

RALPH HALL, the Science, Space, and Technology Committee chairman, the dean of the Texas Congressional Delegation, and my long serving colleague.

Today, Congressman HALL reigns as both the oldest Member of Congress and the oldest House Member known to cast a vote on the House Floor. I am pleased to say that Congressman HALL will also become the oldest person ever elected to a new House term, during the 113th Congress.

Congressman HALL, a lifelong native of the great State of Texas, has been a faithful public servant and has dedicated 32 years of service to representing the constituents of the 4th Congressional District of Texas.

In 1942, Congressman HALL became an aircraft pilot for the United States Navy and served our country during World War II. Congressman HALL soared to the top of military rankings, becoming a senior grade lieutenant.

Congressman Hall, thank you for your service in the Armed Forces in efforts to protect our freedoms and to ensure America is the greatest country on the Earth.

Congressman HALL also served the great State of Texas in both State and local government.

In 1950–1962, he served as County Judge of Rockwall County, Texas.

In 1958–1959, he served as President of the State Judges and Commissioners Association.

He served in the Texas Senate from 1962 to 1972, where he served as President pro tempore for a year.

In addition to a successful early political career, Congressman HALL is an accomplished businessman. He served as:

The President and CEO of Texas Aluminum Corporation,

The General Counsel of Texas Extrusion Company, and

He was a founding member of Lakeside National Bank in Rockwall County.

After his service in State government and achievements in the private sector, Congressman HALL decided to run for U.S. Congress. In 1980, he was elected to serve the Fourth Congressional District of Texas and has been re-elected each succeeding Congress.

Some say that his long tenure in Congress is related to his love for the Fourth Congressional District of Texas. I can attest that Congressman HALL loves his District, and he certainly loves the United States of America. Congressman HALL is often quoted, saying, "I'd rather be respected at home than liked in Washington."

Congressman Hall, we need more politicians like you who value the demands of the American people and recognize, we as elected officials, are accountable to those who elect us to office.

While in Congress, Congressman HALL has been the recipient of numerous awards. Among Congressman Hall's many achievements:

He has been credited for helping to advance research and development for new technologies to keep America competitive.

Congressman HALL has worked to utilize abundant domestic energy resources and helped explore alternative energy sources that would lower costs.

He has also played an integral role in ensuring America's preeminence in human space exploration.

I stand proudly before this body of Congress to honor Congressman RALPH HALL. He has contributed so many great things to our country, and he is the epitome of a great leader. I pray that you serve as the oldest Member of Congress for years to come.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, while today we commemorate Chairman HALL becoming the oldest Member to vote in the House of Representatives, we truly honor him, not for his age, but for the leadership, dedication, and commitment he has displayed since he was first elected to Congress in 1980. When I was first elected to the House two years ago, Chairman HALL asked me to join the Science Committee to bring my experience as a practicing surgeon to the Committee. In this way, Chairman HALL has recognized the experience and backgrounds of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, newcomers and seasoned politicians alike.

Although Chairman HALL has made many friends here in Washington, what I admire most about him is his genuine commitment to the residents of the 4th district of Texas. As he often says he'd rather be respected at home than liked in Washington. With his gentle disposition and strong leadership, I believe he has found a way to do both.

On behalf of the 1st District of Michigan, and my colleagues on the Science Committee, Chairman HALL I thank you for your service to our country and for your leadership on the Committee, and I commend you on this momentous occasion. I look forward to serving with you for many years to come.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chairman RALPH HALL for his leadership on the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology; for his decades of selfless service to our country; and for his dedication to this esteemed body.

Today, Chairman HALL became the oldest Member to ever cast a vote in the House of Representatives. He has served in the House for 32 years, occupying the same seat that was once occupied by Speaker Sam Rayburn. RALPH's energy is legendary, second only to his sharp wit, and I hope to have half as much energy as he has when I reach his age.

His service to America started when, as a 19-year-old from Texas, he joined the United States Navy in 1942. Lieutenant HALL served as a pilot for the duration of World War II, and he has never stopped vigorously fighting for our nation.

I look forward to continuing to work with him in the future, and God-willing, he'll be here for 32 more years, continuing to cast every vote the right way.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all of the Members of the House join me in honoring Chairman RALPH HALL for his leadership, his service, and his dedication.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the esteemed career of my friend and colleague RALPH HALL.

Today, RALPH became the oldest known House Member to cast a recorded floor vote. Also the oldest serving member of the U.S. House of Representatives and dean of the Texas delegation, RALPH has charmed friend and foe alike with his good humor and demeanor.

A man of incredible integrity and energy, RALPH has served his district with distinction in Congress for over three decades. A lawyer by trade, RALPH's career in public service began

as a County Judge of Rockwall County, Texas, and he went onto serve in the Texas Senate.

I have served with RALPH on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and have appreciated his careful attention to the priorities of the Committee members and the science community. As an example, RALPH and I have worked closely to educate Committee members on the benefits of clean coal technologies. Like Illinois, Texas relies on coal for energy production, and our districts and the nation will benefit from technologies that can cleanly and efficiently utilize our most abundant source of energy. I am thankful to RALPH for his commitment to ensuring coal remains a part of a diverse energy portfolio.

Further, I was proud to work with RALPH on important Committee measures, such as reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act, which is critical to ensuring America remains a leader in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education.

