

NOT VOTING—45

Alexander	Gallego	McCaul
Amodei	Gingrey (GA)	McDermott
Benishek	Gohmert	McKeon
Bishop (GA)	Grijalva	Palazzo
Blackburn	Hartzler	Pastor (AZ)
Brown (FL)	Heck (WA)	Pingree (ME)
Capuano	Hensarling	Rohrabacher
Cárdenas	Herrera Beutler	Rush
Cartwright	Huelskamp	Sanchez, Loretta
Cassidy	Johnson, Sam	Schiff
Clyburn	Kingston	Sires
Cole	Larsen (WA)	Thompson (MS)
Cramer	Lynch	Tsongas
Diaz-Balart	Marchant	Waters
Doggett	Markey	Young (AK)

□ 1914

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 163 on approving the Journal, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "yea" when I should have voted "no."

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of a question of the privileges of the House pursuant to rule IX.

The form of my resolution is as follows:

Resolved, That the House of Representatives shall not consider H.R. 3, the "Northern Route Approval Act" because: (1) it violates Rule XXI of the House, and (2) it affects the dignity and integrity of the proceedings of the House since it is unconstitutional.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RICE of South Carolina). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the unnumbered resolution noticed by the gentleman from Florida will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

□ 1920

WE NEED THE KEYSTONE PIPELINE

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, this Wednesday, the House will vote to approve the Keystone XL pipeline. This vote will come after more than 1,700 days since the application for the project was filed. Despite the outpouring of support from the American people, the President continues to

delay the approval of the Keystone pipeline, which would directly create 20,000 jobs and lead to \$7 billion in spending. The President keeps dragging his feet.

Business and labor organizations have joined together to support the Keystone project because it will bring jobs to American workers. West Virginians support the Keystone pipeline. The permitting delay that is standing in the way of the Keystone project demonstrates that this administration and its environmental agenda will put everything ahead of our Nation's economy and jobs for working Americans.

Mr. Speaker, an energy economy is a jobs economy, and I hope my colleagues will join me in fighting back against the administration's anti-energy agenda. Passing H.R. 3 would mean more American jobs and move us closer towards energy independence.

STUDENT LOANS

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, student loan debt in the United States now exceeds \$1 trillion, higher than our country's total credit card debt; and unless Congress acts, on July 1, Federal student loans will double, rising from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. This increase in student loan rates would be unbearable for many undergraduate students and future students. It also will keep them out of the middle class.

The middle class as we know right now is shrinking. If you're in the middle class today, you're making approximately \$5,000 less than you were 10 years ago, and you have nearly \$25,000 more in personal debt. Access to education powers the innovation economy and will increase and grow our middle class. Unfortunately, H.R. 1911, the Republican student loan plan to come to the floor this week, will only make college more expensive. The Republican's Make College More Expensive Plan will make loan rates variable, going as high as 8.5 percent. Their plan essentially will build a great wall around our middle class.

We must deal with the student loan crisis now. Instead of increasing student loan rates for students, Congress should be helping students by keeping student loan rates low and increasing the student loan rate interest deduction. Let's tear down this wall that will keep our students from the middle class and not increase the student loan rate.

LOWER LEVEL OPERATIVES BLAMED

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Benghazi bungled—propagandacrats misled citi-

zens—change talking points 12 times. People die. White House denies knowledge. Lower-level operatives blamed.

IRS intimidates, targets, and audits conservative opposition groups. White House denies knowledge. Lower-level operatives blamed.

Government snoopers secretly seize phone records of 100 journalists to locate their sources. White House denies knowledge. Lower-level operatives blamed.

AFT smuggles guns to Mexican drug lords. White House denies knowledge. Attorney General held in contempt of Congress for with "holdering" evidence. Lower-level operatives blamed.

Meanwhile, the President self-righteously proclaims citizens should trust his government. Americans distrust and fear government, especially the "Infernal Revenue Service," because the President professes ignorance of actions of lower-level malcontents, then doesn't adequately hold them accountable. Heads need to roll. People need to be fired. Others need to go to the jailhouse. That's what Americans expect of the so-called most transparent administration in history. Then this administration that is incredible with words can earn credibility with its deeds.

And that's just the way it is.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, while the public is split 50–50 on whether the science of climate change is settled, there is overwhelming agreement—over 97 percent—among climate scientists that the human activity of this Earth is causing climate change.

Imagine if we compare that percentage to the medical field. If 97 percent of 100 doctors told you that you have cancer, would you refuse to take treatment?

Whether one believes that humans are contributing to climate change is in some ways irrelevant because we are certainly paying for its effect. The Federal Government spent \$96 billion in 2012 to clean up after extreme weather events. That's nearly three times the amount paid by private insurers. That is more than we spend on transportation or education.

