

creating so much uncertainty that our own children no longer have faith in their futures or in the social and safety net that has been there for previous generations? If you believe in compassion and fairness, then help us fix these problems. Help us to save them. Help us to provide so that we can pass them on to future generations.

Since the last election, this administration has talked about one thing and one thing only, and that is taxes. We have had that fight, and he has won. He got his tax increase, and that will raise between \$60 billion and \$70 billion, but the last deficit was \$1.1 trillion.

Mr. President, what about the other trillion dollars now? What do we do now? We have a 6 percent solution. It's a great start if you like raising taxes, but it doesn't address the problems at all.

My father was an Air Force pilot. He was a pilot during World War II, and I had the great honor of serving for 14 years as an Air Force pilot as well. If there was one thing I learned from my father and those brave men and women with whom I served, it was courage, always to have courage. That is what we need now. That is the only thing that can save us.

Mr. President and Members of this body, let us have the courage to do the right thing even if that thing proves to be hard. Our debt is unsustainable. We talk about saving our Nation for our children. We don't have that long. Let us take the steps to restore financial sanity in this Congress in this day.

Mr. MESSER. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Utah. I appreciate his remarks.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. MESSER. I next would like to recognize the distinguished gentleman and my good friend from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS).

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your leadership and what you're doing.

My name is ROGER WILLIAMS. I have been a small business owner for 41 years. I represent Congressional District 25 in Texas, a great district. I have been meeting payrolls and creating jobs for 41 years and have been fighting government regulations for that period of time. I must tell you that, at a time when our national debt is over \$16 trillion—more than \$52,000 for each American—we must restore fiscal sanity in Washington. We do this by cutting spending, shrinking the deficit, and balancing the budget. As a businessman, when you're not selling your product, you don't raise taxes and you don't raise prices. You cut spending. That's where the money is. That's where the cash flow is, and that's what we've got to get to.

Our Nation's economic future is at stake. The Federal Government currently borrows more than 40 cents of every dollar it spends. I think we all

agree it's time to get our fiscal house in order. Across this great Nation, the families have stretched their hard-earned dollars in order to make it through this struggling economy. The Federal Government must do the same and must do it now. We are facing a crisis because Washington just simply spends too much and wastes too much.

As I said, families all across this country are not looking to spend more money. They're looking to cut expenses and to meet the problems we all face today. The American people, I believe, do not support raising the debt. I ran on lower taxes, less government, to cut the spending. That's what my district wants. We don't need to raise the debt ceiling without cutting spending at the same time. That's what it's about. We need to create a net worth in America. I'm looking forward to the debate. We need to bring business principles back to Washington, D.C. May God bless America.

□ 2000

Mr. MESSER. I thank the distinguished gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I would next like to recognize my good friend, the distinguished gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. BENTIVOLLO. Mr. Speaker, thank you for granting me the floor today. It is truly an honor and privilege to be a Member of the House of Representatives, the people's House. We have all been sent here to serve the people, and I look forward to representing the freedom-loving, hard-working people of Michigan.

More than two centuries ago, Members of the first Congress were summoned to uphold and defend the Constitution. Because of the Constitution, America became a shining symbol of freedom and prosperity to the world. Today, we must ensure that America retains that luster.

Everyone arrives here from different walks of life. Some are lawyers, some are business leaders, and yes, well, at least one of us is a reindeer rancher.

I recognize we all have different viewpoints, and I understand that I have joined Congress during a contentious time. I do think, however, there is one thing on which we should all agree: The job of a Member of Congress is to protect the rights of the people, not take them away.

The national debt is approaching \$17 trillion. The decisions we make in this Chamber not only affect us today, they resonate throughout future generations. The massive national debt we are accruing will leave to our children a weaker Nation than the one we inherited from our parents. Those yet to be born do not have a voice today, they don't have representation, but we must remember what we do here resonates for generations to come.

Our moment to preserve our great Nation has arrived. Our country is at a crossroads. We must stand together and get over our disagreements. We must strive valiantly and dare greatly,

applying the principles that made our country so exceptional to solve the problems that the people of this great Nation sent us here to fix.

Mr. MESSER. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for your time and help tonight as another distinguished Member of the freshman class. I hope we will have opportunities on other nights for you to be able to participate in these Special Orders.

As several have alluded to, our idea is just to be a part of the public debate. Everyone in this room tonight, everybody watching, has grown up in an America where you've known one very simple fact: that no matter what your current station in life, no matter where you came from, if you worked hard and stayed focused in this great country, you would have an opportunity to build a life for yourself; you would have an opportunity to live the American Dream.

