

LET US ESTABLISH A CULTURE OF PEACE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. We are locked into a cultural matrix of thinking which produces violence, and we are shocked when its heartbreaking effects emerge. It's "us versus them" thinking, this evocation of enemies, whoever they are.

On a global level, this type of thinking justifies war and brings the slaughter of innocence. Nationally, it sows seeds for murder. Yet war abroad and violence at home are not inevitable. We have it within our power to re-create America today. Are we not the land of the free, the home of the brave? Is there not something uniquely American which gives us the ability to transcend our woes and to seek a more perfect Union?

Even at the darkest moments, we Americans can stand bravely for our freedom. Mindful of our inherent unity, we must break the "us versus them" mindset and move beyond survival mode to security through cooperation.

Let us create an organized, structured approach to become architects of a new culture of peace in our homes, our schools, and our workplaces. This is what the Department of Peace is about. Let us establish an America where national security and peace at home includes jobs, housing, physical and mental health care, education, retirement security for all.

We're the land of the free, the home of the brave. Freedom and bravery, courage and democracy, they are our birthright, our inheritance, our destiny.

MEDICAL DEVICE TAX

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, in 15 days, a misguided tax on America's medical device industry is scheduled to go into effect. The \$30 billion medical device tax will negatively impact an industry that employs over 400,000 people in America, including many in my congressional district, and one industry in the country that has a net surplus with foreign trade.

In June, the House overwhelmingly passed legislation to repeal this ill-advised tax policy. Now, 18 Democratic Senators have sent a letter to Majority Leader REID asking to delay the medical device tax before it can take effect at the start of the new year, providing that there is broad bipartisan and bicameral support to do away with the tax.

With just 2 weeks to go until the tax is scheduled to take effect, the medical technology industry has received little guidance about how to comply with the tax, causing significant uncertainty and confusion.

As discussions on the fiscal cliff and our Nation's economic future progress, a delay in the implementation of the medical device tax should strongly be considered.

PROTECTING AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise, as many others have, to offer my deepest condolences to the children, families, and community of Newtown, Connecticut. They are enduring a terrible tragedy in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings. But merely to offer condolence feels meaningless to me unless we also act to save other children and families and communities from a repetition of this same terrible tragedy.

We in Congress must take action to keep assault weapons and high-capacity clips out of the hands of those who are so dangerous or deranged or deluded that they can snuff out the lives of innocents on a whim. I understand there is a constitutional right to bear arms—I know the lawyers here will debate the fine points of that constitutional protection—but if our talk does not take guns out of the hands of people who would murder children, then our condolences today are just empty words.

We owe it to those who died. We owe it to children still alive. We must protect our families from this gun violence.

□ 1410

RIGHT TO WORK FOR LESS

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

Mr. CURSON of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the Michigan legislature shamefully passed so-called right-to-work bills in a lame-duck session that insult all Michigan workers without public hearing or listening to the voice of a single citizen. Even more shamefully, Governor Rick Snyder signed the bills into law after clearly stating repeatedly that such legislation was not on his agenda and that right-to-work laws are too divisive to consider.

The final drafts of the bipartisan Michigan labor laws that were in place prior to these despicable acts were crafted by Republican Governor George Romney and State Senator Sander Levin. They served Michigan well, creating a vibrant economy that raised the tide that brought up all ships. Small business thrived, middle class thrived. Good jobs with good benefits spawned world-class hospitals and everything else that comes with a strong economy.

Governor Snyder and his lame-duck Republicans' weak explanations at-

tempting to justify their acts are simply cover. No citizens' group has asked to ram this legislation through, nor have any business groups. The deep-pocketed special interest groups whose only goal is to destroy unions and other labor organizations drove the puppets that created these divisive laws.

Right-to-work-for-less laws are bad for workers, bad for Michigan and bad for America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Thursday, December 13, 2012:

H.R. 2838, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2013 through 2014, and for other purposes;

S. 1998, to obtain an unqualified audit opinion, and improve financial accountability and management at the Department of Homeland Security;

S. 3542, to authorize the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to modify screening requirements for checked baggage arriving from preclearance airports, and for other purposes.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 13, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 13, 2012 at 4:14 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 3313.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 14, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 14, 2012 at 11:32 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2045.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6116.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 14, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on December 14, 2012, at 2:47 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits the District of Columbia's FY 2013 Budget and Financial Plan.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S FY 2013 BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PLAN— MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-157)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to my constitutional authority and as contemplated by section 446 of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act as amended in 1989, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's fiscal year (FY) 2013 Budget and Financial Plan. This transmittal does not represent an endorsement of the contents of the D.C. government's requests.

The proposed FY 2013 Budget and Financial Plan reflects the major programmatic objectives of the Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia. For FY 2013, the District estimates total revenues and expenditures of \$11.4 billion.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, December 14, 2012.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

AUTHORIZING RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR NATURAL GAS PIPELINES IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4606) to authorize the issuance of right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines in Glacier National Park, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4606

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PERMITS FOR EXISTING NATURAL GAS PIPELINES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of the Interior may issue right-of-way permits for each natural gas pipeline (including all appurtenances used in the operation of the natural gas pipeline) that, as of March 1, 2012, is located within the boundary of Glacier National Park.

(b) *TERMS AND CONDITIONS.*—A permit issued under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) *issued as a right-of-way renewal, consistent with laws (including regulations) generally applicable to utility rights-of-way within units of the National Park System;*

(2) *for a width of not more than 25 feet on either side of the centerline of the natural gas pipeline; and*

(3) *subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary of the Interior determines to be necessary.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me also as we begin this debate I would yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Montana whose bill this is that will talk about a power company decision that in 1962 was allowed and then in 1990 the Park Service determined they couldn't do what they already had done and now it has to be fixed.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG).

Mr. REHBERG. I thank the gentleman from Utah for very concisely summarizing just exactly what this bill does.

I rise in support of H.R. 4606, which I have introduced. This commonsense legislation would permit the necessary safety maintenance of a natural gas pipeline that was constructed in 1962. Ordinary maintenance of the pipeline, which is the sole source of natural gas for nearly 25,000 residents in the Flathead Valley of Montana, is being prevented by red tape. About 3½ miles of this 118-mile pipeline follow U.S. Highway 2 through the southwestern border of Glacier National Park.

The National Park Service is allowed to issue an easement over lands in the park for specific purposes, including electric transmission lines and communications services. But the specific uses listed do not include natural gas lines; so under current law, they can't allow maintenance.

The law also authorizes the Federal Government to issue rights-of-way for natural gas lines—just not in national parks. And so this tiny stretch of existing pipeline, which is so critical to so many Montanans, finds itself between a legal rock and a bureaucratic hard place. Allowing maintenance of the existing pipeline is too important for further delay.

Not only is the pipeline nestled in and around Glacier National Park; but it is also near the Middle Fork of the Flathead River, which is designated as a wild and scenic river and the Great Bear Wilderness Area. An accident due to a lack of maintenance would be devastating to the local ecosystem.

Moving the line outside the park would require further harm to the surrounding environment, and it makes sense for the pipeline to use the existing roadbed for Highway 2 in order to minimize the economic impact.

My legislation simply solves this government-made problem by allowing the National Park Service to allow maintenance on the pipeline. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. SABLAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4606 clarifies that the National Park Service may issue right-of-way permits for a natural gas pipeline in Glacier National Park. The pipeline already exists in the park, and the legislation