

State Department who were involved in the response, or the lack thereof, to the Benghazi attacks.

According to trusted sources that have contacted my office, many, if not all, of the survivors of the Benghazi attacks, along with others at the Department of Defense and CIA, have been asked or directed to sign additional nondisclosure agreements about their involvement in the Benghazi attacks. Some of these new NDAs, as they call them, I have been told, were signed as recently as this summer.

It is worth noting that the Marine Corps Times yesterday reported that the marine colonel whose task force was responsible for special operations in northern and western Africa at the time of the attack is still on Active Duty despite claims that he retired and, therefore, could not be forced to testify before Congress.

If these reports are accurate, this would be a stunning revelation to any Member of Congress—any Member of Congress that finds this out—and also, more importantly, to the American people. It also raises serious concerns about the propriety of the administration's efforts to silence those with knowledge of the Benghazi attack and response.

So today I ask: How many Federal employees, military personnel, or contractors have been asked to sign additional nondisclosure agreements by each agency? Do these nondisclosure agreements apply only to those under cover, or have noncovert State Department and Defense Department employees been directed to sign them, too?

Later today, I will be writing the CIA, Defense Department, and State Department to ask for a list of all of their personnel or contractors who have been required to sign original or additional NDAs relating to Benghazi. Perhaps, through a list of all the employees that have signed the NDAs relating to Benghazi, we may finally develop a witness list to subpoena for eyewitness testimony to learn what happened that night where we lost four American lives.

I do not expect the Obama administration to be forthcoming with answers, but if this Congress—if this Congress—does not ask for the information and compel delivery, the American people will never learn the truth. Any Federal employee or contractor who has been coerced into silence through a nondisclosure agreement should expect Congress to speak out on their behalf and compel their voice to be heard.

That is why I, along with 159 of my colleagues, support a select committee to hold public hearings to learn the truth about what happened that night in Benghazi. I say to any colleague who is not on our resolution, if you are not on our resolution, please get on so we can find the truth for the American people.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, as fires across the West grow more intense and superstorms in the United States do more damage, it is clear that the cost of inaction on climate change is growing. The economic toll that it is taking on communities across the country is impacting the American people.

Hurricane Sandy cost the United States \$70 billion in damages, many lives, and lost economic output. In my home State of New Mexico, where wildfires have burned all summer, many communities that rely on tourism and access to our majestic lands have seen their businesses negatively impacted. Farmers and ranchers in New Mexico have had to sell off their herds because of drought conditions that made it too expensive to feed their animals.

Opponents of efforts to address climate change and to transition to cleaner fuels and renewable energy often cite the cost of these efforts. What they fail to account for is the increasing cost that global warming is having in the form of more severe droughts, more dangerous wildfire seasons, and increased devastation from superstorms.

Mr. Speaker, if we continue down this path and fail to take steps necessary to address climate change, the costs will only continue to grow and the impact on our communities will only increase.

Last week, I joined my colleagues in the Safe Climate Caucus in sending a letter to Speaker BOEHNER asking him to schedule a debate on the House floor to discuss climate change and our Nation's response to this growing threat.

The time for action is now. We must not sit idly by and ignore the facts and ignore the science while communities in New Mexico and across the country experience the negative impacts of climate change.

#### TRACK THEM DOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was September 1972. People from all over the world were gathered in Munich, Germany, for the Olympic Games. After World War II, there was a feeling of optimism and unity. But overnight, those feelings turned to turmoil and turned to terror.

The world awoke to images of a deadly terrorist attack in the Olympic Village. A terrorist group called Black September took 11 Israeli hostages and massacred them. In response, the Israeli Government did not hesitate. The Israeli policy was: you will not murder Israelis anywhere in the world.

So for 20 years, Israel hunted down the killers all over the globe, from Paris to London to Beirut to Stockholm. With its response, one thing became clear to the terrorists: if they hurt Israelis, there would be consequences, and the consequences would not be pleasant. Israel would find them, and Israel did find them.