And for the first time in my life, as I traveled through the Sixth District of Indiana and talked to people all across this country, people are doubting whether that will be true for the next generation, whether the next generation of young people and Americans will have the same kinds of opportunities that we all had growing up.

I think it is not an exaggeration to say that the upcoming debate in the next 2 months is really about the question of what are we willing to do to save our country, and this underlying question: Does Washington have enough? How much more must they take from the hardworking, taxpaying Americans who are trying to put their life together every day? I and my colleagues who spoke earlier today believe Washington has enough. We don't need to give her more.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### REBUILDING AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good, it is very, very good that the new 113th Congress acted today to reach out in sympathy, compassion, and with real support to the people who were so severely impacted by Superstorm Sandy.

One of our colleagues, just a moment ago, spoke about this Nation being at a crossroad. And indeed, we cross paths many, many times and there are many different crossroads. The people of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and other parts of this great Nation here on the east coast came to a crossroads. That crossroads was 97 days ago when Superstorm Sandy came ashore and whacked and destroyed, pummeled and, indeed, killed Americans.

Today, the House of Representatives, not unanimously, unfortunately, but by a strong majority of Democrats and some Republicans, stood tall and said we are one Nation. We're one Nation, and when one of us is harmed, we'll stand with that person. When one State is harmed, we'll stand with that State, and we will come together, just as my colleague said a moment ago, we will come together to provide what is needed to rebuild, to sustain, to provide, so that they who have been harmed can carry on.

There's a lesson here for all of us, and tonight my Democratic colleagues and I will talk about the lesson that Superstorm Sandy brought to this Nation. Certainly one of those lessons has been fulfilled today. As a great Nation, we will provide what is needed for the rebuilding, for the immediate needs, even though it is 97 days late. We will provide because we are a compassionate Nation.

But there's also another lesson here, and that lesson is for this entire Nation to get ahead of the next disaster. It will come. It'll be another storm up the east coast or into the gulf. It'll be an earthquake in my State of California or a flood or a fire. But there will be yet another natural disaster of one sort or another, perhaps man-made, perhaps Mother Nature.

What we must do as a Nation is to get ahead of that, to prepare ourselves not only with emergency responses, but more and just as important, to prepare the infrastructure to protect the lives and the property of the citizens of this Nation. That's the second lesson of Superstorm Sandy. Build the infrastructure to prepare for the next flood, the next hurricane, the next onslaught of Mother Nature. We can do it. And in so doing, we not only reduce the cost of that next storm, that next flood, but we also save the lives of Americans, and we put people to work right now.

This Nation is not yet fully recovered from the recession of 2008. This Nation has not yet fully brought Americans back to work, and we can do so taking the lesson of this day's action here on the floor of the House of Representatives where we, at least most of us, voted to build for the future, voted to put in place those infrastructure improvements, not for yesterday, not to rebuild just what was there that was destroyed, but, rather, to build for the future onslaught of a storm coming into New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, or other parts of this Nation.

To be prepared. The Boy Scout motto: Be prepared. Benjamin Franklin: An ounce of prevention is worth a dollar of cure. These are truisms that have been with us forever, and today we want to talk about infrastructure investment, the kind of things that were done here on the floor, some \$33 billion going not only for immediate relief, but to build the infrastructure necessary to protect and prepare for the next storm.

Joining me today in this discussion, at least at the outset, is my colleague

from New York, PAUL TONKO. We often meet here on the floor. We sometimes call this the East Coast/West Coast show. I'm from California. Representative TONKO is from New York.

And you were there, not only for this storm, but for the previous storm, and that was less than 18 months ago. Let's talk about these things, Mr. TONKO.

□ 2010

Mr. TONKO. Sure. Thank you, Representative GARAMENDI. Thank you for bringing us together for this hour on the floor, where I think it's important to pay attention to the needs out there as they relate to the damages that were brought upon certain areas of the country by Mother Nature.

Yes, there's been a lot of focus with this on Superstorm Sandy. That really had its presence felt just to the south of my given congressional district. However, there was some damages in the northern reaches of upstate New York, the more northern sections as we traveled north of the metro area.

But suffice it to say, the need here for assistance by not only New York, but New Jersey and Connecticut, where the proper of New York, the metro area of New York City, Long Island, Westchester County, were impacted severely by this storm. As I said, on the fringe elements in my area, not as much. But certainly, New Jersey and Connecticut were hard hit.

But just over a year before that storm, you're absolutely right, we were impacted by Irene and Lee, a double dose of damage that really impacted my given congressional district severely. It looked like a war-torn area, as was the case here with Superstorm Sandy.

