their lives to gain the right to vote in this Nation of ours. Throughout its history, our country has tried to remove obstacles to voter participation, making the right to vote accessible to all eligible citizens.

We cannot turn our back on that fundamental right. Our legacy as a Nation demands better of us.

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

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

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to publicly recognize September as Suicide Prevention Month.

As a member of the Military Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Caucus, my goal is to increase awareness and aid in the prevention of suicide.

Although suicide affects thousands of Americans each year, I would like to take a moment to focus specifically on our veterans and the men and women who are currently serving in our United States military.

Suicides are increasing at an alarming rate this year for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. Recent data shows that suicides are occurring at a rate of approximately one per day for the military. This makes suicide the second-leading cause of death for our troops, surpassed only by combat.

The Army, in particular, has seen a 22 percent suicide increase when comparing the first 7 months in both 2011 and 2012.

But these are not just numbers and statistics. These are real soldiers and real families impacted by this growing tragedy.

This increase became very personal for me again last weekend when I attended a memorial dedication for Lance Corporal Bobby Wiley. Lance Corporal Wiley was a Lima Company marine and the son of my classmate and friend. As a result of Bobby's death, a loving family and Nation grieve with loss.