

pledged to advance as I began my service to the people of the 10th District. I'm proud to stand here today and say that I believe that I've made good on this commitment.

On a number of issues, ranging from the environment, education, stem cell research, title X funding and women's health, gun control, and transportation infrastructure, I've never been afraid to break from any party and do what I believe is best for my constituents and district.

□ 2010

This is why I've consistently been ranked and considered as one of the most independent and bipartisan Members of this body.

Mr. Speaker, as an Eagle Scout, my Scoutmasters, Lee Getschow, Charlie Barnes and Artie Bergman, taught me to respect and love the outdoors, which is why I especially want to highlight our work to protect Lake Michigan.

Beginning with the first bill I introduced in the House, the Great Lakes Water Protection Act, along with my good friend, DAN LIPINSKI, Senators MARK KIRK and DICK DURBIN, I'm proud of our efforts to keep Lake Michigan clean. This legislation would prohibit wastewater pollution from running into the Great Lakes, but our work to protect the 10th District's most cherished natural resource did not stop there.

We focused on supporting the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through authoring and supporting funding amendments and advocating for the GLRI's importance in testimony before the House Budget Committee, all to make sure that this important program to protect the Great Lakes is adequately funded.

On a more local level, I'm proud that we've finally been able to facilitate the clean-up of Waukegan Harbor. The Superfund site which our community has been trying to restore and clean up for more than 20 years has finally started under our watch. So much work that went in to getting this accomplished has happened, and I particularly want to highlight and thank Susie Schreiber, Gerry Larsen and Cam Davis for their dedicated service to cleaning up Waukegan Harbor, getting, finally Lake County's gateway to the Great Lakes delisted as an area of concern by the EPA.

I also want to quickly highlight another cause which I've been proud to champion, and that's STEM education. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, these are critical educational fields that we need to make sure our young students are not only exposed to but have the tools to excel and compete in the global marketplace. This means giving these core areas extra attention.

And on that, I'd like to highlight the great work and dedication that Dr. Laz Lopez has given. As the principal of Wheeling High School, Dr. Lopez is ahead of the curve in advancing STEM

education among his student, and I believe he's a model for students around the country. He's helped me greatly and has taken on the task of heading up my Educational Advisory Board, and for that I will forever be grateful.

In closing, it has been one of the greatest honors of my life to represent the people of the 10th Congressional District in the 112th Congress. I've never forgotten where I came from and what I came here to accomplish and the importance of governing for the people.

And while I'll miss many things, Mr. Speaker, I will miss most of all the many friends that I've made on both sides of the aisle, and my dedicated and talented staff, some of whom are here this evening: Eric Burgeson, my chief; Kelley Folino; Kim Brisky; Philippe Melin; David Stern; Kris Denzel; Eric Disilvestro; Heb Siam; Eric Miller; Daniel Serota; Mona Dooley; Stefani Zimmerman; Mike Traikovich; Jack Heyden; and Bryan Reed. They all worked tirelessly for the constituents of the 10th District, and I'm proud to call them my friends.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to seeing this next Congress address some big things, some big issues because there's simply too much at stake. As I think about our Nation's future, I'm reminded of a Winston Churchill quote: Success is not final; failure is not fatal. But it is the courage to continue that counts.

Each Congress brings a new opportunity to write the next chapter in America's exceptional story, but we must always remember that nothing is given. America's greatness must continue to be earned.

Our Nation has been built, generation by generation, through hard work and resiliency of the American people; and our generation must do our part to live up to this awesome responsibility. We must always be a country that stands for freedom and liberty, economic growth and opportunity for every American. And I remain optimistic that we can continue to make this country even better if we stay committed to these principles.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the people of the 10th District for the opportunity and honor to represent them in the United States Congress.

I yield back the balance of my time.

THE GIANT VS. THE MIDGETS

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was thinking to myself earlier today, what happens when you put in a cage fight a giant with a midget?

Well, the midget will not win the fight. I'm going to tell you that. Why?

He just doesn't carry enough weight to do so. But if you put 30 midgets in with that giant, then the midgets have a chance.