And this Nation, whenever impacted by natural or manmade disasters, found a response from Congress, that the President, whoever that person might be at the time, working with Congress, expedited the assistance, wanted to get that aid there with a high degree of urgency.

What we saw here was uncalled-for delays as people languished. I mean, we have to look at the human element here, the human cost of 88 Americans that were impacted, lives lost because of this tremendous devastation, the impact that befell so many communities with infrastructure being damaged severely, if not destroyed totally.

It was also about the impact on the business community, the loss to commerce, and certainly property damage that people are going to have to respond to over a long course of comeback that I have witnessed in my district with the storm, as you indicated, being more than a year ago.

And so it is important for us, as a Nation, to be responsive and responsible. That has always been the measure coming forth from this Nation, understanding, with sensitivity, what needed to be done and getting aid to people. That's what it's all about.

And so today, when finally a vote was taken, some 70 days after

Superstorm Sandy hit, 70-plus days after the storm hit, finally we get a response, when so much pain and anguish was allowed to continue, unnecessarily so.

The infrastructure issues in this country, storms aside, need to be addressed. The American Society of Civil Engineers has graded many of our bridges into a D classification, a poor grade, deficiencies that are out there brought to our attention.

So not only do we need to respond to these tragedies and respond to our given infrastructure, but I think what happens here is an opportunity to come forward with job creation, providing for the trades and skilled tradespeople to be put to work. That is so important for our economy. It's so important for our public safety; it's so important for emergency response, as we've witnessed here in the northeast of the country.

And so while the fight was long and at times unnecessary, at least the vote was taken today and we moved forward.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you, Mr. TONKO. The bill now is out of this House. It's over in the Senate. We expect the Senate to pass it probably tomorrow or the next day, certainly before the inaugural on Monday, and then the President will undoubtedly sign it shortly thereafter, bringing that kind of relief.

You mentioned the job issue, and people need to go to work. When we have these natural disasters, and we come forward with the kind of support that we have seen today, and will soon be available for New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and the surrounding areas, people go back to work. Those people that have received immediate FEMA support for housing, for clothing, for food, that money's immediately spent into the economy.

On the infrastructure side, it's crucial. When the subways of Lower Manhattan flooded, the world's financial institutions took a whack because it was shut down for several days. People couldn't get to work, and so the entire world's economy slowed down, costing billions of dollars beyond just the damage.

Now, part of the infrastructure, part of the bill that was passed today, the infrastructure improvements are to harden, to prepare Manhattan and the surrounding areas, the beach communities and others, for the next storm, to put up the seawalls.

Now, what does that mean?

Well, it means that the ounce of prevention and the pound of cure have taken place, but it also means people are going to go to work.

Let me refer to this chart here. This is from Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, and the former economic adviser to JOHN MCCAIN. His analysis, and this is generally agreed to by most economists, is that for every dollar invested in infrastructure, you get \$1.57 back into the American

economy. So you're not just putting a dollar in. You're getting the American economy going. You're putting people to work.

Those people will then be able to pay taxes, buy food, support their families, and build for tomorrow's disaster, putting in place the infrastructure that is hardened, that is protected, eliminating the potential, in this specific case, of flooding of the subway systems in New York City.

I know that you talked about doing this in your area for the storm. You may want to pick that back up, and then I want to come back and talk about my own district in California.

Mr. TONKO. Right. You know, I think over and over again people are measuring with exit polling the sentiments of the electorate out there; and people have said that there is a need for government. They want effective government, efficient government.

Well, I think when we look at some of the data that are collected, Representative GARAMENDI, it is important for us to acknowledge that as we rebuild in our areas that have been damaged by Mother Nature, you don't just replace; you need to improve upon the situation.

For instance, if there are data that are telling us that more and more water volume is expected in certain watershed areas, as in my district, it would be foolish to spend tax dollars, the hard-earned taxpayer dollars and simply replace an infrastructure, a bridge, at the same height, at the same span, if, in fact, we know that the water and the force of that water is growing with time.

And so these are the ways to, I think, incorporate the soundness of academics and analysis that go into how we respond to this. And if much of it is driven by climate change, global warming, some of the impacts of Mother Nature that are causing these disruptive scenarios, then ought we not look at sound policy that then stretches our thinking and really puts a laser sharp focus on these situations?

So this is a call for a big-picture view. It's a call for effective replacement and repair so that we're responding to data that are collected that speak to the demographics that we should expect to have happen as we go forward and as we rebuild, making certain that there are those opportunities for waterfront communities to embrace their sense of geography.

I represent a district that is not only donor area to natural resources, but also historic resources in those waterways. And people want to have waterfront opportunities. They want to rebuild their communities so as to utilize these natural resources as a marketing agent to draw people to the area.