Though many have yet to embrace the facts that climate research has found, we must take action to mitigate these growing costs. As Ben Franklin once said: an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

SEVERE TORNADOES HIT OKLAHOMA

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

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Oklahomans who even as we speak this evening are laboring to find and rescue all those affected by this afternoon's severe tornadoes in Moore and other areas in the great State of Oklahoma. At this time, we don't know the full extent of the damage and the potential human toll, but we are inspired. We're inspired by those who are sparing no effort to assist their neighbors and even many people they don't know.

Disasters like the Moore tornado bring out the best in the people of Oklahoma. I pray for each victim of these storms, for all of the emergency first responders and the ordinary citizens who are stepping forward to help in any way they can. We are grateful for everyone working to secure the affected area and to account for every man, woman, and child.

STANDING WITH ADVOCATES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, it has been 1 year since human rights activists Chen Guangcheng and his wife, Yuan Weijing, arrived in the United States of America. I recently had the honor of meeting both Chen and Yuan. They are heroes in the cause of human rights, and their story of fighting forced abortion and sterilization in the People's Republic of China has captivated and inspired all those who love freedom.

Their courageous stand has not come without a personal price. Chen and Yuan's extended family in China has been subject to continued harassment. It is time for this to stop. Respect for human life and freedom are universal aspirations, and Chen and Yuan serve as witnesses to these transcendent values.

I encourage Beijing to protect Chen Guangcheng's family and all those who serve as advocates for freedom and human rights.

RECOGNIZING OPPORTUNITY PARTNERS FOR 60 YEARS OF SERVING MINNESOTA

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a long time Minnesota nonprofit organization, Opportunity Partners, for serving the needs of developmentally disabled adults for 60 years. The latest statistics reveal that only 33 percent of Americans aged 18 to 64 with disabilities are employed.

The founders of Opportunity Partners recognized the many challenges the disabled encounter when trying to integrate into the workforce, so they

acted, creating an organization that gives ongoing support to people with disabilities, helping them lead independent and fulfilling lives.

In 1953, Opportunity Partners was serving 15 teens with disabilities. And now today, the organization is reaching over 1,700 people and equipping them with the work skills and the training these individuals need to gain successful employment.

I have toured this amazing operation myself. I have seen first hand the lives that are impacted and affected by Opportunity Partners. The staff and the volunteers are dedicated to empowering others through a simple, but powerful, mission—to help those with disabilities to live, learn, and work.

Mr. Speaker, I want to send my congratulations and a thank you to all those at Opportunity Partners for serving Minnesota.

□ 1930

LET'S BUILD THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE TODAY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, "Job killers win, American workers lose" is how the Laborers' International Union of North America, a rare critic of the administration, summed up the President's 2011 call to block the Keystone XL pipeline.

The move, they said, would "inflict a potentially fatal delay to a project that is not just a pipeline, but is a lifeline for thousands of desperate working men and women."

And what of America's energy needs or diplomatic priorities? By cutting access to North American oil, it is American consumers who will continue to suffer, not the Canadian company seeking to permit the Keystone pipeline.

TransCanada's chief executive noted "If Keystone XL dies, Americans will still wake up the next morning and continue to import 10 million barrels of oil from repressive nations, without the benefit of thousands of jobs and long-term energy security."

When jobs and affordable North American energy are at stake, Americans deserve better than groundless delays from the President. Let's build the pipeline today.

LET'S STAND UP AND BE OF HELP

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I know that many of our colleagues in the tornado corridor are not here today. I want to offer my deepest concern and prayers as the recovery begins, and pray for those who've lost their lives, some, of course, in north Texas, and of course now in the area in Oklahoma.

This is a devastating time with these enormous tornados, as evidenced by a

quote by Bill Bunting of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Storm Prediction Center, who told CNN, our worst fears are becoming realized this afternoon.

I hope that we will be able to find all of those who have been harmed safely, and all of those who are missing.

But, Mr. Speaker, the most important part is that the Nation needs to stand up and be of help. This is time, frankly, for bipartisanship to take the highest level, and partisanship to end. It's time to end this sequester. There's too much need in this country.

And I hope that we will be able to serve all of those who are now suffering from across America because that is what this Congress needs to do.

IT'S TIME TO FISH OR CUT BAIT

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

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. I rise in support of the Keystone pipeline. The Keystone pipeline represents 40,000 American jobs. It's been under study for 1,700 days—5 years.

It is a project that could drive down the cost of energy, cut our imports from our enemies in half. It could invigorate our economy, and yet, we continue to study and study. We could study this program for decades, and we'll never resolve all the issues.

It's time to move forward. We're the greatest country on Earth. Nobody can beat us if we stand toe-to-toe, but we've got a noose of regulation around our own necks, and we're strangling ourselves.

It's time to fish or cut bait. Let's make a decision. Let's move forward with this very valuable project.

NO LABELS

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RIBBLE. 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 the subject of my special order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud and honored to lead this discussion on the House floor this evening. I organized this special order to show the American people that there are Members of Congress who can have a civilized conversation and who actually want to solve problems.

Everyone here tonight is a member of the organization No Labels. As you can