Now, they have weight classes in cage fighting, so you're not going to find a situation where you have two or three against one. You'll just have equal weights. You'll have equally weighted combatants, and then they will go at each other, and the best man will win, or woman.

But we don't have that kind of set up when it comes to relations between employers and employees. There are no weight classes. And so what generally happens is whoever's paying the workers is usually the giant.

And so giants are in business to make a profit. That's how they became big and muscular. But they need those midgets, they need the midgets out there, they need the workers to actually produce the goods or service that is traded in return for the money, which strengthens the giant.

So in an employment relationship, employer/employee, you've got the giant, you've got the midget. Because there are no weight classes in that situation, you have an inherent imbalance. Whoever has the most money has the most clout. They can give you a job, or they can decide that they don't want to hire you. That's not your call. You don't have a right to work. You can offer yourself out for employment, but you don't have a right to work.

So with no weight classes in this employment relationship, where the employer is the giant and the worker is the midget, how do you go about making it a fair fight?

Well, that's where you put the midgets together. You put 30 midgets in with the giant, and the midgets then have a chance, collectively. And so that is how the situation has unfolded here in America.

Seventy-five years ago, almost 75 years ago, Congress passed the National Labor Relations Act, which helps to protect American workers' rights to organize and negotiate the terms of employment with corporations. The midgets get a chance to speak with one voice to the giant. The midgets collectively have the ability to stand somewhat equal to the giant. They have a possibility of winning.

It's never going to be an employee win everything and employer goes down in defeat.

□ 2020

No. The thing is the workers get together. The midgets get together to try to get as strong as they can so that they can then deal with that giant in a more productive way. And the giant, wanting to avoid the fight, decides to speak eye-to-eye with the midgets—with the workers—and work it out to where everybody can win. That's what it's all about.

So the National Labor Relations Act, which protected American workers' rights to organize and negotiate the terms of employment, this actually leveled the playing field between the giant and the midget. It leveled the playing field.

Now, how was it set up that the collective body of workers could stand together and negotiate fair wages and fair employment conditions; things like paid holidays, things like health care benefits, things like retirement, things like number of days off, things like how much do you make, pay? So workers stood together. They had the ability to stand together, and they were protected by Federal law in standing together to be able to bargain with the mighty giant, the employer, to bring about some equity and a balance to that inherently unfair relationship. I won't say "unfair," but inherently unbalanced, out-of-balance relationship.

So we passed that law. It's been working well almost 75 years. But, ladies and gentlemen, in the course of just 7 days, what has happened in Michigan is a blow to crush unions, to crush collective bargaining, and to crush the power of individual workers to stand together, pool their resources so that they can support public policy workers—in other words, politicians—so that they could support those politicians who support their interests. It's been working that way for almost 75 years.

During that time, we went from a Nation where so many people were in poverty, lived in poverty, had no benefits, made slave wages, worked 20 hours a day, and went from that kind of situation into where most workers had obtained middle class status, where workers could afford to go out and buy the house, buy the two cars, send the kids to college and take a vacation and have nice clothes and all of the things that middle class people want. That's what the union movement produced for America by being in a strong position to be able to demand fairness and equity from the employer.

So the employers, let's say General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, the automobile manufacturers, since we're talking about Michigan, they all made lots of money and the workers who work for those companies were middle class and their children went to college and became lawyers and doctors and accountants, and some of them even went back to work in the factories. But now, 7 days it took to crush the ability of workers to stand together financially. They'll never crush the spirit of the workers. But they have used the law with no public hearings, no committee action, no regular course of action during the legislative session—which is a lame duck legislative session, by the way—no regular order, just a sneak attack.

Thursday morning, the 6th of November, 1 month after the landslide election in Michigan and throughout this country that turned back the corporate money that was a raid against the Democrats and a raid against President Obama, it turned that back. A resounding victory on November 6. On December 6, a sneak attack during a lame duck session, with no public hearings,

no committee action. A sneak attack. They announced it that Thursday morning, the 6th, and by 8 p.m., action to crush the union laws had passed both houses, house and senate, in Michigan. Less than 10 hours it took to bring down 75 years of prosperity for all.

