

In addition to his efforts on behalf of the First District, Lieutenant Commander Prochazka took on projects with regional, state and national implications, demonstrating his ability to view a challenge from many angles and develop innovative solutions often requiring collaboration across many levels of government.

Lieutenant Commander Prochazka's work ethic, duty to mission, and commitment to servant leadership is without equal. I believe that his personal drive to achieve excellence in his work has and will set a very high standard for his peers.

I would also like to thank Lieutenant Commander Prochazka for the service and sacrifice he has made, and continues to make, for our Nation and our great Navy. His keen sense of honor, impeccable integrity, boundless work ethic, and loyal devotion to duty earned him the respect and admiration of my staff and the First District of Virginia. After spending the last 12 years as an E-2C Hawkeye pilot in Japan and Virginia and completing eight deployments, which included flying combat support missions over Iraq and Afghanistan, Lieutenant Commander Prochazka and his family are headed to Norfolk, VA where he will become the Executive Officer of VAW-125, the "Tiger Tails." Lieutenant Commander Prochazka, who has been selected for the rank of Commander, will return to sea and to leading Sailors as he goes back into harm's way to execute his trade as naval aviator in the service of this great Nation, flying the new E-2D Hawkeye. I have no doubt that Lieutenant Commander Prochazka will continue to serve the United States Navy honorably and with distinction.

I wish him, his wife Jen, and his daughter Amelia the best of luck as they continue their journey together as a Navy family. It was an honor and a pleasure having him serve on my staff. We all can sleep soundly at night knowing that men and women like Lieutenant Commander Dan Prochazka are members of our all-volunteer force and they stand ready to defend our country and take the fight to our enemies; far away from their families and the comforts of the United States of America.

Lieutenant Commander Prochazka, thank you. Best of luck to you and God bless you, your family, and all the Sailors you are charged with leading. Fair winds and following seas.

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT ENFORCEMENT ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Trade and Environment Enforcement Act, also known as the Green 301 Act. Green 301 expands the Section 301 provisions of the Trade Act of 1974 to encompass environmental effects. It provides tools to help prevent practices by other countries that cause negative environmental impacts to human, animal, or plant life or health, or to prevent the conservation of exhaustible natural resources domestically or internationally.

The United States has helped to create the largest trade network the world has ever seen.

As we leverage our commercial influence in the global economy, we can also ensure the countries we are doing business with are adhering to basic environmental standards.

Green 301 would allow the U.S. government to impose penalties, including the increase of tariffs, on countries that: fail to effectively enforce the environmental laws of a foreign country; waived or otherwise derogated from the environmental laws of a foreign country or weakened the protections afforded by such laws; fail to provide for judicial or administrative proceedings giving access to remedies for violations of the environmental laws of a foreign country; fail to provide appropriate and effective sanctions or remedies for violations of the environmental laws of a foreign country; or fail to effectively enforce environmental commitments in agreements to which a foreign country and the United States are a Party.

The promise of an open, mutually beneficial trade relationship with the U.S. is both a carrot and a stick. Green 301 lets our trade partners know that, not only does the United States expect our partners to adhere to environmental agreements, but now there could be serious economic penalties for countries that don't hold up their end of the bargain.

My support for international trade agreements has always been predicated on the notion that agreements establish a fair, rules-based trading regime. The economy of my state is heavily trade-dependent. Oregon's iconic brands would not exist without strong international trading relationships. Oregon's largest private employer, Intel, is a product of the international market for high-tech products.

Oregon and other states are greatly disadvantaged when our trading partners derogate from their environmental laws, which provide them with an unfair advantage and undercuts U.S. companies, which operate under our own strong environmental protections. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that trade remains free and open, but, in incorporating environmental and labor protections, also meets basic expectations of fairness.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,222,454,811,203.79. We've added \$6,595,577,762,290.71 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TO COMMEMORATE THE 75TH AN- NIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I speak today to recognize and celebrate the 75th anniver-

sary of the National Industries for the Blind (NIB). It was seventy-five years ago when the Wagner-O'Day Act originally helped spur the creation of NIB, whose mission is to enhance economic and personal independence for the blind and visually impaired. Each day NIB upholds its mission by relentlessly creating, sustaining, and improving employment opportunities for those who it serves.

