

inflict unnecessary environmental damage.

One of the ways the Corps meets its environmental responsibilities is by compliance with the National and Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, signed into law on New Year's Day in 1970 by President Richard Nixon.

Earlier this year, Glen Bowman, an official with the Georgia Department of Transportation, shared with Georgia legislators President Nixon's observation that clean air, clean water, open space should be the birthright of every American. Through our years of past carelessness, we have incurred a debt to nature that is now being called.

Mr. Bowman told the legislators that 43 years later the price tag is even higher, some problems remain, and daunting challenges loom, but that NEPA's impact is unquestionable. It remains the Nation's guiding environmental star.

He observes that environmental needs and protecting the environment are not mutually exclusive, and it is important to work together to achieve those objectives.

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Sadly, for me, the most critical element in a bill that I would like to support is the damage to the NEPA process. Placing an artificial time limit of 150 days, restricting the internal activities of the agencies, giving them limited time to move the process along, interfering with the chain of command, cutting out the public from the process, and forcing a shorter time for litigation is unnecessary. It is ill-advised, and it is not going to solve the problem. Project delays are not a result of the NEPA process. There are billions of dollars of projects that are already approved and ready to go—\$60 billion by some estimates. The problem is that Congress has not adequately funded the Corps.

I will be offering an amendment with the gentleman from Oregon, Congressman DEFAZIO, that simply suspends this ill-advised amendment to NEPA, seriously compromising it and the public process, until the project backlog disappears in order to move forward with the already approved projects. Ironically, this bill would add to the backlog while it truncates the NEPA process.

NEPA protects community values. It can often result in alternatives that are even less costly as well as less damaging to the environment. Before we rush to implement ill-advised changes under the guise of reform, let's get rid of the backlog of already approved projects first and be able to work through the consequences.

Forcing more projects that will be ill-considered will make them less worthy of funding. For agencies that are chronically underfunded and are facing further budget cuts, imposing artificial time limits on an already overwhelming backlog is not a prescription for more development projects being

completed and better performance. It is a prescription for sloppy work, ill-advised approvals, and more litigation when we should be concentrating on getting the job done. It will make it harder to serve the public and get the financial support to build vital projects.

I urge my colleagues to support the DeFazio-Blumenauer amendment to reduce the backlog of projects ready to go before complicating and weakening environmental protections and the public's right to participate.

I now would like to enter into the RECORD the comments of Mr. Glenn Bowman from the Georgia Department of Transportation.

#### NEPA IS THE GUIDE STAR

(By Glenn Bowman)

Shortly after signing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) into law on New Year's Day in 1970, President Richard Nixon discussed it in his State of the Union Address:

"The great question . . . is shall we make peace with nature and begin to make reparations for the damage we have done to our air, our land and our water? . . . Clean air, clean water, open spaces—these should once again be the birthright of every American. . . . The price tag is high. Through our years of past carelessness, we have incurred a debt to nature. Now that debt is being called."

Now, 43 years later, that price tag is even higher. Some old problems remain, and daunting new challenges loom. Still, NEPA's impact is unquestionable; it remains the nation's environmental guide star.

At Georgia's Department of Transportation—the entity responsible for more earth work in this state than any other—NEPA has a huge impact on planning, designing and building transportation infrastructure. Virtually everything we do begins with "complying with the NEPA process."

We must:

Protect water quality, air quality, endangered plant and animal species and their habitats, migratory birds, wetlands, streams, rivers, harbors, flood plains, farmlands and the soil itself;

Preserve historic and culturally significant buildings and places;

Save archaeologically significant resources;

Guard against noise pollution;

Make certain native peoples and the disadvantaged are treated equitably;

Mitigate for unavoidable impacts, and always engage the public in our decision-making process.

This requires a considerable investment in time, staff and money. Making a project NEPA-compliant sometimes requires re-routing; re-locating cemeteries and historic structures; and archaeological "digs" to recover important artifacts. We create or improve wetlands and streams to mitigate for like areas that need to be altered. We work with affected residents to help offset impacts to their neighborhoods and lives.

