

REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS AND RELIANCE ON FOSSIL FUELS

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shine the light on the importance of reducing our carbon emissions and the role of electric vehicles in accomplishing that mission.

Today, we import about half the oil we consume, and approximately 70 percent of that is used in transportation. Consumers should have access to affordable transportation, such as electric vehicles that use little or no gasoline.

Our Nation's businesses are becoming more energy efficient, improving energy sources, and investing in cleaner transportation. The EV industry is a great job creator. For example, in my district, there is an EV company that is producing great vehicles and bringing hundreds of jobs to the region. Moreover, there's a regional transit district that's utilizing electric and hybrid vehicles.

EVs are one part of the solution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fighting climate change. They also play an important role in advancing a diverse American energy policy.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting clean electric vehicles on our roads and to make a commitment to reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

IN MEMORY OF WADE WALTERS

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, it's with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the memory of a young man from my district killed in an industrial accident at Arkansas Nuclear One power generating facility.

Wade Walters was 24. He was a Russellville, Arkansas, resident and a graduate of Pottsville High School. He loved his job as an ironworker at Precision Surveillance Corporation and embraced all the outdoors had to offer, including bow fishing, hunting, shooting, canoeing, roping, and knife collecting.

Wade is survived by his father, James Keith Walters, of Dover, Arkansas; his mother, Susan Allen, and husband, Rusty; a sister, Chelsy; his grandparents, Tom and Bonnie Underhill; and the love of his life, Alyssa Alvey, all of Russellville.

Mr. Speaker, Wade gave a lot of himself. As a member of Russellville Christian Center, Wade went on numerous mission trips to Mexico to build housing for those in need. He had a big heart for his family and friends and was a constant source of inspiration to all he met.

We pray for peace and understanding for his family during this difficult time.

HONORING FRANCIS "DUTCH" HOWLAN

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Francis "Dutch" Howlan, who had resided in Amsterdam, New York, and who was posthumously inducted into the New York State Basketball Hall of Fame last month.

From 1953 to 1987, Dutch amassed 468 wins coaching at St. Mary's Institute and Bishop Scully High School, both in Amsterdam, New York. But he meant so much more than that impressive win total to our community and to the hundreds of student athletes he taught and mentored. His friends and former players remember him as a dedicated coach, an inspiring mentor, and a determined winner. As a fierce competitor, he preached a never-give-up attitude.

Twenty-four years after his passing, I am so pleased that Dutch has finally received this distinction. It is truly a testament to his character that his friends and players never gave up on their former coach's legacy, making this long overdue honor possible.

MEETING OUR DEBT CRISIS FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, the President submitted his budget this week. His plan not only fails to get control of our debt, it makes it even worse—to the tune of nearly \$61,000 of debt for every American family.

American families know the consequences of living with debt. Credit card debt, mortgages, and student loans are just a few of the burdens working families and young adults struggle with—and budget to get out of—every month. Washington must do the same.

Our national debt eats away at the buying power of working families, seniors on fixed incomes, and students working their way through school, leading to higher prices for things like bread and milk and eroding hard-earned family savings.

We owe our families better. Politicians have talked long enough in Washington about tackling our debt. It's time for the President to get serious about the national debt and join us in putting our priority back on jobs and opportunity for American families. By acting boldly, we can translate talk into meaningful results.

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NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1120. I was raised in a union family. Labor, in fact, is the backbone of the middle class of America. This legislation is just another example of the Republican's assault on workers' rights.

H.R. 1120 effectively shuts down the National Labor Relations Board, strips away its enforcement powers, and leaves workers without any recourse to address employee intimidation, inadequate safety standards, and other unfair practices.

Throughout its history, 20 members have been recess-appointed to the NLRB, including 12 Republicans. In fact, every President since Ronald Reagan has appointed a member to the board through a recess appointments clause. Why should President Obama be treated any differently?

The bill is neither fair, nor is it just. I urge my colleagues to oppose this measure.

MILITARY JUDICIAL REFORM ACT

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, just earlier this week, I was able to join with my colleague, Representative SPEIER from California, introducing legislation to protect victims of military sexual assault. That's the Military Judicial Reform Act.

In recognition of a victim who, having had a jury at a court-martial find a finding of guilt against an assailant, had it overturned by a general who convened that, now we are faced with a new opportunity in which new information is being put out outside the scope of that trial.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we end this archaic practice and stop putting the victim on trial again and again.

This week Secretary Hagel called on Congress to remove the provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice that allow this proceeding to take place, and I urge my colleagues now to act together to end this archaic practice.

THE JOBS ACT

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

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the number one concern I hear when I'm home in southern Illinois is from families who are worried about jobs. They're worried about how to find a job and get back on their feet.

In southern Illinois, we know all too well how bad trade deals in Washington have given our working families a bum rap. We see good manufacturing jobs leave us. We see the empty factories, high unemployment rates, and lose faith in the future.

