

just before his death at the age of 89, if Earth Day should be celebrated. "Our work is not finished," he replied. "There's a lot more that needs to be done."

As we enter wildfire season, watershed infrastructure that would mitigate future contamination of local rivers and reservoirs is still being rebuilt from last season, and funding for rebuilding is only now being allocated, having been delayed under sequestration, affecting lives and homes.

We've yet to craft an agenda that talks of a multiyear transportation plan or climate change. And, of course, the green legislator at heart would love to see tools like the Antiquities Act as a job-creating mechanism rather than spending time on the floor fighting against rolling back NEPA as we're doing this week with H.R. 678, unnecessarily, at the expense of supporting hydropower, as we should.

No, our work is not finished. There's a lot more to be done.

MOVING FORWARD WITH LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, in 2009, the United States surpassed Russia in becoming the world's largest producer of natural gas. Due to recent technological advancements, large deposits of natural gas, mainly shale gas, are now being harvested. Through the use of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, previously inaccessible hydrocarbons are now seeing the light of day.

Having Henry Hub located in the center of the Third Congressional District, I'm fully aware that the market price of U.S. natural gas is at an all-time low and much lower than Asian and European natural gas prices. While this fact presents challenges, it also provides an opportunity for our Nation to fast become a global energy hub by exporting one of our most abundant natural resources in the form of liquified natural gas, or LNG.

With domestic demand being met, exporting LNG leads to job creation at home, a reduction in the national trade deficit, and an increase in revenues for the Federal Government. As a member of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade, these are all value-added benefits for our Nation.

The domestic natural gas boom presents the United States with an enormous economic opportunity and geopolitical opportunity. Our Nation should seize this opportunity and not let it pass. It's in the public interest.

INVEST IN AMERICAN MANUFACTURING

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this week I took part in a town hall meeting in Buffalo, along with the Alliance for American Manufacturing, and discussed the importance of manufacturing jobs to our region and to our Nation.

With western New York's dedicated workforce and history of manufacturing success, we are ready to grow our economy with the resurgence of advanced manufacturing industry. But to do this, our workers and businesses need a willing partner in their government.

This Congress must make investing in our infrastructure and investing in our people top priorities. Robust funding to rebuild roads and bridges, along with fostering job-training programs and passing legislation in the House Democrats' Make It In America agenda, will enable us to compete with any other nation in the world.

Mr. Speaker, investing in American manufacturing creates jobs and reduces the deficit. There is much work to be done, and there are Americans who need the work.

□ 1210

THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNT- ABILITY OFFICE'S REPORT ON WASTE

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, we engage in so much Washington speak in our debates—words like "sequestration," "continuing resolutions," and "debt ceiling"—that the structure of our debates, I feel, can be off-putting to many Americans. So let's try to be a little more straightforward.

The reality is that we have a huge mismatch between revenues and expenditures. We all know that this is a struggle, but we have to get our fiscal house in order, just like American families do, businesses do and even local governments do; but instead of hashing through the same old debates, perhaps there is an easier way forward.

Right here, Mr. Speaker, is a Government Accountability Office report that came out this week. It's a new report that builds upon former reports. There are more than 300 areas in which we can tackle redundant spending across the Federal Government. So here is the right place to start, Mr. Speaker—in delivering a smarter and more effective government while also saving money.

GUN REFORM

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, throughout the United States, in red and blue States alike, we have speed limits for

travel on public roads. These laws are good public policy because they prohibit behavior that can endanger the lives of others. But imagine if we blocked our police from using speed detection devices so they could never prove that you were speeding or if we only allowed the use of those devices on certain roads. Such a policy would make speed limits mere suggestions with no consequences for those who would violate the law.

It sounds ridiculous, but this is exactly the strategy we currently use to prohibit the purchase of firearms by criminals and those with serious mental illness. Federal law bans the purchase of guns by dangerous people, but massive loopholes in our background check system permit at least 40 percent of purchases to evade the law without detection by law enforcement.

The NRA and its supporters often claim that we need to enforce the laws on the books. Agreed. Universal background checks are designed to do just that—to provide an actual enforcement mechanism. That's what the Congress should require because 90 percent of the American public wants us to do at least that.

SITTIN' ON THE DOCK OF THE BAY

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

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, this week, the President hosted a star-studded concert at the White House for his friends, featuring the music of Otis Redding and others. One of Otis Redding's lines in his "(Sittin' on) the Dock of the Bay" sums up my thoughts on the President's budget: "Looks like nothing's gonna change. Everything remains the same."

Just like the Senate, the President's budget raises taxes, increases the debt and never, ever, ever balances. The Obama budget has a trillion dollars in new taxes on top of the trillion-dollar ObamaCare tax and the \$600 billion "fiscal cliff" tax from earlier this year. The Obama budget spends \$46 trillion, borrows another \$8 trillion, and increases the national debt to \$25.4 trillion over the next 10 years. Then, after all those taxes and all that spending, we still have a budget that never, ever, ever balances.

Mr. President, we can't borrow forever. We can't keep spending more than we take in. These problems are staring us right in the face, but the big spenders in Washington are just sittin' on the dock of the bay, wasting time.