Finally, proving time and time again that age has no bounds, I believe RALPH's most daring feat was his 10,000 foot drop from an airplane last August, skydiving at the age of 89. I admire RALPH's courage for taking that leap and see regularly how his bravery and nerve benefit those he serves. He fights daily for the interests of his constituents and they have continued to affirm his contributions to their community for the last 16 terms of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Congressman RALPH HALL for his years of dedicated service to the U.S. House and Texas, and to wish him and his family the very best in the future.

THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY AND JOBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Texas would like to finish his statement, I would be happy to yield him 5 minutes.

Mr. HALL. I thank the gentleman—and you are a gentleman. You are my friend and I appreciate you.

I just think we need to get together and remember the most important part of all of us is our children and our children's futures. That's why we all get together, and that's the reason for us to change some of the positions we've taken in the past—to try to work something out that the American people expect us to.

You're a gentleman to offer me that. Maybe I've used part of that 5 minutes. Thank you very much.

Mr. GARAMENDI. You had a lot of people speaking to your extraordinary career here, and I didn't want to cut it short. Your advice is sound and, hopefully, taken by all of us.

Mr. HALL. My mother always told me to be silent and be thought a fool rather than to open my mouth and remove all doubt. So I don't want to get to talking too much. It's been too good

tonight. All these people have said things, and I care for them. I care for this institution. I care for the people on both sides of this aisle. I'm honored to get to be a part of this.

Thank you. God bless this country.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you, Mr. HALL.

Apparently, a lot of people would agree given your extraordinary career and the work that you've done here in Congress over these many, many years and decades.

Part of what you've spent a good deal of your career working on, Mr. HALL, has been the improvement of the American economy. Tonight, I'd like to join a couple of my colleagues on the Democratic side to talk about the economy and to talk specifically about jobs and the things that we can do here in the waning days of this Congress to create some job opportunities.

We've got some very heavy lifting here in Congress in the next month and a half. Everybody wants to talk about the fiscal cliff. Some talk about an austerity bomb. Others talk about what needs to be done to lift the debt limit. All of these issues are before us—tax increases or not. Underlying all of that, foundational to all of that, is putting Americans back to work, getting Americans back into their jobs. If we do that, we will clearly increase employment. When you increase employment, you also increase tax revenue to the Federal Government, to State governments, and to local governments.

So our principal task, as I see it—and I think I'm joined by many of my colleagues, both Democrat and Republican—is to get the American economy going, to put it back in gear, and there are many reasons beyond just employment and the opportunities that families have to make it.

One of the critical elements in all of this is to protect Americans. We recently saw superstorm Sandy smash into New Jersey and New York. It had devastating results: loss of life, an incredible loss of property—both public and private—and a very, very big cleanup bill. Joining me in a little while will be some of our Representatives from the State of New York, and they'll talk about that in detail. But before Sandy ever hit the coast, there was a need here in America to protect Americans from storms and floods. We know what happens when the protection isn't there—devastating results.

In the news today, in northern California, there was in the headlines a series of storms coming to northern California—into my district, where my home is. The word is to get ready for serious flooding. I mean, this is very early in the season; although, Californians with any memory at all will know that there are a series of infamous Christmas floods in northern California. Now, this is really a Thanksgiving flood potential, but nonetheless, it's there.

I will tell you clearly that the Sacramento region, which is the second

most risky region in the Nation for flooding and flood damage, is right at the center of this storm. So that's the city of Sacramento. Perhaps 100,000 or more people are in serious jeopardy. Should a levee break in that region—and those levees are not up to 200-year standards—people would have less than 20 minutes to find high ground, to get out. It's an impossible situation. So we need serious infrastructure improvement—and that's Sacramento. The rest of my new district goes further north into Marysville and Yuba City, along the Sacramento River further north, and along the Feather and Yuba River—again, communities at high risk. Serious infrastructure needs to be developed. Levees need to be improved, upgraded, enhanced; otherwise, citizens are at risk, just as they were on Staten Island.

This is our responsibility. This is not only a local responsibility and a State responsibility—this is a national responsibility. This is when we become a national community, looking out for each other—in providing the basic infrastructure to protect us. We also have infrastructure that is necessary for commerce: our roads, our highways, our Internet systems, our rail transportation systems. All of these infrastructure items are critical to the economic well-being of America in addition to the human and commerce safety of this Nation. We're going to talk about that tonight.

Joining me is my colleague from New York. He has been working on this issue for some time. He has a project and a program that he is proposing, one that caught my attention. I've asked him to come and join us.

In being from the State of New York, we are talking about something that's very, very real for you. Please tell us what this is all about.

Mr. HIGGINS. I want to thank my colleague from California for his leadership on the infrastructure issue.

I think the problem that we see here in Washington is that the discussion is focused on the wrong thing. When you have a recession—an economic contraction—what your objective needs to be in terms of public policy is growth, growth in the economy. What we are experiencing now is anemic growth. For example, our growth rate is about 2 percent or less. That current rate of growth is not enough to sustain the current level of employment. In other words, if we don't grow this economy, our unemployment rate will necessarily go up.

We talk about debt and deficit in this Chamber, but if we remember, less than 12 years ago, we had a budgetary surplus of \$258 billion, meaning that we were taking in \$258 billion more in each year than we were spending. How was that possible?

□ 2030

It was made possible by having created 22 million private sector jobs in the previous 8 years. What was the pol-

icy then? The policy was to invest in the American economy, to invest in the American people, in education, scientific research and infrastructure. So I think the lessons from our most recent past are very instructive today as to what we should be doing in Washington to promote growth.

