

Our task is to aid those devastated by these events, as well as addressing the underlying cause of their increased severity and frequency—climate change.

LOSS OF COVERAGE III

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, President Obama and the Democrats who run Washington spent a lot of time telling the American people that if they like their health care plan, they can keep their health care plan.

So what would they say to the 4 million Americans who have had their insurance canceled under ObamaCare? What would they say to all the folks who have logged onto our House Republican Web site at gop.gov and told us their stories of lost coverage?

Americans need real solutions, not the political fix the President proposed last week.

The House passed our Keep Your Health Plan Act with strong bipartisan support. That is a real solution. We call on the Senate to listen to the American people and support it.

U.S. RESPONSE TO TYPHOON HAIYAN

(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, I rise today to offer my condolences to the people of the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan, which hit November 8, 2013.

I am proud to represent a vibrant Filipino community in the East Bay, and I have heard from many constituents who are concerned about loved ones overseas. Particularly this weekend, I heard from hundreds at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Union City.

The U.S. Government acted swiftly, sending monetary aid, humanitarian workers, and military personnel. Unfortunately, some people in the most remote areas are still struggling for basic human needs like food, water, and medical supplies. That is why Representative JACKIE SPEIER and I are circulating a letter to Secretary of Defense Hagel and USAID Administrator Shah, which we plan to send tomorrow supporting the use of airdrops of food and supplies to inaccessible areas.

In an ideal world, aid workers on the ground would distribute supplies to those in need, but time is of the essence. People are hungry, need medical supplies, and are thirsty right now.

I am committed to making sure the U.S. is doing everything it can to help the Filipino people as they begin to rebuild their lives following this horrific storm.

INDIANA STORMS

(Mr. ROKITA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the destructive tornadoes and severe thunderstorms that struck Indiana and much of the Midwest this past Sunday.

On Monday, I had an opportunity to tour areas that sustained some of the worst damage. Kokomo, Indiana, was particularly hard hit, and Logansport, Lafayette, and Lebanon sustained serious damage as well.

While Hoosier lives were spared during this, some of our Illinois neighbors were not so lucky. All throughout the Midwest, people lost their homes, their possessions, and in some cases their livelihoods as businesses were destroyed.

Some of our communities and neighbors face a long, painful recovery. I encourage all Hoosiers and Americans to keep those suffering from the destruction of these storms in their thoughts and prayers.

As is often the case in our great Nation, tragedy reminds us of the goodness and generosity of our fellow citizens. In the past, I have seen Hoosiers step up in tough times to help their family, friends, neighbors, and even complete strangers in a time of need.

While touring Kokomo, I met two men who had driven all the way up from the Indianapolis suburbs just to lend a hand however they could. Shelters had opened. Charitable organizations had swung into action. Neighbors were helping neighbors.

While the Federal Government may have a role to play in the recovery efforts, Hoosiers were not sitting around waiting for their Federal Government. Individuals attacked problems, helped their neighbors, and showed great generosity and resilience.

It makes me proud to be a Hoosier, and I am humbled to represent so many people full of caring, generosity, and resilience.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND NEW JOBS ARE CREATED IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this morning, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo is in my home neighborhood of South Buffalo to announce a \$225 million redevelopment of a former steel-making plant that will bring 850 new jobs to Buffalo.

This project announcement will transform a 200-acre former Republic Steel site into a new clean energy and research campus that will breathe new life into a formerly contaminated industrial area that is situated along the Buffalo River and that has been economically dead for the past 30 years.

This announcement, along with \$75 million in Federal and private investments to clean up the Buffalo River and shoreline, is creating a dynamic

new economy in Buffalo, an economy marked by new waterfront development and clean-energy manufacturing.

Energy independence and hundreds of new jobs in the new economy are remaking Buffalo, New York; and this project should serve as a national model to grow the economy and for nation-building right here at home.

LOSS OF COVERAGE IV

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

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, over the last 6 weeks, every Member of Congress has heard from constituents who have been very much concerned about the cancelation of health insurance policies, primarily because someone has determined that their health insurance policy is not adequate.

We are hearing about higher premiums, and then we all know about the difficulty of getting on the Web site to select your insurance policy.

So there is a lot of confusion out there, there is a lot of anger out there, and there are a lot of people that are asking the U.S. Congress to help.

We want to hear how this ObamaCare is affecting individual Americans from coast to coast. We have developed a Web site called gop.gov. We would invite those people who are experiencing difficulty to go on gop.gov, click on "your story," and tell us explicitly what experiences you are having.

This is very important and we appreciate it.

REPUBLICAN 2014 AGENDA

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the Republican leader circulated his party's 2014 agenda—their vision for promoting private sector job growth, expanding the middle class, and strengthening our economy; their ideas for improving civil rights and bettering our immigration system; their path forward for ensuring our children and grandchildren inherit a better America.