So flash-forward 40 years. On the 11th anniversary of 9/11, there were once again attacks on American sovereign soil. In Egypt, militants stormed the U.S. Embassy. In Libya, our Ambassador, Chris Stevens, and three other Americans were brutally murdered.

There has been no accountability or action from this administration regarding these crimes. All Americans have received are grainy surveillance photos and some empty promises.

Where is the justice for these families of these four victims? The identities of some of the attackers are known. Why have we failed to go get them?

When America has been tested by terrorists in the past, we have gone after them, just like Israel has done.

In 1996, 19 American soldiers were murdered in Saudi Arabia. The United States responded.

In 2001, when 3,000 people from all over the world were murdered here in the United States, we responded. President Bush said:

The search is under way for those who are behind these evil acts. I've directed the full resources of our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and bring them to justice.

Is that our U.S. policy today? Well, we don't know. We don't know what the current U.S. policy is about Americans killed overseas. All we get is a lot of words with no results from the administration.

Our enemies continue to test us because they no longer fear us, Mr. Speaker. The world no longer knows where America stands on terrorist attacks—not our allies, not our enemies, and not American citizens.

So what is our policy when a U.S. Embassy is attacked? More broadly speaking, what is our foreign policy in north Africa? North Africa is a breeding ground for terrorism, and al Qaeda affiliates are being trained and expanding across the entire African continent.

Earlier this year, on January 16, al Qaeda-linked terrorists affiliated with Mokhtar Belmokhtar took 800 people hostage at a gas facility in Algeria. One of those hostages killed was Victor Lovelady, a neighbor of mine in Atascocita, Texas. Victor's brother, Mike Lovelady, testified in front of our Terrorism Subcommittee last week. His family deserves answers from this administration about what happened in Algeria when Americans were killed.

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Who are these terrorists in Benghazi? Who are these terrorists in Algeria? Have these ringleaders gotten away with these murders? Is the massive intelligence service of the United States

of America not capable of finding these people throughout the world?

Maybe the intelligence service ought to spend a little less time snooping around in the private lives of Americans and go after terrorists overseas, but that's a different issue.

The Loveladys deserve justice. They lost a father, a brother, and a husband.

These attacks in North Africa prove that Osama bin Laden may be dead but that terrorism is still alive and well. If terrorists do not know the consequences of their actions, they will not fear any consequences. That is the world in which we live.

It's time, maybe, that we articulate a policy and mean it. If you attack Americans, America will come after you. Come hell or high water, we're going to track you down somewhere in the world. The Libyan and Algerian killers must meet the same fate as the members of the Black September group.

So, Mr. Speaker, when you talk to the President, tell the President to track these people down. Let them know they cannot run, they cannot hide, they cannot disappear into the darkness of their evil ways—because justice is what we must have. Justice is what we do in this country.

And that's just the way it is.

#### WATER FOR THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it looks like we dodged a bullet with the Prince George's water emergency, but wasn't it fascinating to watch all of the frantic activity that was necessary to deal with a planned 4- or 5-day period where people would be denied something that virtually all of us take for granted? Safe drinking water when they needed it, as much as they need to drink, to bathe, to flush the toilet, to clean their dishes, to wash their clothes. The prospect of almost a week without water service really turned people's lives upside down.

I'm glad that there is a temporary fix that may have solved the problem at least for the foreseeable future, but I hope that it will serve as a wake-up call because, in the United States, frankly, we are spoiled. We take for granted something that 2½ billion people around the world cannot: having adequate sanitation and safe drinking water.

That's why I'm introducing legislation, Water for the World, with my colleague Congressman POE from Texas, to enhance the efforts of the United States to be a partner to help poor people around the globe have access to what is a global problem, but we also need to do more at home. The challenges of climate change, combined with aging, inadequate water and sewer systems in the United States, place us at risk. We have 80 percent of our popu-

lation served by over 50,000 community water systems that have facilities with a life span of 15 to, maybe, 95 years.