To best meet its objectives, the NIB collaborates with over ninety-one associated nonprofit agencies—based in thirty-five states and home to more than two hundred and fifty locations—which includes the Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind, IFB, located in North Carolina.

In August of this year, I had the pleasure of being invited to visit the Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind in Asheville, NC. During my tour, I was fortunate to learn that the facility's state-of-the-art cutting and ultra-sonic welding capabilities enable workers to compete for new, complex commercial and government opportunities. More impressive was the confidence and independence that Asheville's first-rate facility brought to its workforce—comprised of more than fifty individuals who are either blind or visually impaired—that has earned competitive contracts with our U.S. military and internationally-recognized achievements in quality control.

In the last few years, IFB has employed over three hundred blind and visually impaired workers at manufacturing facilities located in Asheville and Winston-Salem. Both facilities manufacture a significant number of quality products that are utilized to protect everyday Americans such as you and me. Altogether, IFB positively impacts our visually impaired community in seventy-seven counties throughout North Carolina, and it will continue to enhance its economic presence in our region through the introduction of a new mobile eye clinic.

Through the endeavors of IFB, many members of our community who are visually impaired or blind are afforded the opportunity to gain the confidence and financial independence—which many of us take for granted—by achieving their goal of a commendable career. As an advocate of IFB, I appreciate its proactive efforts to improve the livelihoods of our blind and visually impaired community, and I will continue to support IFB's efforts as it continually extends valuable opportunities and services in my home state of North Carolina.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Public Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2013. This legislation seeks to modernize the Corps permitting process so that crucial public safety infrastructure projects can be built in a sensible and timely fashion while ensuring there is a thorough environmental review. The National Environmental Policy Act and Clean Water Act guide the Corps' actions to protect our Nation's waterways, but they have flaws that lead to unnecessary and costly delays that do not balance public safety

needs against appropriate environmental protections. Under current law, fringe groups are allowed to—for the cost of a postage stamp—file lawsuits against any infrastructure project needing a Clean Water Permit that they spot in the Federal Register. These lawsuits, and the fear of them, have stopped numerous projects that were necessary for local governments to protect their constituents and would have caused minimal harm to the environment. My legislation would modernize the application process for CWA permits submitted by local governments that are for levees, self-closing flood barriers, seawalls, flood gates, slough and stream construction and dredging for flood control, retention ponds for residential areas, and roads and bridges for hurricane, wildfire, and other extreme weather event evacuations. It creates firm time limits for the Corps to act, and a petition process should the agency be unwilling to complete consideration of the project. The legislation also caps mitigation costs to being no more than twenty percent of the total project's cost to ensure projects costs are responsible to the taxpayer. This legislation does not waive NEPA and protects practical environmental review. With local governments struggling to allocate scarce taxpayer dollars for badly needed public safety projects, we must ensure the Federal Government properly balances public safety and environmental concerns. I look forward to working with my colleagues to move this legislation through Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 630 on H.R. 3521—The Department of Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Lease Authorization Act of 2013, I am not recorded because I was absent due to awaiting the impending birth of my daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 631 on H.R. 1402—VA Expiring Authorities Extension Act of 2013, I am not recorded because I was absent due to awaiting the impending birth of my daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 632 on H.R. 2019—Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act of 2013, I am not recorded because I was absent due to awaiting the impending birth of my daughter. Had I been present I would have voted “nay.”

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 633 on H.R. 2319—Native American Veterans' Memorial Amendments Act of 2013, I am not recorded because I was absent due to awaiting the impending birth of my daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 634 on S. 1471—Alicia Dawn Koehl Respect for National Cemeteries Act, I am not recorded because I was absent due to awaiting the impending birth of my daughter. Had I been present I would have voted “aye.”

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 635 on H.R. 3212—Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2013, I am not recorded because I was absent

due to awaiting the impending birth of my daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 636 on H.R. 1992—Israel QME Enhancement Act, I am not recorded because I was absent due to awaiting the impending birth of my daughter. Had I been present I would have voted “aye.”