Well, we can steward those resources so as to tame the Mother Nature impact in a way that allows us to go forward with this re-marketing strategy, that allows us to utilize our sense of location, our place destination, and do it

in a way that is possible because of preventative measures, because of retrofitting that can take hold; and it's a way to utilize the engineering services out there, civil engineering, architectural opportunities to build communities and build them in a way that allows us to have that sense of place only deepened, rather than denied because we've walked away from what might have been damage from Mother Nature and have abandoned those opportunities.

□ 2020

Mr. GARAMENDI. You're speaking of something that is very close I know to your heart. I've heard you speak on this issue some months ago about some of the historic buildings that date back to the pre-Revolutionary War era in New York.

And it's interesting to note that in this Sandy legislation that passed the House today there are numerous reforms, improvements on the way in which the Federal Emergency Management System works, so that the historic resources can be rebuilt and maintained, so that that sense of history, that sense of our past and who we are as Americans is going to be there for future generations. Some of the old rules and regulations made it virtually impossible to do that.

There's also in this legislation other reforms that allow the projects and homes and businesses to be rebuilt in a way that protects them from the future storms and the increased storms that you so aptly described.

Let me just take this home to my district. I represent the Central Valley of California, the great Sacramento Valley, 200 miles of it, literally from the beginning of San Francisco Bay 200 miles up the Sacramento River. And probably, I haven't been able to count all the levees in my district, but I probably have well over 1,500 miles of levees that protect large cities, medium size cities, farms and other critical assets and infrastructure in the State of California. For example, the intercontinental rail system both north and south, intercontinental highway systems, universities, international airports. These critical assets are at risk of flooding.

The Army Corps of Engineers is taking a look at the levees in one part of my district. The Natomas Basin, which is part of the city of Sacramento, judges those levees to have a 1 in 30 chance of failure, so that over a 30-year period of time it's anticipated there will be a catastrophic failure of those levees. One hundred thousand lives just in that part of Sacramento at immediate risk because those floodwaters—should those levees fail, it would be a repeat of what happened in New Orleans, only the water is deeper and the floodwaters would rush in, at least as fast, if not faster. A monumental disaster, international airport gone, highways gone and on and on.

We need to get ahead of that. We need to build that infrastructure, those

levees, to protect those assets. A penny of prevention, a pound of savings.

So these are the kind of things that we can do. And there are ways we can do this. Yes, it may run up the immediate deficit. But once again, for every dollar that we invest in those levees we not only save lives and property, but we put people to work and we get the economic engine going.

Further up in my district, again along the Sacramento and the Feather Rivers, I have a project that's 44 miles of levee that clearly will fail. It has failed four times in the last 60 years. Lives have been lost. One of the most catastrophic failures of a levee happened in this stretch of river. We need to rebuild that.

The Federal Government's role in the construction projects of these levees has gone back to the very beginning of this Nation. And it is Congress' task to allocate the money, to decide the projects that are going to be built. But unfortunately, we've tied ourselves in knots here with certain rules that have been put in by our Republican colleagues that prevent us from taking the necessary action to protect our communities.

We're not talking about willy-nilly unnecessary projects; we're talking about saving lives and property. This is how we should be acting. Rebuilding after a storm to a higher standard, building before the storm to protect our people, the people that we represent.

These are critical issues, these are infrastructure projects, and we need to get on top of this and push these projects forward. Yes, it will cost money, but not nearly as much as the cost of a levee failure because we failed to act in time.

Mr. TONKO. Well, when you speak, Representative GARAMENDI, about the cost of these repairs or improvements we're talking about a design team, we're talking about a construction team, we're talking about a maintenance team. And all of that translates into jobs. So these efforts are, yes, an expenditure, but it's putting people to work and addressing not only public safety but commerce.

Again, my home county, which is split by a historic river, was the scene of a devastation just over 25 years ago where a New York State Thruway bridge collapsed because of the flooding that was occurring beneath that bridge. A creek that you could walk across, walk through in the middle of summer, was equal to in CFS, cubic feet per second, the flow of Niagara Falls. We lost 10 lives in that incidence, and also saw the impact locally to commerce. It just disrupted the flow of activity to ship goods to whatever section of our area. It totally disrupted that situation. That is just a microcosm of impact of what happens.

But you're very right. With the levees that might be at risk that could be a challenge to public safety, the poor ratings of our many, many bridges

across this country, the need to begin aggressively to address these situations, means that you can bend that cost curve simply by moving projects forward, because the longer we go in time the more expensive it will be and the more risky it becomes with these deficient bridges.