Recently, the need to study areas of North Georgia for the presence of the endangered Indiana and gray bats has garnered attention. Such examination simply is part of a process we are required by law to undertake for numerous plant and animal species, be they cuddly or creepy.

With as many as 700 projects ongoing at any time, not everyone is always going to be satisfied. But our foremost mission is to help make those 700 projects realities; keep motorists safe and moving, and grow that network as Georgia grows.

Meeting our transportation needs and protecting our environment are not mutually exclusive objectives; doing both does not have to be a contentious, adversarial struggle. Working together—internally, with partner agencies, businesses, local governments and citizens—we can repay our debt to nature, have a world-class transportation system, and preserve the beauty and many wonders of Georgia for generations to come.

#### AMERICA'S OUT-OF-CONTROL SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, in just a few short months, we will again find ourselves debating how to not shut down the Federal Government. Our Nation's fiscal woes are not temporary. In fact, they have plagued us for many years, and we have got to stop trying to solve these problems with temporary solutions.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, we are now \$17 trillion in debt, and our government continues to spend and spend and spend. Last Thursday, our Nation's debt jumped \$328 billion in just 1 day. This surpassed the previous high set 2 years ago by over \$100 billion. It is time Congress breaks this pattern. We do not want to be a Nation drowning in debt but, rather, one of economic leadership throughout the world, pro-growth policies.

Mr. Speaker, we simply cannot borrow 40 cents of every dollar we spend. It is simply not the way to run a government, a business, or a family budget. Yet the Federal Government continues to borrow without addressing what got us here in the first place, which is out-of-control spending.

Mr. Speaker, the deal agreed to last week didn't do a single thing to cut spending or tackle the real drivers of our debt; and if we do not change this, we will never get ourselves out of the fiscal rut but, instead, find ourselves repeating history over and over and over again, governing and spending by continuing resolutions. Rather than passing temporary spending bills and short-term extensions to the debt ceiling, we should be working to pass all 12 appropriation bills and a real budget. This doesn't need to be a deal at the eleventh hour. If we go through a regular budgetary process, we will most certainly find areas to eliminate wasteful spending, shore up entitlement spending, and achieve comprehensive tax reform.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government is already spending too much, and ObamaCare will only make things worse. It is estimated that ObamaCare will increase taxes over \$1 trillion and add \$6 trillion to the deficit. Putting aside the countless policy issues associated with ObamaCare, the law, from a purely numerical economic standpoint, is a prime example of out-of-control spending. Overall, ObamaCare is expected to increase health care spending

by \$621 billion over the next 10 years. We cannot afford this. Our children cannot afford this, and the economy will crumble underneath it.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are frustrated with seeing their elected officials in Washington sit on either side of the wall and refuse to make real spending cuts. It is time to sit down and have a conversation about how we get our fiscal house in order and get our spending addiction under control. We cannot continue to jeopardize our economy and our Nation's future by spending more than we take in.

#### CONGRATULATING THE BOSTON RED SOX

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, while typically I would address the House on much more serious subjects, today it is a slightly lighter subject that I am here to address. Much to my regret, I am here standing before you to congratulate my dear friend and classmate from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and his Boston Red Sox on their American League Championship Series win over my beloved Detroit Tigers. And in accordance with our agreement, today I am wearing the gentleman's rather unsightly Boston Red Sox tie, which is painful to say the least.

Although the Tigers did not make it to the World Series this year, I do want to say how proud I am of our players, of our team, of our State, and specifically of Jim Leyland, who, after two World Series, four American League Championship Series, and 8 years as our manager, announced his retirement this week.

Jim, I am sure I speak for all Michiganders and all baseball fans in saying that we are proud to have you retire as a Detroit Tiger.

To Michigan, and specifically to Detroit, the Tigers have always meant more than just baseball. Year after year, their perseverance and grit, even through really tough times for both the team and for the city, that perseverance has been emblematic of the determination and resilience of Detroiters and Michiganders. Tigers baseball has provided hope and instilled a sense of pride in a city and State that has surely seen its share of difficulties. Their performance and their wins have certainly not erased the challenges that we face, but it has given the community and our State a lift.

Like the team, Detroit and Michigan have always had hope for the next season. I love my Detroit Tigers and appreciate all they mean to the great State of Michigan.

