

at the expiration of the tax cuts, as we have worked through the growing and just boiling and rolling debt that is sweeping over this government, as we have watched this deficit climb higher every year, we have sought to find a solution to this.

As I mentioned earlier in our remarks, we have stood in this House, and going back to May 10, we passed reconciliation August 1, we passed an extension of all the 2001, 2003 tax reductions—they're called the Bush tax cuts. We passed a sequester bill on the 2nd, and on September 19, we passed a pathway to tax reform.

Mr. Speaker, what is so significant about that is that those pieces of legislation left here, some of them with a bipartisan vote, all with a strong vote from this body, and they traveled across to the Senate. And from May to September, they found their place on HARRY REID's desk. What is so sad about this is that HARRY REID made his choice. The Senate made their choice. And their choice was to not take up those pieces of legislation.

This crisis that we have had, our so-called crisis, the fiscal cliff crisis and Taxmageddon, all of this is a crisis of their making because it is a crisis of inaction. But, Mr. Speaker, many times, that is what happens here. It is inaction, what does not get done, that causes the situation where there is a rush to the last minute.

We have had the American people watching closely, and we have had the comments from the President, the comments from different ones in the Cabinet, and the comments from the Senate. But I remind my colleagues that we took our actions here in the body, we sent that legislation, and we did it because we understand that \$16 trillion worth of debt and annual deficits of \$1 trillion are far too much for our children and grandchildren.

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The speakers tonight who have joined me on this floor have talked about how we have hopes and dreams for our children, for our grandchildren, for the futures of our families. You know what? If you're facing \$16 trillion, \$20 trillion, \$25 trillion worth of debt as a nation, it is very difficult to see those hopes and dreams come true.

My concern as I look at my grandchildren is that the decisions—maybe the selfishness even—of people in Washington who want to tax too much and want to spend too much, who are taxing and spending not their money, but my children and grandchildren's money, children of the next generation, leaders maybe even a generation or more away, they are spending their money, because at this point we are borrowing 46 cents of every dollar we spend. It's not sustainable.

That is why we have very thoughtfully, over the last several months, approached this issue, and it's why this week we have worked with our leadership to find a solution to this, to look

at different angles. And the decision came that the best decision for this, the best way to approach it, the best way to make certain we address this is to stand firm on the actions that the House has taken and for the Senate to take up the legislation that they've had the opportunity to take up since September 19. They could take up any bill and amend it. They could vote on it. They could send it back to us. They could go to conference.

You see, as we talk about our children and their future and as we talk about this amount of debt, what we do not want to do is to cap our children's future and trade to the people that hold our debt. If we're not careful, that's exactly what is going to happen.

As we have gone through this process this week, as my colleagues have all watched it and said exactly what has happened, what are the decisions, what are the consequences of the decisions we have made, are we going to resolve it, I do believe that you are going to see a resolution to this. It will happen because the American people are saying to us and they're saying to the President, It is time to get this spending under control. Our children deserve better of us. They have the right to live free lives, to dream big dreams, and to make those dreams come true.

I do want to say a "thank you" to our leadership. I think the way that Speaker BOEHNER has handled these issues this week, the way he has worked with the Members in this body to show respect to them, to show respect for their opinions and respect for their constituents, I think that that has been a true sign of leadership that was willing to listen and then willing to move the way the body wanted to move.

And the decision was made by the body not to move forward on the Plan B. But I think in making that decision, what you will see is our leadership moving forward more committed and with individuals even more prepared to get to work and to get this solved and to do what the American people are expecting us to do, which is to get this spending under control. They have sent the message loud and clear: Washington does not have a revenue problem; it has a spending problem. It has an out-of-control spending problem and an insatiable appetite for the taxpayers' money.

As we have worked through this week, as we've talked to our constituents—and so many of us in this body have done telephone town halls and we have been on the phone and we have answered emails. And we know that there is no limit to how much money, how much of other people's money government will try to spend. There's no limit to how much of the taxpayers' money. So the American people have sent the message to us and we all have sent it to our leadership, and they have listened and they have responded.

The time to get the spending under control is now. The time to stop kick-

ing the can down the road is now. And we will head away for Christmas and return, I think, with a strength and a resolve and a courage to address the fiscal issues of this Nation. The House, where the spending bills and appropriation process begins, we will tackle this with strength, with resolve, with courage to get the job done so that, just as my colleagues have said here tonight, so that future generations have a brighter future and so that we will continue to stand for the cause of freedom.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

Mr. RIVERA (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of a family medical emergency.

#### SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2318. An act to authorize the Secretary of State to pay a reward to combat transnational organized crime and for information concerning foreign nationals wanted by international criminal tribunals, and for other purposes, to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

S. 3202. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that deceased veterans with no known next of kin can receive a dignified burial, and for other purposes, to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; in addition to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on the Budget for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 3630. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 218 North Milwaukee Street in Waterford, Wisconsin, as the "Captain Rhett W. Schiller Post Office", to the Committee on Oversight and Governmental Reform.

S. 3662. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6 Nichols Street in Westminister, Massachusetts, as the "Lieutenant Ryan Patrick Jones Post Office Building", to the Committee on Oversight and Governmental Reform.

S. 3698. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to improve veterans service organizations access to Federal surplus personal property, to the Committee on Oversight and Governmental Reform.

#### SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 2170. An act to amend the provisions of title 5, United States Code, which are commonly referred to as the "Hatch Act", to scale back the provision forbidding certain State and local employees from seeking elective office, clarify the application of certain

provisions to the District of Columbia, and modify the penalties which may be imposed for certain violations under subchapter III of chapter 73 of that title.

S. 2367. An act to strike the word “lunatic” from Federal law, and for other purposes.

S. 3311. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 2601 2nd Avenue North, Billings, Montana, as the “James F. Battin United States Courthouse”.

S. 3564. An act to extend the Public Interest Declassification Act of 2000 until 2014 and for other purposes.

S. 3642. An act to clarify the scope of the Economic Espionage Act of 1996.

S. 3687. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, to designate certain Federal buildings, and for other purposes.

## A BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on December 20, 2012, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 3783. To provide for a comprehensive strategy to counter Iran's growing hostile presence and activity in the Western Hemisphere, and for other purposes.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, December 21, 2012, at 2 p.m.

## EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

8856. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions (Multiple Chemicals) [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0825; FRL-9372-1] received December 12, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8857. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Flubendiamide; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0099; FRL-9373-3] received December 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8858. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pyriproxyfen; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-1012; FRL-9365-6] received December 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8859. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket: ID FEMA-2012-0003] received December 13, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8860. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security,

transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2012-0003] received December 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8861. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2008: Amendments to Program Regulations [Docket No.: FR-5275-F-13] (RIN: 2577-AC80) received December 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8862. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Organization and Functions, and Seal (RIN: 2590-AA54) received December 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8863. A letter from the Deputy Director for Policy, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits received December 13, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

8864. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; South Bend/Elkhart, Indiana Ozone Maintenance Plan Revision to Approved Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets [EPA-R05-OAR-2012-0536; FRL-9761-1] received December 12, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8865. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; The 2002 Base Year Emissions Inventory for the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Nonattainment Area for 1997 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R03-OAR-2010-0601; FRL-9760-8] received December 12, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8866. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Fredericksburg 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Area Revision to Approved Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets [EPA-R03-OAR-2012-0444; FRL-9760-9] received December 12, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8867. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; San Joaquin Valley; Attainment Plan for the 1997 8-hour Ozone Standards; Technical Amendments [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0589; FRL-9762-4] received December 12, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8868. 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 Wyoming; Regional Haze Rule Requirements for Mandatory Class I Areas under 40 CFR 51.309 [EPA-R08-OAR-2011-0400; FRL-9756-9] received December 12, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8869. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Bacillus subtilis* Strain QST 713 Variant Soil; Amendment to an Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance for *Bacillus subtilis* Strain QST 713 to Include Residues of *Bacillus subtilis* Strain QST 713 Variant Soil [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0669; FRL-9369-3] received December 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8870. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Listing of Substitutes for Ozone Depleting Substances — Fire Suppression and Explosion Protection [EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0111; FRL-9757-5] (RIN: 2060-AQ84) received December 12, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8871. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Supplemental Determination for Renewable Fuels Produced Under the Final RFS2 Program From Grain Sorghum [EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0542; FRL-9760-2] received December 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8872. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Revisions to Electric Quarterly Filing Process [Docket No.: RM12-3-000] received December 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8873. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for the Main Hawaiian Islands Insular False Killer Whale Distinct Population Segment [Docket No.: 0912161432-2630-04] (RIN: 0648-XT37) received December 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8874. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Specifications and Management Measures [Docket No.: 120917459-2591-01] (RIN: 0648-BC57) received December 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8875. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Research vessel SIKULIAQ Launch, Marinette, Wisconsin [Docket No.: USCG-2012-0896] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8876. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Battle of Queenston Heights Bicentennial, Niagara River, Lewiston, NY [Docket No.: USCG-2012-0849] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8877. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; America's Cup World Series Finish-line, San Francisco, CA [Docket No.: USCG-