So programs like The American Jobs Act or Build America Bonds, all of these efforts are a progressive bit of policy that then takes us to a new realm of thinking, a commitment to the safety of the people of this great country, a commitment to commerce and the doable qualities of having infrastructure vastly improved that enables us then to talk serious business about growing our Nation's economy.

So I think that the efforts here by the Democratic Caucus to bring to the attention of the full House the sort of positive thinking, the sort of planned opportunities that speak to the very nature of our infrastructure—and both of us represent States that rely heavily on well-developed and very well-maintained infrastructure—is indeed imperative. We need to move forward with a very strong supportive statement about this Nation's infrastructure.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I would like to move in just a moment to the issue of how we can actually help other parts of our economy grow as we build our infrastructure. But before I do I am just thinking about the previous discussion from our Republican colleagues where they talked about the deficit and the deficit and we ought to eliminate government programs.

Certainly there are government programs that are neither efficient, effective, or necessary, and, yes, those should be cut. But when you start talking about infrastructure this is something that we really must do.

It was said that for an expenditure of some \$15 billion New York City could have protected its subway system and the shoreline from the devastation of two major storms, one that occurred a year ago and another one that occurred just 97 days or 3 months ago, Superstorm Sandy.

So if we get ahead of these disasters and build the necessary protections, for example in my district if we build those levees, yes, it will cost money. For the Natomas area it's about \$1 billion. Very expensive, no doubt about it.

But if we do not protect and do not build those levees the devastation will amount to several times that amount of money. That's precisely what happened in Manhattan and in the New York City area.

So again, you spend that money up front, yes, you put people to work, yes, there may be an immediate issue of where and how we fund it, and that's a legitimate issue, but fail to do it and then the cost is horrendous. And, yes, if the State, the Federal, the local governments, the individuals, that will all be an expense that they have to endure. And Superstorm Sandy, the bill we saw today, is precisely on that.

Now, having said that, let's talk about the broader subject. You mentioned Build America Bonds just a moment ago. The Build America Bonds were part of the stimulus program, now almost 4 years old.

□ 2030

That program created a new mechanism to assist local governments in providing the funding to build infrastructure—very, very successful in putting people back to work. We could extend that. In doing so, we will put people back to work. We will build the infrastructures, whether those are highways or bridges or whatever.

As we do that, one of our favorite topics that we've talked on this floor many, many times about is this: We can Make It in America. We use our taxpayer money to make and to spend that money on American-made products. So the steel in the bridges, the concrete, the other design elements are American jobs. And as we do that, we rebuild the American manufacturing base.

You've talked about this extensively. You go back in history, but go for it.

Mr. TONKO. Well, absolutely. The manufacturing element in our society is strong. It still is very much—a bit of statistical evidence that we rank high in the international economy with manufacturing jobs, but there was a huge loss in the decade before this administration; 4.6 million jobs lost in that manufacturing element. Well, in order for us to stop that bleeding, it's important, I believe, to promote advanced manufacturing. Retrofitting our manufacturing centers in a way that allows us to be cutting edge and doing it smarter—not necessarily cheaper, but doing it smarter—allows us to maintain that world leading status for manufacturing.

Also, as we talk about infrastructure, beyond the bonds effort and the American Jobs Act, an infrastructure bank bill that will allow us to utilize that concept to leverage public and private funds that expand the opportunities to invest in our infrastructure takes us well beyond the traditional roads and bridges and levees that we talked about, the waterfront opportunities and dam repair, but it also brings us into the infrastructure for telecommunications and for electric utilities so that we then are cutting edge. We can provide for an upgrade, if you will, in the grid system.

Now, we saw what that collapse was about in the year 2003, when branches rubbing on some power lines in Ohio put out the lights on Broadway in New York City. Now, that is unacceptable weakness. If there was ever a vulnerable, gaping situation that would have those looking at us for a weakness, it was there, that this grid system was so weak, designed for a monopoly setting and now being utilized to where electrons, not only region to region within States, but State to State if not nation to nation, with Canada wheeling in electrons into the U.S.

So we need to vastly improve that sense of weakness in our system and allow us to speak to the needs of manufacturing because many are an energy-intensive operation. We need to be energy efficient so that they're utilizing their manufacturing process in a way that reduces cost, and to build into the equation all sorts of innovation so that they're doing things in a smarter fashion and able to compete at that international level for jobs; because as they land those contracts with improved operations, that means more American manufacturing jobs. That is that kind of approach, that cutting-edge thinking that enables us to maintain our sense of productivity, that embraces our intellectual capacity as a Nation, and that takes the research that we should invest into and allows us to translate that research opportunity into jobs.