Now, why would anyone want to crush the union? And I'm not calling them right-to-work laws because, as I told you earlier, there is no right to work. So let's get rid of that misnomer and let's call the legislation what it is. It's not right-to-work legislation. It is crush-the-union legislation. Who would want to crush the unions? It certainly wouldn't be the union members themselves. It must be, by process of elimination, the folks that they work for.

Now, in Michigan, who did they work for? They used to work for GM and Ford and Chrysler, but due to all of those hefty bonuses and corporate greed that consumed the corporate leaders, they were so busy getting those bonuses and million-dollar bonuses, multimillion-dollar bonuses and salaries and whatnot, that they took their hand off of the wheel and they allowed competition from foreign automakers to overtake their competitive position. And so, as a result, they ended up needing a bailout.

Ford didn't need a bailout. They went and borrowed some money. They did it the right way. They also did some things to make their business more competitive in terms of the products, and so they were able to weather the storm without a government bailout. But Chrysler and General Motors took money from the people to be able to sustain themselves.

□ 2030

Both corporations were close to being crushed themselves, and the workers would have gone down with them. So we did the right thing here and we provided funds to bail out GM and Chrysler.

As a result of that, and as a result of the workers' union getting together with the fallen giant to help pick that giant back up, what they did was they reached a deal, they cut back on some of the vacation days and some of the benefits, they lowered the wages. They did a lot to pick the giant up. The giant was awakened and ended up getting back on his feet, and now General Motors has become, once again, the number one automobile manufacturer in the world. That shows you the American spirit, and it was those workers who were instrumental in making it happen.

Where were the auto manufacturers on December 6? Where were they? I've seen reports that say that, well, you know, they are just kind of staying in the background, but they really don't support this legislative effort to crush the unions. They say that we don't really need that right now. But there's nobody from the company getting up in front of the microphone and saying,

"Don't pass this law. This is wrong. Governor, don't sign this law."

So in the absence of any manifestations of support for the workers, I've got to suspect that General Motors, Chrysler, Ford, are feeling pretty good about how things have worked out so far. In the absence of somebody telling me different, I've got to believe that they see where that level playing field has now been tilted in their favor, and despite the fact that the midgets helped them get up when they had fallen, now they're going to crush the midgets. That's what it looks like to me.

Especially when I think back on this organization which is known as ALEC. ALEC is the American Legislative Exchange Council. That's ALEC. When I look back and think back on the history of that organization, and when I ponder who their corporate members have been, I'm brought to the realization that those auto manufacturers are longtime members of ALEC.

Now, what is ALEC? ALEC is an organization that brings public officials, mainly State legislators, together for quarterly meetings at luxurious locations throughout the country. About 80 percent of the State legislators in America belong to ALEC. They pay dues. It used to be \$50 a year. Now I understand it's \$100. You pay dues, \$100. The citizens actually pay the dues for the politicians. That comes out of the State treasury. They join ALEC and they go to the quarterly meetings and they participate in the legislative efforts of that organization, which also includes, in addition to legislators, corporations, big business, some small businesses, but it's basically an organization of big business. They wished that they could pay only a hundred dollars. They might pay \$25,000 or more for a year as a member of ALEC.

You've got corporate members, you've got legislators who are members, you've got individuals and you've got corporations. You've got midgets against giants, who are not against giants but with giants in ALEC. And the giants take real good care of the midgets, as long as the midgets do what the giants want them to do.

So, what am I talking about? At these quarterly events, the legislators are invited, as well as the representatives of the corporate interests. They come together. They talk about the concerns of the business community. The business community has the legislators there who make the laws. So they talk to those legislators. They're being wined and dined the whole time. And you're able as a legislator to join a committee of ALEC. That committee could be the public safety committee. It could be the committee that deals with voting issues. It could be the criminal justice committee.