The gentleman from California spoke of a plan that I was working on, and that is a \$1.2 trillion investment in rebuilding the roads and bridges of America. That plan, advanced by the New America Foundation, would create 27 million private sector jobs in 5 years. The first year alone, over 5 million jobs which would reduce the current unemployment rate from where it is today to 6.4 percent and in the second year, 5.2 percent.

Now, public infrastructure as we know is a public responsibility. It's never a question as to whether or not we're going to rebuild our roads and bridges. The question is when does it make most sense to undertake that responsibility. And I would submit to you, the time to do it is now. Money is cheaper than it is ever going to be. Equipment is cheaper because it is idling, and labor is cheap because of the high unemployment rate.

We need to do nation-building right here at home. And when you consider we just spent as a nation \$89 billion rebuilding the roads and bridges of Afghanistan, we just spent \$67 billion rebuilding the roads and bridges of Iraq, nations of 30 million and 26 million respectively. And for this Nation, for America, a population of over 300 million people, and the American Society of Civil Engineers puts the quality of our infrastructure at a D, when the World Economic Forum rates us 24th in overall quality when in 2001 we were number two, we are going to spend less than \$53 billion. That's not only weak; it's pathetically weak.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. HIGGINS, thank you so very, very much for bringing this issue in very stark terms to our attention. You caught my attention earlier when we were talking about this; but here on the floor, this is a \$1.2 trillion program that could create 27 million jobs in the next 5 years, and those are economic analyses that have been done by the New America Foundation.

Mr. HIGGINS. That's correct.

Mr. GARAMENDI. How do we pay for this again?

Mr. HIGGINS. Well, you pay for it as you pay for transportation improvements at the local, State, and Federal level. You issue debt to finance the life of the project.

Mr. GARAMENDI. The same way we build and own our homes. We borrow the money to build that personal infrastructure, our home.

Mr. HIGGINS. That's right.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Now, the borrowing rate for the Federal Government on a 10-year note is a little over 1 percent or hovering around 1 percent now?

Mr. HIGGINS. A little over 1 percent for a 5-year Treasury note. It's one-half of 1 percent.

Mr. GARAMENDI. That's virtually free money.

Mr. HIGGINS. It's virtually free money.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Now, it does run up the debt; but we are using that money to create infrastructure, a necessary investment for the economy to grow and to protect ourselves.

Mr. HIGGINS. That's right. And according to Transportation for America, there are 69,000 structurally deficient bridges in the United States. There are over 2,000 structurally deficient bridges in New York State. There are 99 structurally deficient bridges in my community of western New York. Every second of every day, seven cars drive on a bridge in this Nation that is structurally deficient.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, we saw what collapse can do with the Minnesota bridge and the loss of life. We saw what inadequate infrastructure protecting New Jersey and New York can do with extraordinary loss of public investment as well as private investment—and lives.

Joining us for this discussion on jobs and creating jobs is part of what we like to call the east coast-west coast team. Congressman PAUL TONKO, you and I are often here on the floor to talk about how we can grow the American economy in a bipartisan way. This infrastructure notion that Mr. HIGGINS has brought to us I think has considerable merit and fits, I think, very easily with what President Obama has recommended in his American Jobs Act, which was an immediate \$50 billion enhancement of the \$60 billion that we would otherwise spend, bringing the total to over \$100 billion in the coming year. Again, enormous infrastructure.

Mr. TONKO, I know you are up on this issue. We have spent time talking about it in the past. Why don't you share with us your thoughts.

Mr. TONKO. Sure. And, Representative GARAMENDI, thank you for bringing us together for an hour of discussion on what is very important: growing jobs, strengthening our economy and strengthening the fabric of our communities by addressing public safety via investment in infrastructure, a very sound investment. It is always a pleasure to join you. It is an honor to serve in the New York delegation with Representative HIGGINS, BRIAN HIGGINS, who served with me, or I with him, perhaps better stated, in the New York State Assembly where I sat on the Transportation Committee. And I was seated on that committee right in 1987, in the shadow of the collapse of a New York State thruway bridge where 10 people perished. We recently commemorated the 25th anniversary of that event. It was very tragic, and it was in the heart of my home county, a small county of 50,000 people, Montgomery County, New York. And the impact economically that that dev-

astating occurrence brought to bear was incalculable.

So when you talk about, and I listened with interest to the exchange that you and Representative HIGGINS had about how do you pay for it, one way you don't want to pay for it is through an impact on the economy of your local region. The commerce hit that was taken was severe. The loss of dollars to the community was just incomprehensible, and of course the loss of lives which surpasses anything in importance. And interestingly, many of the individuals who were on that victims list were not from the region. So we're all impacted by weak infrastructure no matter in which State that might be because you never know when you're traveling over a situation that is unsafe.

So I think it is a wise investment to go forward and put to work tens of millions of skilled laborers who can make a difference in public safety in our communities, making certain that the soundness of investment and improvement, absolutely essential for our quality of life, for our public safety, for the strengthening of our commerce. And we know that infrastructure improvements—you and I have talked in the past about the infrastructure bank bill. We have talked about ways of leveraging dollars to weaken the impact on the public sector, on the taxpayer. There are ways to do that in very strident terms that allow us to go forward with the commitment and with the investment that is required.

But certainly with the aged infrastructure in this country, and to the earlier point made by Representative HIGGINS, if we can build other nations, and thank goodness that we have helped people strengthen their situation for their own people, but, my gosh, we should take advice, our own advice here, and understand that there is a strong bit of economic growth that occurs when you strengthen your infrastructure—from traditional roads and bridges to rail to communications, wiring our communities, and to the grid.