HONORING BOLTON FUNERAL HOME

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a landmark establishment within the Bolton community, the Bolton Funeral Home.

The Bolton Funeral Home came into existence with a vision and endearing motivation to provide burial services for African Americans living within rural areas of Hinds County, Mississippi. On August 15, 1946, Mr. Walter Robinson, Sr. and Mr. Wren Walton purchased a parcel of land within the city limits of Bolton, Mississippi from Jennie Klingman. The purchasing price was \$450.00, which was paid in cash. The funeral home was constructed and opened for business in November 1946. During that time, the average cost for burial services through the Bolton funeral home was approximately \$300.00.

During the time of legalized segregation, the Bolton Funeral Home became an essential business for many in the African American community seeking to bury their loved ones. At the time, the nearest African American owned funeral homes were located in Jackson, Mississippi. With the establishment of the Bolton Funeral Home, those living within the rural communities surrounding the town of Bolton were granted closer access to a very important and much needed service.

Upon the passing of the Mr. Wren Walton and Mr. Walter Robinson, Sr., the Bolton Funeral Home was inherited by Mr. Lewis Kinney (nephew of Mr. Wren Walton) and Mrs. Ruth J. Robinson (wife of Mr. Walter Robinson, Sr.). Today, the business is operated by Mr. Willie Earl Robinson, Walter L. Robinson, Jr., Yvonne Robinson, and Minnie P. Robinson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Bolton Funeral Home for providing burial services for African Americans during a period of legal segregation and, often times, isolation from such services.

BUSINESSES SHOULDN'T HAVE TO PLAY DEFENSE AGAINST FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw attention to the regulatory war being waged by this administration on American families, individuals, small businesses, states, cities and towns.

The administration has developed a bad habit of making endless rules and regulations,

with little regard for their negative effects on Americans.

From writing confusing tax forms, to mandating what type of water comes out of fire hydrants, the vast bureaucratic machine in Washington delights in determining how Americans should live and work.

The exponential increase of government rules and regulations poses a clear threat to our freedom, for instance, the freedom of individuals to start their own businesses and pursue the American Dream.

But there is a solution.

I have introduced H.R. 309, the Regulatory Sunset and Review Act of 2013, to break this terrible habit.

I believe that reforms are needed to halt this administration's practice of regulating beyond the intent of the laws we pass, and to reduce the burden these regulations place on Americans, especially American businesses.

Before talking more about the solution, allow me to more fully illustrate the problem and its impact on growing jobs and the economy.

Now, not all regulation is bad, and businesses are more than willing to follow commonsense regulations.

The U.S. Grade Standards for fruits and vegetables, for instance, makes sense for grocers by defining the quality standards for fresh produce.

If a dispute between buyer and seller arises, the standards can then determine who is at fault.

But many federal rules are duplicative, obsolete, unnecessary, conflicting or otherwise inconsistent.

An analysis by the Government Accounting Office found that in fiscal year 2013, \$95 billion of the \$3.6 trillion the federal government spent was duplicative.

For instance, according to the GAO report, there are 76 federal drug abuse and prevention treatment programs, spread among an astounding 17 different agencies.

Combined, they generate 6.1 million hours of paperwork, almost \$300 million in costs, and 122 forms to be filled out by individuals, organizations and businesses.

This is an unacceptable waste of tax money and resources.

The engine of our economy—our small businesses—need room to innovate and expand.

But burdensome and duplicative regulations drain resources from businesses—harming their ability hire new workers and create jobs.

In Illinois' 14th District, business owners tell me this is the chief block to investing and hiring.

When it costs them more than \$10,500 per employee annually to comply with all federal regulations, their concerns make sense.

But in 2012, the Obama administration piled on \$236 billion in new regulations.

It's a little wonder we suffer from weak economic growth and still-too-high unemployment. President Obama has pledged a comprehensive review of existing regulations.

But unfortunately, his administration has actually done little to get rid of regulations currently on the books.

In fact, he's going to be adding many more next year.

According to an American Action Forum report, upcoming regulations from the Obama administration in 2014 could cost the private sector more than \$143 billion.

That's billion with a “b.”