Now, I would like to read to the House and to the American people the 2014 agenda by the Republican Party. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read them all in the order in which they are presented.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 1170

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation prepares for Thanksgiving, I rise to thank and honor two brothers from Boy Scout Troop 275 and the community that rallied behind them.

In the suburban Chicago district I represent, the Round Lake Area American Legion Post 1170 was showing its age. It was neither fitting nor proper for the veterans who filled its halls. Renovation was needed, but money was tight in a community hard hit by our economy.

One day, Edgar and Erik Garcia decided to restore Post 1170. With guidance from troop leader Paul Socha and Commander Steven Hall and help from fellow scouts, Erik and Edgar's idea neared reality. All they needed were supplies.

That is where Home Depot came in. Home Depot donated supplies and gift cards. They single-handedly covered 90 percent of the renovations, but they contributed far more than simply dollars and cents. Thirty Home Depot employees helped with the labor.

I am awed and inspired by Erik and Edgar's vision and determination. I am grateful for Home Depot's remarkable generosity, and I am overwhelmed by the communities' outpouring of support.

Our communities in Illinois' 10th District are close and strong and great because we care about one another. As we approach Thanksgiving, if you ever doubt our greatness, you need only visit American Legion Post 1170.

□ 0915

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANKLIN BARKER WEST

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by part of our Rules Committee family, members of the Rules Committee who would like to welcome back to our Nation's Capital a very dear friend, Celeste West. Celeste is part of our Rules Committee family who retired last July after 25 years of service. On Friday, September 6, Celeste tragically and unexpectedly lost her only son, Barker, in a car accident. Today would have been Barker's 19th birthday.

We all in the Rules Committee watched Franklin Barker West as he grew up. Barker brought a smile to everybody he met. He was a gregarious young man who had an unlimited amount of energy and zeal with an unlimited future. He was an outstanding young man who believed in himself and others.

Barker was also a fraternity brother of mine in the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. Barker's fraternity brothers have called him a "legend." As we know, lives live on despite us being in other places. His spirit is with us today.

In the wake of this tragedy, we are here today with Celeste and her family, Barker's father, Frank, and his stepmother, Suellen. We are here to celebrate Barker's short but remarkable life, a life that was part of our United States Capitol family.

As a father myself, I cannot even fathom the difficulties that the family is going through. But we want you to know, all of us here today, that the life that has been lived of Franklin Barker West was important, and is important to us.

NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PERMITTING REFORM ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1900, the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 420 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1900.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0918

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1900) to provide for the timely consideration of all licenses, permits, and approvals required under Federal law with respect to the siting, construction, expansion, or operation of any natural gas pipeline projects, with Mr. POE of Texas in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Power, we have had a number of hearings over the last year, and we are all quite excited about the additional production of natural gas and oil in America. As many people know, we now are the number one producer of natural gas in the world and the number one producer of oil in the world. This has come about because of the entrepreneurial spirit of the private sector and development of these properties on private lands, primarily in Pennsylvania, North Dakota, and Texas.

So we are all excited about the opportunity for energy independence in America and certainly hopeful to reach

a point where we are less dependent on oil and other products coming from the Middle East.

I want to thank MIKE POMPEO, a member from Kansas, for authoring this important legislation. Although we have become the number one producer and we have an abundance of natural gas today, we still have one key problem. To put it simply, we don't have the necessary pipeline infrastructure to move natural gas from where it is produced to where it is needed most.

I would like to just illustrate how some States are being harmed. According to the Energy Information Administration, in January this year we saw several States with residential natural gas prices way above the national average. For example, New Hampshire was 30 percent above the national average; Massachusetts was 43 percent; Maine, 67 percent; and Florida, 68 percent. Unfortunately, those living in these and many other States can expect to see higher prices once again this winter, and this is precisely why we are bringing to the floor H.R. 1900.

H.R. 1900 simply would bring certainty in agency accountability to the natural gas pipeline permitting process. It would allow natural gas pipelines to be built in a safe, responsible, and timely manner. It would also make existing natural gas pipelines safer.

During the legislative hearing on H.R. 1900, we heard testimony from industry of a corrosive natural gas pipeline that could not be replaced in a timely manner because an agency missed the deadline to issue a permit by nearly a year. The American people demand better than this.

So as we hear discussion and consider amendments to H.R. 1900, I want to thank once again the members of the subcommittee, the staff, and Representative POMPEO for all the work on this important legislation.

I respectfully reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We are told that the Pompeo bill seeks to speed up the approval of interstate natural gas pipelines. In fact, it would have the opposite effect, delaying and disrupting a pipeline approval process that is working. The non-partisan Government Accountability Office has concluded that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission pipeline permitting is predictable and consistent and gets pipelines built. The pipeline companies testified that the process is "generally very good" and that the "sector enjoys a favorable legal and regulatory framework for the approval of new infrastructure." In short, this is a government program that works well.

H.R. 1900 would disrupt this functioning permitting process by arbitrarily limiting the time that FERC and other agencies have to review pipeline applications. When faced with these time limits, one of two things