I believe in helping to attract and create new jobs and in protecting and saving the good ones we have. That's why I am proud to introduce my new initiative, the Job Opportunities Between Our Shores, or JOBS, Act. The JOBS Act will address the challenge industry faces of growing jobs without workers who have the necessary skills to fill them locally.

Southern Illinois has the advanced manufacturers who are leading the way for the future of manufacturing and creating new, good jobs. We have talented workers, and we have the educational programs to get them a great, new job that can support their family.

My JOBS Act is a way of bringing communities, workers, and employers together to protect good jobs and invest in our future.

SENATE GUN CONTROL PROPOSALS HOLD SERIOUS THREATS TO SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, today, on the other side of the Capitol, our friends in the Senate are considering a number of proposals that hold serious threats to our Second Amendment rights.

I agree that we need to have a serious conversation about how to reduce violent crime. But the Senate's recent decision to focus debate on restricting the rights of law-abiding citizens is the wrong approach. These proposals will do nothing but expand Washington bureaucracy and further complicate the ability of law-abiding Montanans to purchase firearms while doing little to actually address the underlying problems behind violent crimes.

Thousands of Montanans have reached out to my office, expressing their concern over these threats to their Second Amendment rights. As a fifth-generation Montanan and lifelong sportsman, I too am deeply concerned about the Senate's proposal to expand background checks for private sales to Montana citizens, which would criminalize the private transfer of firearms between law-abiding Montanans.

Let me point out, the Second Amendment is not about hunting; it is about freedom. So let me be clear. I am strongly opposed to and will fight back against any efforts that infringe upon Montanans' Second Amendment rights.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I stand here on behalf of my district's seniors, veterans, and working families to say that I strongly oppose cuts to Social Security in the President's budget. Every week, my case workers

in Arizona report back to me about our constituents, and every week I hear about another senior who is struggling or another veteran who is struggling.

Our rural towns are filled with hard workers, but work is hard to find. These are folks who may never have the protections of a pension, so they must have the protection of Social Security.

The President's budget uses a formula called chained CPI. It recalculates how the cost of living is calculated, and it will not keep up with inflation.

So let's call this formula what it really is: a shrinking Social Security check for the people who need it most. Yes, we have to make cuts, and we need to do more with less, but seniors and veterans are already doing that. We can do better than sticking them with the tab.

PREVENTING GREATER UNCERTAINTY IN LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS ACT

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 146, I call up the bill (H.R. 1120) to prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from taking any action that requires a quorum of the members of the Board until such time as Board constituting a quorum shall have been confirmed by the Senate, the Supreme Court issues a decision on the constitutionality of the appointments to the Board made in January 2012, or the adjournment sine die of the first session of the 113th Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 146, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-6 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1120

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Preventing Greater Uncertainty in Labor-Management Relations Act".

SEC. 2. ACTIVITIES BY THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD PROHIBITED.

Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, the National Labor Relations Board shall cease all activity that requires a quorum of the members of the Board, as set forth in the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 151 et seq.). The Board shall not appoint any personnel nor implement, administer, or enforce any decision, rule, vote, or other action decided, undertaken, adopted, issued, or finalized on or after January 4, 2012, that requires a quorum of the members of the Board, as set forth in such Act.

SEC. 3. TERMINATION.

The provisions of this Act shall terminate on the date on which—

(1) all members of the National Labor Relations Board are confirmed with the advice and consent of the Senate, in accordance with clause 2 of section 2 of article II of the Constitution, in a number sufficient to constitute a quorum, as set forth in the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 151 et seq.);

(2) the Supreme Court issues a decision on the constitutionality of the appointments to the Board made in January 2012; or

(3) the adjournment sine die of the first session of the 113th Congress.

SEC. 4. EFFECT OF CERTAIN BOARD ACTIONS.

In the event that this Act terminates pursuant to paragraphs (1) or (3) of section 3, no appointment, decision, rule, vote, or other action decided, undertaken, adopted, issued, or finalized by the Board on or after January 4, 2012, that requires authorization by not less than a quorum of the members of the Board, as set forth in the National Labor Relations Act, may be implemented, administered, or enforced unless and until it is considered and acted upon by a Board constituting a quorum, as set forth in the National Labor Relations Act, or the Supreme Court issues a decision on the constitutionality of the appointments to the Board made in January 2012.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1120.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Preventing Greater Uncertainty in Labor-Management Relations Act, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

America's workplaces are facing significant challenges. Consumer demand remains weak. Threats of new regulations and higher taxes continue. And a looming debt crisis threatens the growth and prosperity our Nation is working so hard to attain. Washington should not be in the business of making these challenges worse. That is why we are here today.

Many Americans may not even know a Federal labor board exists, let alone the role it plays in their everyday lives. Despite its obscurity, the authority of the National Labor Relations Board governs virtually every private business across the country. Our Nation needs a labor board that will appropriately and responsibly administer the law, or else the rights of both workers and employers are diminished.

Unfortunately, partisan politics have left the board in a state of dysfunction. A year ago, President Obama made three recess appointments to the board while Congress was not in recess.

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The President's action was unprecedented, and a Federal appeals court has ruled it was also unconstitutional.