So there are these dynamics of change and reform that can be brought into the discussions here as we go forward. That will speak, I think, to the vitality, the economic vitality of this Nation and the growth of jobs in a way that is significant, that is long lasting and that brings us into a sophisticated thinking, which this American society is very capable of doing.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Last year, you and I talked—or last Congress, which was last year, you and I talked about this Make It in America, this manufacturing. We spent a lot of time talking about it. I had introduced in that session of Congress legislation that would require that our tax money—at least 85 percent of it—be spent on American-made products and equipment.

Let's take the Superstorm Sandy situation. We know that, for example, Amtrak is receiving, I think, a little over \$150 million to repair its tracks that were damaged by Superstorm Sandy. Those are jobs—men and women will be working—but it's also steel, it's electrical wires, it's consultants, and it will undoubtedly be various kinds of electrical systems that will be used by Amtrak in rebuilding, similarly with regard to the subways in New York.

Now, if we were able to write into the Superstorm Sandy legislation that 85 percent of that money that's used on rebuilding the infrastructure came from American-made products—in other words, Buy America—then that would not only put people back to work, but it would stimulate the steel industry, the electrical industry, and certainly the consultants, engineers, and architects. So I'm going to reintroduce that legislation—too late now for Superstorm Sandy, but there will be other legislation.

For example, we know that we're going to have to rewrite a new transportation bill in this session. There's a 2-year bill that's now in place. It will expire at the end of the 213th Congress, so we're going to need to redo that. We should write into that transportation legislation—where we will spend \$50

billion, \$60 billion a year to build transportation systems—a clause like my bill that says that taxpayer money; let's use that taxpayer money to buy American-made equipment and supplies, putting Americans back to work and using that to rebuild the American manufacturing sector along the lines that you describe, not with yesterday's technology, but with advanced manufacturing.

Mr. TONKO. Right. The efforts that we have with so much of manufacturing, with the incubator programs that enable us to provide for an innovation of sorts in any of these assembly operations is key, I think it's key to our future.

I think of those situations in my district, or even in my former district, where they worked with a local college that was very technically sophisticated. In this case, RPI, in the Greater Capital Region of New York, worked through its incubator program to develop these new opportunities within the plastics manufacturing that Kintz Plastics in Schoharie County utilized.

I think it's worth mentioning on this floor that that really brought about a new phase of activity for this company. By innovation, by readjusting its procedure, its process, they were able to compete more effectively. That required, however, that they move to training their workforce because it required a new skill set. As they did that, they reached out to a local community college, in this case, Hudson Valley Community College in the Capital Region of New York.

That partnership created the human infrastructure, the incubator provided the innovation, and they lived happily thereafter, because what they did was secure contracts in that international competitive sweepstakes because they provided for innovation. The improvements that they made to their assembly operation enabled them to maintain that sense of competitiveness.

It's that sort of thinking that takes us to a new level of job creation and job retention. Compounding that, or creating in the complement the Buy American concept, then inspires reaching to those local firms. It can all be done in that holistic sort of format, with a big picture sort of view that enables us to go forward and build upon sound policy, sound investment, with guarantees of much better outcomes for America's working families.

The middle class is taking it on the chin. The working families have paid the price, and it's time for us now to be high geared in terms of making certain that the American worker comes first in our thinking.

Mr. GARAMENDI. You couldn't be more correct. You used the word "holistic," meaning whole and in total, a total package. For years I've said that to have a growing economy and a just social environment, we needed to make, as Americans, critical investments. You hit three of those critical investments.

You talked about research—absolutely critical investment in the future growth of the economy and to solve today and tomorrow's problems. That's research, most of which, interestingly, is funded either directly by the Federal Government through the National Institutes of Health or Defense Research Agency, DARPA, or one of the other Federal agencies, or indirectly through the research tax credit that we provide for businesses to engage in research.

□ 2040

So research is one of the key investments that lead to economic growth. You mentioned the second one, very interesting, and that's education. A well educated workforce will be competitive across the world. That's a critical, perhaps the most critical, investment. Again, a role for the Federal Government, certainly a role for States and local governments, but a role for the American society that cannot be ignored—research, education.

You drew it very, very correctly, and that is the manufacturing that comes from that. Manufacturing matters. How do you do that? You need to be in front of it; and when you talked about the research and the manufacturing technology, you were spot on. That's the third critical investment. The fourth one we also talked about here is infrastructure. So these are four of the critical investments that we need to make as a society.