The grid system has had several tests—designed to run in a monopoly situation, and now being used to wield electrons from region to region, State to State, country to country. So there is a huge, vast involvement of infrastructure there that begs our investment. And I think for sound reasons, for public safety reasons, and for economic recovery purposes, it makes sense; and let's put the people to work, and let's build a stronger community.

Mr. GARAMENDI. It is all about jobs. Thank you very much, Mr. TONKO. Your personal experience in the New York Legislature and in your own community brings this issue into focus here on the floor of this House.

□ 2040

As we build this infrastructure, if we add one additional element to the creation of the infrastructure, something that, again, we've talked about here

many times, and that is that we use our money, our taxpayer money, whether it's borrowed or directly paid, that we use that money to buy American-made equipment, so that the steel that goes into the bridges is American-made, the cement made in America, manufactured in America, that we use that American money on American-made equipment.

In other words, make it in America, so we not only are doing the infrastructure and the jobs that come with it, but we also use that to revitalize our manufacturing sector. This is a very powerful way in which we can more rapidly expand the American economy.

I just happen to have two bills that would do that, one for the clean energy industry. If we're going to use our taxpayer money to subsidize the clean energy industry, wonderful. We need to do that for all kinds of reasons, but buy American-made clean energy products, whether it's a solar system or a wind turbine.

And similarly, with regard to transportation, the trains, the buses, the steel, let's buy that in America, American manufacturing.

I noticed a lovely lady joining us from the State of Ohio. It would be MARCY KAPTUR. You've talked about these issues many times. Thank you very much for joining us this evening.

Ms. KAPTUR. Congressman GARAMENDI, I want to say I'm just so privileged to join three such dedicated Members whose States have been wise enough to send them here to Washington. Obviously Congressman GARAMENDI from northern California and Congressman TONKO from the State of New York, the great State of New York, and Congressman BRIAN HIGGINS, also of the State of New York, a little bit upstate.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thought he was associated with Ohio as much as he is with New York. Isn't he on the border out there somewhere?

Ms. KAPTUR. Well, you know, there's the St. Lawrence Seaway that kind of connects it all as it flows into the Atlantic Ocean.

But I wanted say, you know, many of us, all of us have come through very difficult campaigns in this political year of 2012. But what is wonderful about serving with the three of you is you keep the focus on jobs in this country, and the importance of making goods in America, and where wealth is really created, how we do that as a country, and what it takes to build a great country.

I look at the St. Lawrence Seaway, and I think about Dwight Eisenhower, a great general, led our forces in Europe, and came home and decided that America needed to create the St. Lawrence Seaway so that we would unlock the potential of the Upper Great Lakes and the Lower Great Lakes.

And you say to yourself, today, with some of the limited thinking that some exhibit—of course, no one in this Chamber would ever be accused of that,

right?—but could we do the St. Lawrence Seaway again?

I've had the great privilege of traveling out West—I think I've probably been in every State and almost every congressional district at one point in my career—and to look at the Hoover Dam. And as I admired the dam, I thought to myself, America has it in her to land a man on the moon and to create NASA, but here at home, our public works, do we have the vision?

Do we have a vision big enough today, in the 21st century, to match what those who came before us gave to us that put this continent together?

And as I travel, I see water systems in disrepair. In fact, in my hometown of Toledo, they're trying to find \$45 million to put a roof on the water treatment plant, which really needs \$500 million to fix.

I go to the new parts of the Ninth District, in the city of Cleveland, and I look at the need for infrastructure repair and, in the same city, so many unemployed people who could be put to work fixing the heart and soul of Cleveland.

Or Lorain, Ohio, the number of brownfields that are there where we're waiting to clear property so that we can clean it up, move the sewage treatment plant, move other assets that are there and create a much greater port on Lake Erie. And I say, do we have it in us?

I know I have it in me to want to do this. But I look back at what our heritage really is, the interstate highway system itself, when, again, during the 1950s, if we think about what was done, there was a time when this country, if you moved from—well, you couldn't move from Ohio to California on roads that intersected. People think that just happened, but it didn't. It took real vision to do that.

All the statistics show that when we invest in infrastructure, that is the most job-rich program that this country could ever promote. And to create efficiencies and intermodal connections—Congressman TONKO talked about fiber optics and about telecommunications and all of the new ways of connecting our country.

I've had the privilege in my career of representing many rural areas that are short, not just on doctors, but on telecommunications capabilities. It isn't just in the heart of Ukraine where people can't communicate; it's in rural America as well.

So I just came down here, I heard you speaking, and I thought, I identify with your cause. Thank you for talking about jobs inside the Congress of the United States. Thank you, Congressman GARAMENDI, Congressman HIGGINS, Congressman TONKO.

Now you all come from what is regarded as the coast, right? But I'm from a coast too, the north coast along Lake Erie, and it's actually quite a long coast when you take a look at it, you unwind it in all the various lakes. So we're coastal America too, and I identify with your cause.

And believe me, the people that sent me here identify with the cause of jobs and economic growth and infrastructure investment in our country to push us far beyond where perhaps Roosevelt and Eisenhower and Kennedy dreamed.

Thank you so very much for this Special Order tonight.

Mr. GARAMENDI. How correct you are to look back to those heroes of the past that laid down the infrastructure. You can actually go back a little bit further. George Washington, in his first year as President of the United States, instructed Alexander Hamilton to develop an industrial policy. One part of that industrial policy was the development of the infrastructure for America's commerce. And it was canals and it was ports and it was roads.