NEW JERSEY'S LIFE SCIENCES CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMU- NITY

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the contributions of the

biopharmaceutical and medical technology companies in New Jersey to Hurricane Sandy relief activities.

New Jersey companies in the biopharmaceutical field have donated an estimated \$11.1 million towards Sandy relief efforts. The New Jersey biopharmaceutical and medical technology companies made contributions to a large number of organizations, including the American Red Cross, AmeriCares, Direct Relief International, Feeding America, the Salvation Army, Save the Children, United Way, and the Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund.

The community also coordinated with the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure an uninterrupted supply chain of critical life-saving drugs as well as having teamed up with local pharmacies to provide free or discounted prescriptions to affected patients. In addition, individual companies performed a variety of services in the immediate aftermath of Sandy, including the distribution of hygiene kits; providing generators to local municipalities; deploying emergency decontamination units; preparing food for first responders; and working to supply hospitals, pharmacies, and retailers with supplies that their patients and customers needed.

While our community as a whole came together to provide relief to the victims of Sandy, we thank the biopharmaceutical industry of New Jersey.

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED BUDGET

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, there is much that could be said about the President's proposed budget, but I think ordinary taxpayers need to know its impact on jobs and the economy.

Economists and national accounting firms have stated that the tax increases that President Obama pushed through in January have slowed the economy and contributed to a loss of 24,000 retail jobs in March, part of a very dismal jobs report. When consumers have less money in their pockets, the inevitable results in fewer jobs.

Apparently, President Obama has not learned from his mistake. His budget contains almost \$600 billion in even more new taxes. At a time when millions of Americans are giving up hope of finding jobs and are exiting the workforce, President Obama's budget will only inflict more pain on ordinary families.

House Republicans have passed a responsible budget that leads to balance while also preserving Social Security and Medicare. Let's work together for fiscally accountable government that will help restore jobs to American families.

REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today, the Senate is taking up commonsense legislation to help reduce gun violence in America.

I have and always will be a staunch supporter of the Second Amendment, and I strongly support the constitutional rights of my constituents to own guns. This bipartisan legislation to expand background checks does not infringe on the rights of law-abiding gun owners. Instead, it strengthens our existing system of background checks to help keep guns out of the hands of dangerous offenders.

Forty percent of guns sold in the United States currently don't go through background checks. Failing to act means that just anyone can continue to buy weapons at gun shows or over the Internet without being subject to a background check. The vast majority of Americans support background checks. Democrats and Republicans support background checks. The vast majority of responsible gun owners support background checks.

It is commonsense legislation that should be enacted, and it will make our country safer. I urge the House to take this up as soon as the Senate completes its work.

KEYSTONE XL WILL HELP LOWER UTILITY RATES

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, last week, I was home in Montana to highlight the important role that natural resources play in our State's economy. In fact, I put 3,000 miles in traveling around our great State. One question I was asked repeatedly was: When will the Keystone pipeline be approved?

We all know the tremendous economic impact the Keystone pipeline would have and the jobs that would be created; but when I was in Glasgow, Montana, I learned of a relatively unknown benefit as a result of the pipeline.

You see, NorVal Electric Co-Op in Glasgow is slated to supply electricity to one of the Keystone XL pump stations. If the pipeline is built, this rural electric co-op will be able to spread its cost burdens with the pipeline and, consequently, hold rates steady for its 3,000-plus Montana customers. If the pipeline is not approved, it told me that NorVal customers will see upwards of a 40-percent increase in their utility rates over the next 10 years.

As I've said time and time again, this is common sense. Keystone means jobs; it means another step towards energy independence; and it means lower utility rates for rural Montanans, for hard-working Montana families.

President Obama, it's time to approve the Keystone pipeline.

□ 1230

HUMANE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the faith-based communities in this country for praying for a humane and just immigration reform. We heard from the Chaplain today in his prayer, and we probably all caught the three references. The first one was from Leviticus 19, the issue of treating the foreign born as your own. Then we heard the Hebrews treating the stranger, treat him well because he may be the angel among you. And then of course, lastly, Matthew 25, treating the stranger because that's how you're going to be judged.

I want to thank each and every pastor, each and every priest, each and every rabbi that has been praying for us on this issue. I think that hardened hearts are changing here. Certainly the debate that we've been having has been humane. Much of the leadership has come from a bipartisan group of Democrats and Republicans with open hearts, and I appreciate that. And that has not happened by itself. It has happened because of the prayers and the supplication of all of these people around the Nation saying we have to do something that matches our values.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

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

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, the President's just-released budget calls for higher taxes, more spending, and bigger government, all of which would make it more difficult for hard-working Americans, like those in the Third District of Missouri, to find jobs. More troubling yet is the President's budget simply does not balance. Every family must balance their budget, and we in Washington should, too. We cannot continue to spend money we don't have, and it's not right for the President to take more to spend more.

Several weeks ago, I proudly supported a Republican budget that provides for a balanced budget, will foster a healthier economy and help create jobs. The President's budget, meanwhile, holds any reforms and spending cuts hostage in exchange for more tax hikes.

The American people are tired of the same old song and dance from the President and his allies when it comes to spending their hard-earned tax dollars. This budget proposal, which is months overdue, isn't a serious plan.

Mr. Speaker, I'm from the "Show Me" State, and this budget doesn't show me anything.