Some of that falls on individual companies, encouraged by a research tax credit or encouraged by Buy America. In different ways, we can encourage the manufacturing tax policy, which is critically important. We did that. Actually, it was a Democratic proposal. We did it 3 years ago. We've continued it. We've continued it in the recent fiscal cliff legislation where we provided 100 percent write-off for capital investment.

That was from the Democrats. We care about business, and so we said, grow your business. We will provide you with a 100 percent write-off in the first year of capital equipment that you put in place. Not depreciation over 3, 4, 7, 15 years, but rather immediate, an enormous benefit to business. So we want the businesses to invest so that they can Make It in America.

There are two more critical elements. I'll go through them very, very quickly. Provide for the national defense wisely. I think the public knows by now that we're spending \$100 billion in Afghanistan this year—\$100 billion. We need to bring it back home. We need to end that war. Thankfully, the President has set us off on a course where we will end American offensive action and move to supporting the Afghan Government in the spring of this year.

Mr. President, we're thankful that you put that policy. Now let's bring the rest of it home, \$100 billion. We need that money here. So we need national defense, but we need to be really wise about how we spend our money.

Finally, the fifth thing is this: we need to change. We need to be willing to change. Thank you for bringing up the first three of those. But this is how we invest in the future, and these are policies that we need to put forward. They're the critical foundation for economic and social growth.

Mr. TONKO. You speak to the innovation, you speak to research, and to me that speaks to the DNA of our Nation, which has always been this pioneer spirit. It's what's paid tribute to on this floor when policies such as that which you just describe are promoted. It's embracing that pioneer spirit, knowing that there are better ways, better opportunities out there and better avenues to travel. Let's pursue that with this utmost bit of pioneer spirit.

I represent a district that was the donor area to the Erie Canal—you've heard me talk about this—that provided for the Westward Movement and the Industrial Revolution. It was America at her best, believing in herself, listening to the needs of workers, listening to the ideas of workers and moving forward, embracing that sort of pioneer spirit and building the research opportunities. I'm thinking of line-loss along our electric grid system. Think about what we can save in terms of energy supplies and in dollars if we moved forward with the superconductive cable research project.

Mr. GARAMENDI. If I might interrupt you for just a moment. This had to be 6 or 7 years ago, I was Lieutenant Governor of California, and 3M, the manufacturing company, came in to talk about exactly that issue; and they had researched and developed a new conductor that was 30 percent more efficient in passing those electrons down the line. Think about what we could do in America to improve our energy capability by putting that in place; and if that were made in America, we could not only improve the energy efficiency. We would increase the capacity of our electrical system by 30 percent simply by rewiring those conductors across this Nation. That's American manufacturing, research and manufacturing. Put it in the infrastructure and build our strong economy. Great example.

Mr. TONKO. There are so many of us that are fans of education, higher education investment. Think about it, we cultivate all of this talent, we draw forth the abilities of people through education, and we allow them to discover who they are. What are the gifts that I bear that can be utilized to strengthen society? Well, we make that investment and then don't gain on it. We don't stretch those opportunities to the max.

It's so important, I believe, to continually think beyond the status quo. And when we're dealing with the energy arena, it's a line-loss for one that allows for huge savings, and great opportunities for jobs to research that potential; but it's also issues like waste heat which can be recaptured and make our energy system more efficient. So as we create and generate

these energy supplies, if there's waste there, and we can captivate, or capture, that waste and stretch the amount of energy supply that we can create, here yet is another opportunity.

So it's endless. And for us to just continue to do the same old kind of responses to everyday issues isn't the sort of challenging outcome that I think allows us to best function as an American society.

So there are policies and there are tax reforms that encourage and inspire this sort of investment, research tax credits, opportunities within the renewable energy area with production tax credits. All of this, being promoted in advance, we need to expand upon those opportunities. Because you're right, Representative GARAMENDI, it is an investment, it requires dollars, but those investments provide for lucrative dividends. And there are many more dollars earned than those invested into the progress that we need to strike.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, we have a little bit more time. I think it's about time for us to wrap all of this into one piece. And I will take the first shot at it, and then if you would be so kind as to finish it up.

I'm thinking of Chicago. It's not my territory. It's a long way from California. It's a beautiful city, a very dynamic city. At the turn of the previous century, in the late 1800s, they had an architect, a city architect, Burnham, and he wrote: Think no small thought for it stirs not the heart of man. Very interesting. We ought to add women to that equation now. But what he said is that when we rebuild this city, we need to build big. We need to think bold thoughts. We need to think about the greatness that could exist if we step forward.