Mr. HIGGINS, so, how are we going to make this happen? You've got \$1.2 trillion you want to put out there.

Mr. HIGGINS. Well, I think you made a very good point, particularly with your leadership on the Make It in America initiative. Keep in mind, when you invest in American infrastructure you're buying labor from American businesses. You're buying supplies and material from American businesses. You're buying engineering and design services from American businesses.

And we also forgot a very important element of our economy. It's the thousands of returning veterans who've been serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan. The unemployment rate today for those returning veterans under the age of 24 is 19 percent.

There was a program started by the Department of Defense, it's now a not-for-profit called Helmets to Hardhats, and what it basically does, it identifies 60,000 American businesses and some of the trade unions. They collaborate to get together to identify veterans who have already had extraordinary training and discipline and leadership and teamwork, and it accelerates their apprenticeship program. So these individuals could be making 60, \$70,000 a year, if there was work to be had here.

So it's an investment in America. It's an investment in American businesses, and it says to our returning veterans in a real sincere and genuine way, thank you for your service.

Mr. GARAMENDI. You said earlier that the American Society of Engineers—I think that was the name—said that we have a D rating for infrastructure, and that we need over \$2 trillion.

I don't know anybody in my district, where we may have a serious flood in the next 3 days, that says the infrastructure is adequate. They're looking at those levees, and they're watching the water rise, and they're going, this isn't sufficient to protect us. So in a very real sense of just safety, infrastructure is needed. But also, it's needed for employment.

You correctly raised the issue of the veterans coming back, \$2 trillion—there's no doubt about the need. America knows there's a need. As the four of us have discussed here, there is a need,

even a crying need, and a human safety need right now, not tomorrow, not 10 years from now, but immediately.

□ 2050

The question is: How do we go about making that happen? And here 435 of us and 100 Senators on the other side of this building have the ability to answer the crying need of Americans to build our infrastructure, to give us the jobs to provide the foundation for economic growth, and to protect us. We have that power.

Let's continue our discussion.

Mr. TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. Representative KAPTUR made an interesting point that there was a sense of vision when they pursued the efforts with the St. Lawrence Seaway. There was a sense of vision in my district as a donor area and in Representative HIGGINS' when Governor DeWitt Clinton perceived this Erie Canal as a way to transport goods and to open up the westward movement to spark an industrial revolution. That gave birth not only to a port called New York City, but birth to a necklace of communities called mill towns that became the epicenters of invention and innovation.

So it's that spark of vision that is the first step. And we're going to denounce any of these creative opportunities to invest in nation-building by denouncing it as socialism? Was President Eisenhower a Socialist? Were all those who preceded him or followed him that came up with these great visions—a space program that gave us an unleashing of technology? No, they were thinkers. They were visionaries. They were leaders. That's the first step. And then we develop policy from that vision. We tether it into real terms, and then we invest in the implementation of that policy. That's America at her finest.

If we look back at the Erie Canal history, when they did that, it wasn't easy times. They were tough times. They were tough economic times. And so they stepped up to the plate and said, We're going to do this. It's not easy to launch, but we're going to do it because it's the way through the tough times.

We have tough times now, chronically high unemployment that, for many, preceded the recession. They need opportunity. Our economy grows when we invest in those workers of whom Representative HIGGINS spoke, in those materials and goods that allow for our Nation's businesses to prosper, add jobs, become part of a recovery. So that is all very critical.

I talked earlier about the bridge collapse that spans the Schoharie Creek in upstate New York that you can walk across in the summertime. It was flowing equal to the efforts, the CFS, of Niagara Falls. So there are some economic impacts coming from Mother Nature that are driven by global warming and climate change. So when we do some of these visionary things, incorporate all of the policies so that environmental concerns as policy formats

with economic recovery terms, with energy terms, with transportation can all be woven together and you solve some of our ills where we're being impacted by Mother Nature with natural disasters that are draining our infrastructure, as we witnessed with Sandy all along the east coast, where now tens of billions of dollars of recovery are required.

Let's add the policy dimensions that allow us to reduce the threats from Mother Nature, build our economy by adding jobs and providing for public safety, and creating a state-of-the-art economy driven by transportation, communication, energy transformation with renewables and the like that will cut down on the emission of particles and dangerous substances that are toxic on the ozone layer. That's America at her finest.

And if we do that simple thing of providing vision, followed with policy, followed with resource advocacy, we will have achieved, and brightest, best days lie ahead, not denouncing that thinking as Socialist.

Mr. GARAMENDI. There's a critical moment now. Right now. That moment is seen in the deliberations that are going on here in this Hall, in the Capitol, about the fiscal cliff, about the deficit. And there are those who would suggest that the only way to deal with it is with an austerity program, reduce government expenditures at every level.

There's some evidence cited by Mr. HIGGINS earlier that there's another way of dealing with this, and that is to put people to work, to use the power of government to put people to work, even if that means borrowing money at 1 percent. Putting it into an infrastructure bank to finance projects that have a cash flow, such as your sanitation facility in Toledo, Ohio, or a toll road or the St. Lawrence Seaway, all of which have a cash flow. You could maybe charge a percent and a half. You borrow at 1 percent, you charge a percent and a half, and we build. We put people to work.