And to Jim Leyland and our amazing team, bless you, boys.

So, today, regrettably but sincerely, I salute my colleague from Massachusetts and his winning team, the Boston Red Sox. I had hoped for a different outcome, but, nonetheless, a win is a win.

JOE, congratulations to you and to the Red Sox.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

#### WHEN PROPAGANDA TRUMPS REALITY

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, this Nation has gone through 18 government shutdowns in the last 37 years. Fifteen of those 18 shutdowns occurred when Democrats controlled the House. In those 15 shutdowns, the Democrats demanded increased abortion services and labor and environmental policy concessions.

Perhaps the reason we don't remember those shutdowns as vividly is because, in those days, Presidents negotiated around the clock to resolve the disputes that caused them and did everything that they could to minimize the public's inconvenience and suffering.

This time was different. This time, the President refused to negotiate, and he took unprecedented steps to amplify the pain and suffering that the public endured. A senior administration official told *The Wall Street Journal*, "We are winning . . . It doesn't really matter to us how long the shutdown lasts because what matters is the end result." A park ranger said, "We've been told to make life as difficult as we can for people. It's disgusting."

This administration barricaded open-air venues like the World War II Memorial for Honor Flights by World War II veterans, yet it opened The National Mall for an amnesty rally by illegal immigrants. It closed simple parking lots and roadside turnouts that merely offered passers-by distant views of Mount Rushmore and Yosemite. It ordered businesses to close just because they leased land from the Federal Government. It even tried to close the ocean to Florida fishermen. These measures had never been taken in prior shutdowns, and they often cost more than simply leaving these venues open.

A constituent of mine in Hume, California, wrote, "To get to my place of residence and work, I have to travel through the Big Stump entrance station of Kings Canyon National Park on Highway 180. Currently, the entire roadway is barricaded, and it appears as though the Park Service is attempting to prevent anyone from traveling to or through the national park. I was in the area 17 years ago as a young adult during the last government shutdown, and this type of thing didn't happen. Sure, the facilities at the visitor centers were closed, but the land was still accessible."

Now, why would the administration do this? Why would it deliberately order our public servants to "make life

as difficult as possible for people"? They told us why—because they were winning politically.

On October 2, House Republicans, joined by 23 Democrats, passed H.J. Res. 70 to open the national parks, but the bill was killed in the Senate. Why? Well, they told us why. They were winning politically.

When Republican Governor Jan Brewer stepped forward to use State funds to staff the Grand Canyon National Park—as Arizona had done in previous shutdowns—she was stonewalled by the administration for 10 days. Why? Well, they told us why. They were winning politically.

Now what was the outrageous Republican demand the Democrats refused even to discuss during the 16-day shutdown while they ordered our public servants to make life as difficult as possible for people? Well, on September 30, with the deadline just hours away, House Republicans had dropped all conditions to fund the entire government with one substantive exception: delay the individual mandate that forces people to buy policies against their will. Democrats summarily rejected this proposal and, for 16 days, refused to negotiate on this single point while literally accusing Republicans of sedition.

Then, this past Monday, the President's press secretary made this stunning admission: the administration may, itself, seek to delay the individual mandate by dropping the penalty for noncompliance. They have got to be kidding.

For the 16 days of the shutdown, the only substantive dispute was the Republican plea to delay the individual mandate for the millions of Americans who couldn't find or afford ObamaCare policies. Doing so would have ended the impasse instantly. During those 16 days, it was clear to everyone that the exchanges weren't working. Yet for 16 days, the President and congressional Democrats refused even to discuss the matter while they turned their formidable propaganda machine to the task of winning politically. Then, just 4 days after Republicans capitulated on all points, including dropping our single substantive request to delay the individual mandate, the administration is now, itself, considering delaying the individual mandate.

Mr. Speaker, these facts speak for themselves and need no embellishment from me. John Adams once observed, "Facts are stubborn things." As passions cool and reason resumes its rightful place in the Nation's discourse, these facts will speak eloquently and stubbornly of what happens when politics trump policy and propaganda trumps reality.

#### JPMORGAN CHASE SETTLEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. The greatest power a banker has is to create money. Banks