Earlier in the previous hour we heard about the exact opposite. We heard about inward, thinking small, we are not going to reach out and fulfill the great potential of this Nation. Instead, we're going to retreat. We're not going to allow government to be part of the greatness of our future; but, instead, we're going to make it smaller and less viable. And those five things that I talked about, education, that's a public investment. Infrastructure is both public and private. But the public side is critical.

You look at manufacturing, manufacturing has always been private; but it has also relied upon the public sector. And if we use our tax dollars to buy American-made products, we are causing the manufacturing sector to grow, to blossom and to innovate and to be even greater than it is today. In developing the research, that's both public and private, but it is largely a public sector investment. So we can deal with this by investing, by thinking boldly about what it is we can do and, in doing so, make certain that everything we invest in publicly is necessary, that it is run efficiently, and that its outcome is effective, and that

it fulfills the goal for which it was designed.

□ 2050

Those should be our watchwords: efficient, effective, necessary, and bold. Think no small thought. This is America. This is the world's greatest country perhaps ever, and it was created by bold thinking, both public and private working together in a synergy that created this incredible Nation.

I'm excited. I'm excited here in the very early days of the 113th Congress. I know we're going to have some big battles over debt limits and the like. But as we go through those fights, I want us to be bold. I want us to be big in our thinking. I want us to fulfill the great potential of this Nation. And I know we can do it. I know we can do it.

Mr. TONKO. Representative GARAMENDI, what I hear you say is probably a definition of the American Dream.

The American Dream was designed and brought to us by the boldness of generation upon generation of immigrants who added to the peopledscape of this great Nation, added to the native American population by stages of journeys that traveled to these shores. We as a compilation of those journeys are a stronger people. The foundation upon which we stand and function and dream was developed by people who dared to dream nobly, dared to invest in their community, in their people. That, I think, is the challenge to us in this very moment in time.

Will history see us as a people that dreamt beyond the ordinary, or will we be those who were frightened by the thoughts of the challenges of our times? I think that our greatest days lie ahead of us. The American Dream that burns boldly and nobly in our hearts speaks to us as that beacon of inspiration. Move forward, invest in America's people, invest in ingenuity, innovation, in the intellectual capacity of this Nation, and tread boldly into the future. And know that you will leave that next generation with an even stronger foundation that was granted us for our time in this Nation.

It has been an honor to join you this evening.

Mr. GARAMENDI. It's always a pleasure to work with you, Mr. TONKO.

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

#### ADMINISTRATION IN REVIEW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to get to know you better all the time and to be serving with you.

I enjoyed hearing my friends talking about the economy and things that are going on. So I wanted to address a few things. I didn't come over here and plan to address what they had, but

they were mentioning their hope for us, bringing our troops home from Afghanistan. And having been there a few times, having talked to the former allies that this administration has thrown under the bus that initially defeated the Taliban for us with less than 500, possibly less than 300 embedded Special Forces, special ops, and intelligence personnel embedded with the Northern Alliance, they defeated the Taliban in about 3 or 4 months.

Then we added troops and became occupiers. Occupiers in that part of the world don't do well. Someone reminded me of what I already knew, that Alexander the Great conquered that area around Afghanistan, and I had to remind them that he died on his way out of the area. I don't consider that a great victory.

Nonetheless, we helped give the Afghans a government and sharia law, making it difficult for Jews and Christians to reside in a country where they once had. Under this administration's watch, like I say, we've thrown our allies under the bus, and the Taliban has come back almost strong as ever, not quite. Some of my Northern Alliance friends told me in one of our visits over there that on national television last year, the Taliban leader that this administration released for humanitarian purposes from Gitmo didn't seem to be having health problems and was on national television and was making clear that the U.S. would be withdrawing in the next year or two, and that when they did the Taliban would be back in charge as they were before. So it was time to come beg forgiveness from the Taliban and ask for their protection under sharia law.

That doesn't sound like we're going to be in a whole lot better position after all the losses of life, all of the servicemembers who have laid down their lives in Afghanistan, who continue to do that as we speak because the Commander in Chief has them there without any real mission laying down their lives. As one of our troops told me, "I don't mind laying down my life for my country, but please don't waste it."

They're not laying down their lives for a wishy-washy government that can't figure out what it wants to do, that leaves our military without a clear mission, that allows the Taliban to come back stronger than ever, supplied and funded in part from Pakistan. They deserve better. They deserve much better.

Our Commander in Chief was on television yesterday talking about the debt limit, the debt ceiling. He's talked about our economy. I think it's worth noting that since 1923, the President was required to furnish a budget and a time deadline given for furnishing that budget. Ninety years. Ninety years, the President is required by law to furnish a budget.

Since 1923, those ensuing 90 years, there have apparently been 11 times when presidents have been unable to