Ms. KAPTUR, why don't you pick this up, and then Mr. HIGGINS, and we'll carry on our conversation.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank you, Congressman GARAMENDI. I am really listening carefully to what Congressman TONKO and Congressman HIGGINS have been saying this evening and thinking about what's going on in Ohio, the northern band of Ohio, from Toledo through Cleveland, and the importance of manufacturing and thinking about how hard our businesses and our workers have to compete in a very unlevel global playing field. And I've seen this directly in the automotive industry, where to this day one of the reasons that our automotive industry had difficulty and why it required the Nation to not let it fail and to pay back what was borrowed was because we are in competition with state-managed economies.

For example, I'm a member of the China Commission. And several econo-

mists testified before our committee a few years ago that what you really have in operation is market Leninism. I said, Describe to me what you're seeing. Because I've had companies in my district that have business deals in China that have lost billions of dollars. They have paid for goods that have never been received. Now, in a transparent legal system like our own, that could never happen. You have a court system. You have a way of getting your money back. But when you're dealing with a state-managed economy under a market Leninist approach, you have powerful political people pulling the strings that isn't truly a free market.

And so whether you have a closed market in Japan that's still largely closed to automotive products or you have a state-managed economy as in China, then you ask our automotive producers or any company to compete in that kind of environment, you end up harming our domestic production. And one of the reasons we are so elated that our automotive industry is recovering, you see it all over our region, the power of industry to lift people into the middle class and beyond. You can see it everywhere: in suppliers, in restaurants, in theaters, and places where people are going. Even grocery stores, frankly, where people are able to buy more because of the recovery of this powerful, powerful industry.

And I just want to end with one image, which is really hard to capture in words, but one of our companies in Cleveland has the only 50,000-ton press in the United States of America—Alcoa. It is seven stories in magnitude. I feel very privileged as a Representative to have been invited into the company to see this literally mammoth, magnificent machine be able to take parts and form them for industry as well as our defense systems. And it's seven stories high. Three layers on three stories at the bottom just dealing with the hydraulics.

The engineering and the brain power it takes to manufacture high-end goods is incredible. We are so proud of that company and other companies that are able to make it in America, despite all of the unfair global playing fields on which they are asked to play. And we see the components going into the automotive industry, into our defense systems. And we thank the corporate leadership and the workers, those who work very, very hard jobs that help us build the strongest country in the world.

So I just had to say that tonight because you get as excited as I do about actually making things and seeing this genius that takes ideas and engineers them into products that affect all of us and allows America to be the strongest Republic in the world. So I wanted to place that on the record. And thank you for giving me the time to do it.

□ 2100

Mr. GARAMENDI. As you were talking so enthusiastically, I was thinking

of some of Carl Sandburg's incredible poetry on the power of America and all that was done there.

Mr. HIGGINS, you brought this to how we can finance our infrastructure, how we can Make It in America, create jobs. Why don't you carry on with that discussion—or take that anywhere that you would like to.

Mr. HIGGINS. Well, I would just say, back to the power of America, you hear in this Chamber a lot of tough talk about China. The best way to respond to China is to stand up to them, to compete with them. They cheat on their currency, they treat their workers poorly, they destroy their environment. But whining about China is not going to resolve this problem; investing in America and the American people will.

You also mentioned the issue of austerity, and I think it's important to bring up. Historically in this Nation, the economy went into recession. We had the Great Depression in the early thirties. The American economy was starting to show signs of anemic growth right after the Great Depression in late 1936. Congress and the President pulled back with austerity measures; the economy went into recession again.

In Japan, in the 1990s, they were experiencing financial problems. They imposed comprehensive austerity measures. That economy remains in a recessionary mode and has been for the last decade. You see what's going on in Europe today; austerity doesn't work. Again, I go back to our recent history. The year 2000, budgetary surplus in this Nation of \$258 billion made possible by having created 22 million private sector jobs by investing in infrastructure, scientific research, and education.

The best tax policy is not right or left; it's bringing lost taxpayers back to productivity. That's the best, quickest way to do it, and you're helping American businesses in the process.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. Representative GARAMENDI, again, thank you for bringing us together again.

You talked about that austerity budget that some would advance. I have to tell you another disaster last year, Irene and Lee, that hit as a hurricane and tropical storm, impacted the several counties I represent, from Schoharie in upstate New York, to Montgomery, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Albany. These counties were severely impacted. To talk to the people directly devastated—I mean devastated, lost their homes, everything for which they ever worked—and to tell them we're going to change the rules in the middle of the game on disaster aid, it took fights galore to win that argument on this floor. That austerity approach didn't cut it with folks who might have believed it before the disaster, but certainly not in the midst of.

So we need to be there for situations, not only disastrous situations, but the investment that occurs so that we can

effectively compete. We know in our heart, we know in our minds that there are ways to do this.

I know, just listening to the unanimous description of the situation in the auto industry that Representative KAPTUR defined for us, on a much smaller scale, but equally significant, I watched some of the businesses in my district retrofit and do that through research in incubator programs and providing for our advanced manufacturing which allows them to add that competitive muscle that enables them to compete in that global marketplace. That made a total difference.

Folks like Kintz Plastics in Schoharie County, New York, where they were engaged in an incubator program with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Some very smart science and tech minds came up with ways to automate what they were doing and trained through the community college their workers to pick up on this new phase of activity within their assembly line process. Today they are successful, but it took investment, investment of capital infrastructure, physical infrastructure, and human structure, training the worker and providing for those relationships to prosper. Everyone wins in that situation.

So we know we have it within us to make this all possible. It talks to investment. It speaks to investment. It speaks to the opportunity that we can provide so that people can have that American Dream tethered in reality, so that it can be within their grasp, so that they can continue to build upon this Nation's significance.