Now, why would ALEC be involved in criminal justice? Well, you have private prisons. The private prison industry is booming. They are members of ALEC. They get those captive legislators to introduce bills or legislation,

such as, let's say, let's target the undocumented immigrants. Let's target them. Let's create some State laws, and Federal laws, also, to make it convenient, make it attractive for law enforcement to go in there and bring those folks to the private detention center and house them down there and pay them government money, \$70, \$80 a bed.

Why would ALEC have a committee dealing with voting rights? Well, to produce legislation that makes it more difficult for people who support the opposition, makes it easy to deny those folks their right to vote. And so you have those voter suppression laws. They came out of ALEC.

□ 2040

Then you have the commercial committee, let's call it, of ALEC. They produce legislation such as crush-the-union legislation, also misnamed right-to-work legislation. It is not right-to-work, it is crush-the-union.

So the bill, or the bills, that have been passed out of the Michigan assembly in both their house and senate are products of ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council, almost word for word. I challenge anyone to go look on the Internet, look at, if you will, go look up prwatch, PR, Paul Robert, prwatch, W-A-T-C-H.org, prwatch.org.

Go there and put in the letters A-L-E-C in their search button. Go there and find out about ALEC. Find out. Go look at the draft legislation that was produced by the corporations who are members of ALEC which then, after wining and dining the legislators, the legislators then went back home and introduced that legislation which benefits the very corporations that wined and dined them and gave them the legislation.

And guess what? Those corporations, pursuant to Citizens United, can participate in the campaign process. They can do electioneering. They can influence elections. They can give money to organizations that support candidates. And so it's an ugly lobbying situation when you put corporations with legislators in a wining-and-dining setting with added benefit of campaign contributions. They can't lose. That's what ALEC is all about is putting legislators with businesses. And then those legislators, who tend to be Republican, then carry out the wishes of the big business.

Who suffers? The middle class. So just 30 days after, the middle class, the people, rue the day we still have ALEC and the corporations that fund it out there trying to destroy the middle class by crushing the union.

How do they crush the union? Because they know that the union doesn't have a situation like ALEC where you are putting the legislator with the corporation or the corporate interests. You're putting them together, you're wining and dining the legislators, and then you are also pushing your legislation on them; and as an added bonus,

you're giving them campaign contributions so that they can get reelected. You got it going on.

Unions don't have that kind of set up. There is no ALEC of unions. But unions do participate in the political process. They get behind candidates who support working people.

I see my time has come to an end, and I would love to discuss this more. In fact, I believe that I will because this time last year I was on the floor for an hour talking about the Koch brothers. I want so much to be able to bring the Koch brothers into this discussion to see how Sheldon Adelson and Karl Rove come into this equation going all the way back to the Lewis Powell memo. So we will be back. We will talk about those things as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for the week of December 11 on account of illness.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 3564. An act to extend the Public Interest Declassification Act of 2000 until 2014 and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3187. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the March of Dimes Foundation.

H.R. 6582. An act to allow for innovations and alternative technologies that meet or exceed desired energy efficiency goals, and to make technical corrections to existing Federal energy efficiency laws to allow American manufacturers to remain competitive.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 13, 2012, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8707. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clodinafop-propargyl; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0202; FRL-9371-6] received December 4, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8708. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Picoxystrobin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0458; FRL-9370-8] received December 4, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8709. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Dodine; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0743; FRL-9364-7] received December 4, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8710. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program [Docket ID: ED-2012-OPE-0010] (RIN: 1840-AD05) received December 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

8711. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Uniform Compliance Date for Food Labeling Regulations [Docket No.: FDA-2000-N-0011] received December 3, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8712. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval, Disapproval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; State of Utah; Regional Haze Rule Requirements for Mandatory Class I Areas under 40 CFR 51.309 [EPA-R08-OAR-2011-0114; FRL-9751-6] received December 4, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8713. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; State of Washington; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan [EPA-R10-OAR-2012-0078; FRL-9722-9] received December 4, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8714. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations Consistency Update for California [EPA-R09-OAR-2004-0091; FRL-9750-6] received December 4, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8715. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; South Coast Air Quality Management District; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gases [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0513; FRL-