It was a wake-up call here in Washington, D.C., where the average water pipe is more than 77 years old. I remember a trip to Cincinnati—the scene of the first municipal water agency in the United States. They have something that is not unusual. Cities still have some pipes that are brick and wood, dating back to the 1800s. You can find this around the country. That's why it has been estimated that 1.7 trillion gallons of water—1 out of every 4 gallons—leaks before it reaches the faucet. That's 7 billion gallons a day. Think of 11,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools. If you were to place them end to end, they'd go basically from Washington, D.C., to Pittsburgh.

We need to have a national effort to provide the almost \$10 billion that the engineering community estimates will be necessary by 2020 to avoid regular service disruptions like was threatened in Prince George's County. We need to move forward with bipartisan legislation—with the Water Resources Development Act, the WRDA bill—that, if you'll pardon the phrase, has been bottled up. I hope House Majority Leader CANTOR allows that to come to the floor. It has bipartisan support. It authorizes investments that would help deal with water resources for the country now, would prevent emergencies in the future and, by the way, would put tens of thousands of Americans to work all across the country.

With aging systems, water stress, drought, flood, we are just going to see more of the same going forward only on a scale of challenge that, until recently, was unimaginable. Let's use this as a wake-up call for Congress to step up and do its job not only with water and sanitation abroad but with water and sanitation at home, flood control, navigation—the energy challenges that are profound because of disruption to water. Let's start by an undertaking now on the scale that we know we can do and that is so important for our future. If we do, we won't just prevent problems like Prince George's was facing, but all of our communities will be more livable, our families safer, healthier and more economically secure—and by the way, it's the fastest way to jump-start the economy.

#### JOHN PAUL POWERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, last week, an incredibly gifted young man from east Tennessee, John Paul Powers, displayed his talents here in Washington at the Kennedy Center as part of the National Youth Orchestra of the United States. The orchestra, created by Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute, brings together some of our

Nation's most talented young musicians from across the country to work and study together and then to display their talents both here and abroad. In fact, they're scheduled to perform tonight in St. Petersburg. Their tour also includes performances in London, Moscow and New York.

John Paul plays the tuba in his role with the orchestra, but that's not his only musical talent. His repertoire includes the bass, guitar, mandolin, banjo, and even a little dobro at times. While his musical range is wide, the tuba is his passion.

I want to personally congratulate John Paul for achieving the distinct honor of being selected for the National Youth Orchestra. There is no doubt that the diligence, work ethic and passion he has shown will continue to benefit him in life. I would like to wish John Paul the best with his future studies and his dreams of one day professionally playing with an orchestra.

#### GREENS GONE WILD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I rise today to warn of the latest episode of a saga that can best be described as “greens gone wild.”

It involves the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal to declare 2 million acres in the Sierra Nevada Mountains as “critical habitat” for the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and the Yosemite toad under the Endangered Species Act. That is essentially the footprint of the Sierra Nevada Mountains from Lassen County, which is north of Tahoe, to Kern County, which is just outside of Los Angeles. This designation would add draconian new restrictions to those that have already severely reduced productive uses such as grazing, timber harvesting, mining, recreation and tourism, and fire suppression.

And for what?

Even the Fish and Wildlife Service admits that the two biggest factors in the decline of these amphibian populations is not human activity at all but, rather, non-native trout predators and the Bd fungus that has stricken amphibian populations across the Western United States, neither of which will be alleviated by this drastic expansion of Federal regulations. The species that will be most affected by this action is the human population, and that impact will be tragic, severe and entirely preventable.

For example, timber harvesting that once removed the overgrowth from our forests and put it to productive use, assuring us both healthier forests and a thriving economy, is down more than 80 percent since the 1980s in the Sierras—all because of government restrictions. The result is more frequent and intense forest fires, closed mills, unemployed families, and a devastated economy throughout the region.