A great nation stays great if it continues to stretch itself. It's about the churning and the turning and becoming more mighty through investment of research, development, retrofitting our manufacturing base. We can win this by doing it smarter. We don't necessarily have to do it cheaper. Do it smarter and you win those contracts that then equate to jobs. Research equals jobs. I see it all the time. It gives birth to new ideas, new product lines, better efficiencies. It drives an economy.

You can't walk away from this tough moment and talk about austere responses. You need creative responses—not just throwing money at a situation, but thinking it through, thoughtful, analytical, economic approaches that then provide for the best policy formats.

The President has offered several ideas that were not taken up in this House. We could grow that economic recovery, which has been slow and steady with 32 consecutive months of private sector job growth. We can expand upon that, and we can create much stronger numbers if we do it wisely.

So I think the American people have spoken. They've spoken to an investment in the middle class, the investment in the American Dream, the investment in ideas and research. We

know—we've all talked about it on this floor—where research occurs, that's where manufacturing will network. It will migrate toward that research element. So we are wise to invest in research and to invest in the human infrastructure, the worker. The important significant part of the equation: having that trained, skilled, educated workforce that can make it all happen.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Earlier today I was asked by a reporter from San Francisco about the effect of sequestration and the austerity budget proposals on research in that area. The San Francisco Bay area is one of the great research centers in the world, with the University of California, the laboratory at Berkeley and Lawrence Livermore, Stanford and other institutions in the area. The austerity program that is being proposed will devastate the research.

Years ago—actually, in the mid-eighties, when I was in the California Legislature, we were talking about how to keep the California economy going, and I developed a plan, a program. There were five pieces to it. We've talked about all of those five today. Every one of those five were critical investments that the economy, the society would make.

The first was the best education system in the world. Now, America has an enormous challenge here and we're not measuring up as we should, and that should be a discussion we should have here on the floor perhaps at another day.

The second was the best research. The austerity budget that's out there, the sequestration and other proposals that have been put forward, slash the research budgets of the United States in health care, in energy, in transportation, in manufacturing, in those areas and in those areas that create opportunity.

The third is manufacturing, making things that come from that research and enhancing the current manufacturing technologies using, as you suggested a moment ago, Mr. TONKO, the advanced manufacturing technologies which come from research, and the engineering that goes with it that Ms. KAPTUR discussed a few moments ago.

The fourth was infrastructure. You have to have the foundation for economic growth. Mr. HIGGINS brought to our attention the potential for 26–27 million jobs within the next 5 years by really going full on into building the American infrastructure, repairing what we have and building for the next generations.

The fifth was change. You have to accept change. That means that we have to learn from past experiences here in Congress. Mr. HIGGINS very correctly pointed out the economic history when a recession was about to recede because of government policies but austerity was implanted and a new recession commenced. We ought to take cognizance of that.

□ 2110

So we have to change and grow and learn. Those are the five things I often talk about.

Let's carry on this discussion. We have about another 10 minutes. And maybe if each one of us takes 2½ or so minutes, we can wrap up in time. I think I started with Mr. HIGGINS and then Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. TONKO, and then I will say good night to all.

Mr. HIGGINS.

Mr. HIGGINS. Again, I want to thank you for your leadership on these issues and for bringing us together tonight to discuss this important issue. Hopefully it will be the first of many or a continuation of this discussion.

But even groups like the United States Chamber of Commerce, they put out a report stating that we will lose \$336 billion over the next 5 years because of bottlenecks, because of inefficiency in our infrastructure. You can't identify the problem without supporting a solution.

My point is that Democrats and Republicans in this Nation should come together to support a robust nation-building program right here in America. It benefits American small businesses; it benefits returning veterans; and it has a measurable influence on improving this economy.

The New America Foundation, as I mentioned previously, has a report, "The Way Forward." It's not a right or a left group. It's a centrist group that is very prestigious and basically says, a \$1.2 trillion investment in infrastructure—roads and bridges, sewer systems, water systems, the electricity grid—will create 27 million jobs in a 5-year period. It will create 5.2 million in the first year alone. That's 433,000 jobs every month for the first year.

Can you imagine what the stock market would do if the jobs report came out next month and said that we created 433,000 jobs? Our economy is consumer confidence. We are all economic actors. When we're confident, we move; when we're not, we don't.

So I just think it's very clear that what's worked in the past is what will work in creating the kind of economy that everybody in this Nation wants very desperately.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Ms. KAPTUR.

Ms. KAPTUR. Thank you.

I wanted to tie together Congressman HIGGINS' ideas on the Helmets to Hardhats, a program that I have supported, and commend him for his leadership on that, and also Congressman TONKO for the efforts that he's made in suggesting to us that we have to be visionary, and we have to promote new research, new research and development.

One area we have not focused on during these discussions tonight as much as I would hope is housing. Every recovery America has had since World War II has been led by housing, and housing has been in the dumpster for several years now. And one of the ways we do that is think about ways in

which programs like Helmets to Hardhats could identify sectors in communities that were depleted by the Wall Street crisis. And think about how to modernize the manner in which energy is provided to them, for example. So we're not just rebuilding to the past but building the future.

In my home community, we have something called Advanced Energy Utility that the Port Authority has established where they can loan funds that are then paid back through the bond offerings they do. And right now it's in its early stages. But one could see where a neighborhood could be identified and new technologies in the building sector brought to bear to create the new neighborhoods of tomorrow.

One company—Owens Corning—in our region has established a new manufacturing plant near Milan, Ohio, building a seven-layer roofing and the most incredible equipment. I defy any Member of Congress to build what they have built there and to bring off these big roles and be able to apply this roofing that I think is going to lead the industry. They could build four new factories depending on sales in the northern environments of the United States and Canada. And I see this and I think, all we have to do is put the parts together to build the residential neighborhoods of a 21st century America.

So I am just proud to join my colleagues tonight. And thank you, Congressman GARAMENDI, for bringing us together, as you so often do, to keep the focus here in the Congress on jobs and economic growth, which is what the American people sent us here to do.

Mr. TONKO. Again, thank you, Representative GARAMENDI. It's great to join with our colleagues here this evening to share thoughts about how we move from a very trying, difficult time into perhaps America's glory days.

I think it's important for us to first acknowledge that every Member elected to serve in this wonderful Chamber of the House of Representatives and those down the road here at the United States Senate, each of us is challenged, required, and responsible to polish that American Dream and make it within the grasp, provide it to be within the grasp of America's working families and those who will grow into the middle class and those who are being further empowered by work, the dignity of work, and stronger outcomes with correct policy formats.

I think that this journey that we've asked to embark upon, by putting our names on the ballot, begins with us: being a people of vision, being a House that provides a vision for America. That tells me we only need to look to our history—recent and some not so recent. But that will instruct us. Our history will instruct us.

We have built a strong Nation. We have provided for growth around the world. We know the secret to the success. We know how we built a Nation.

And it took a vision, a New Deal that provided for housing, for manufacturing, for a strong defense, for the opportunity for us, as a Nation, to respect its labor force and insert a value-added connotation for that workforce. That was us in our glory days. And we're going to be even more gloried because of investments that we can make by sound thinking.

The research that we need to provide will enable us to compete. We will create products not yet on the radar screen. And if we think all the products ever needed by society have been conceived and designed and manufactured, then the story's over. But we know better than that. Product lines are coming up as we speak that allow us to use our resources much more wisely.

We are a Nation of abundance. But that means we can't be wasteful. We need to be resourceful. That challenge is out there to us. And as we become resourceful, we become more efficient, and we become more profitable by sound policy. We can do it. We have ways to invest in our infrastructure, invest in research, invest in workforce development, invest in housing, invest in communities. And that investment will earn lucrative dividends. It's not spending. It's investing with the expectation—the rightful expectation, mind you—that we will get that just return.

And so tonight I feel hope for our Nation, driven by a sense of ideals carved by the richness of our history.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO, thank you very much. Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HIGGINS, thank you very much.

As I was listening to the three of you and thinking my own thoughts, I'm excited. I'm excited for the prospect of America. I can see the opportunities that are there. I can see the policies coming together. And each of the three of you described specific policies that we could put in place.

I don't know if we can get 27 million jobs from infrastructure. But I do know that we can get millions of jobs from an infrastructure program and, in so doing, lay the foundation for safety, from floods, fires, from other catastrophes that could occur. I know that in doing so, we can rebuild our manufacturing sector by using American-made products in that infrastructure program. I know that we can provide the jobs that Americans desperately want today—not just cheap jobs but real middle class jobs, as all three of you have described.

I am excited. I am excited about the prospect of building America, coming home from the wars and building America, as happened when my father came back from World War II. America went after building. Ms. KAPTUR, you talked about the St. Lawrence Seaway. You talked about the interstate highway, that system that President Eisenhower talked about.

We are on the cusp of a new building in America. We have the wherewithal. We can finance it with really cheap money now. And we can use these

projects to repay that money. It's a very exciting time. And it's our responsibility, as Representatives of the 300-plus million Americans, to enunciate that vision, to put in place those programs. And when we do, we'll make it in America. And Americans will make it.

Thank you so very, very much for joining us.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2120

A HOUSE OF CIVILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LUNGREN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to be able to share some comments here in the last few weeks in which I am privileged to be a Member of this House. I thought I would read into the RECORD a letter that I penned to my constituents upon the conclusion of my election process. I said at the time:

I'm satisfied that enough votes have been counted to determine that I will not be representing the citizens of the Seventh Congressional District during the 113th Congress. It was a tough campaign, and I accept the outcome. I congratulate Dr. BERA in his victory, and I wish him well as he accepts this new challenge. It is my hope that Dr. BERA approaches Congress, as have I, with a humble heart, respect for the institution, and a desire to perform his duties in the best interest of the people he represents and the country.

No one can fulfill the obligations of public service alone. The contributions of my wife Bobbi and our family have been inestimable. I could never thank them enough. My staff has worked tirelessly on behalf of others. There are no better public servants anywhere.

I'm proud of the work that we've accomplished representing Californians both in the California Department of Justice and in the United States Congress. The experience of 18 years serving in the House of Representatives and 8 years as California's Attorney General truly has been an honor and one for which I will be forever grateful.

During my time in the House, we were able to build coalitions across the aisle to advance legislation that not only benefited the people of the district, but all Americans. I'm proud of the meaningful working we have achieved with Folsom Dam, our levees, U.S. port security, chemical facility security, cybersecurity, criminal justice reform, immigration reform, national security, human trafficking, reining in government spending, and the myriad of other issues that came before the Congress.

Bobbi and I wish to thank the multitude of volunteers and supporters who were by our side in this effort. Your support is gratifying and humbling, and for that we are immensely grateful.

God bless you, and God bless this land of ours.

I read that to suggest the feelings that I have at this time when I am approaching the end of my service in this House. One of the thoughts that I have as I do that is the question of civility