

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,490,047,622,577.60. We've added \$6,863,170,573,664.60 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN RED
CROSS**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendously positive impact the American Red Cross has on my congressional district.

Earlier this month, my constituents in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions of New York endured disastrous levels of flooding. Upon finding their homes severely damaged, hundreds of people sought refuge at local Red Cross shelters.

I had the opportunity to visit the areas in Yates County hit hardest by the storm and was humbled by the outpouring of care and support provided by the Red Cross. As it has done countless times in the past, the Red Cross responded immediately to provide critical resources and assistance to our friends, families, and neighbors who were affected by the damaging floods. With the help of the Red Cross, these communities were able to pull together to support each other and overcome the challenges caused by the flooding.

Since its founding in 1881, the Red Cross has consistently provided excellent care and relief to those who need it most. Throughout wars, famines, and natural disasters, the staff and volunteers from the Red Cross put themselves on the front lines to help the victims of these tragedies through their times of need. Each year, the American Red Cross responds to over 70,000 catastrophes all over the world, providing emergency relief to those impacted. In addition to providing temporary housing, warm meals, medical assistance, and emergency blood supplies, the Red Cross deploys mobile response units to help ease suffering during disasters.

I thank the staff and volunteers of the American Red Cross for serving as "real heroes" in our community, our country, and throughout the world. I commend their dedication to ensuring the safety and well-being of each person in need, especially in New York's 23rd Congressional District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes:

1. Moran Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

2. Blackburn Amendment No. 14 to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

3. Blackburn Amendment No. 15 to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

4. Bonamici Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

5. Rohrabacher Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

6. Holding Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

7. Massie Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

8. Southerland Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

9. Ellison Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

10. Grayson Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

11. Duffy Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

12. Garrett Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

13. King (IA) Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

14. Meadows Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

15. Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this measure.

16. Final Passage of H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPRO-
PRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I want to thank my colleague from California, Representative HUFFMAN for his leadership on this issue. I

also want to thank Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH for working with us on this important amendment.

West Coast fishermen are in a tough spot, and in a very unique spot. Unlike other regions of the country where fishermen had their buyouts funded by taxpayers, our fishermen took on the loan willingly and knowing they would have to pay it back. And they are paying it back—but at an interest rate that is two points above prime and therefore costing them 5 percent of their landings.

Representative HUFFMAN, Representative HERRERA BEUTLER, and I are working to legislatively refinance this loan. In fact, today, that refinance bill passed out of the House Committee on Natural Resources and it has already passed the Senate Committee. But it's going to take some time to implement.

West Coast fishermen are bearing increased observer costs. We are transitioning to electronic monitoring, but that's going to take time—too much time in my opinion. But until electronic monitoring is adopted by the Council and NOAA, fishermen will have to pay for 100 percent observer coverage—which can be as high as \$350–\$450 per day.

And now, fishermen are bearing an additional cost—\$2.4 million this year to help pay for the management of the fishery—known as the "cost recovery fee." West Coast fishermen are willing to pay this fee. They knew the fee was coming. But, right now, with the mounting costs of the buyback loan, the observer costs, and pending trailing amendments that will make the fishery more economically viable—this additional financial burden is too much.

This amendment would provide one year of relief to West Coast fishermen. It would mean the difference for many fishermen of selling their boats and trying to find a different livelihood in already distressed coastal communities, or staying in business.

This amendment is bipartisan. It does not score. And it might not seem like a lot of money to people in this body, but it's a huge deal for my fishermen, their families, and small businesses that depend on the fleet to make a living. I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, due to a family obligation, I was absent for rollcall votes on May 29 and May 30, 2014. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall Vote 243—Pompeo Amendment—Eliminates all funding for the Economic Development Administration and transfers the savings to the Spending Reduction Account—"no."

Rollcall Vote 244—McNerney Amendment—Increases funding for the COPS program by \$3 million (intended for the Technology Grant Program), reduces the Census Bureau by the same amount—"aye."

Rollcall Vote 245—Brindenstine Amendment—Increases funding for NOAA—Operations, Research, and Facilities by \$12 million (intended for weather research), reduces the Census Bureau by the same amount—"aye."

Rollcall Vote 246—King Amendment—Directs \$5 million within DOJ—General Administration—Salaries and Expenses towards investigating the actions of DHS regarding the discretionary release of criminal aliens—“aye.”

Rollcall Vote 247—Cohen Amendment—Increases funding for DOJ—Administrative Review and Appeals by \$2 million, reduces Bureau of Prisons—Salaries and Expenses by the same amount—“no.”

Rollcall Vote 248—Cohen Amendment—Increases funding for the Legal Services Corporation by \$15 million, reduces DEA—Salaries and Expenses by \$18 million—“no.”

Rollcall Vote 249—Thompson Amendment—Increases funding for grants to improve records in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System by \$19.5 million, reduces funding from various other accounts by the same amount—“no.”

Rollcall Vote 250—Polis Amendment—Reduces DEA—Salaries and Expenses by \$35 million, and transfers the savings to the Spending Reduction Account—“no.”

Rollcall Vote 251—Cicilline Amendment—Increases funding for State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance by \$8.5 million, reduces NASA—Construction by the same amount—“aye.”

Rollcall Vote 252—Smith (TX) Amendment—Redirects \$15.35 million within NSF—Research from the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences to the Physical Sciences Directorates—“aye.”

Rollcall Vote 253—Scott (GA) Amendment—Eliminates all funding for the Legal Services Corporation and transfers the savings to the Spending Reduction Account—“no.”

Rollcall Vote 254—Moran Amendment—Strikes Sections 528 and 529 which prohibits funds from being used to transfer detainees to the U.S. or construct, acquire or modify any facility in the U.S. to house detainees—“no.”

Rollcall Vote 255—Blackburn Amendment—Reduces spending by 1% across the board—“no.”

Rollcall Vote 256—Blackburn Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used for operation, renovation, or construction at Thomson Correctional Facility in Illinois—“aye.”

Rollcall Vote 257—Bonamici Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used by DOJ to prevent a state from implementing its own state laws to authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of industrial hemp—“no.”

Rollcall Vote 258—Rohrabacher Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used by DOJ to prevent states from implementing their own state laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana—“no.”

Rollcall Vote 259—Holding Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used to transfer or temporarily assign employees to the Office of the Pardon Attorney for the purpose of screening clemency applications—“aye.”

Rollcall Vote 260—Massie Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used by DOJ or DEA in contravention of sec. 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 regarding industrial hemp research—“no.”

Rollcall Vote 261—Southerland Amendment—Prohibits funds from being develop, ap-

prove, or implement a new limited access privilege program (catch shares) that are not already developed, approved, or implemented for any fishery under the jurisdiction of the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England, or Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council—“no.”

Rollcall Vote 262—Ellison Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used to award contracts to contractors who have violated the Fair Labor Standards Act—“aye.”

Rollcall Vote 263—Grayson Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used to compel a journalist or reporter to testify about information or sources that they regard to be confidential—“no.”

Rollcall Vote 264—Duffy Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used to relinquish the NTIA’s responsibility with respect to internet domain name system functions, including responsibility with respect to the authoritative root zone file and the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions—“aye.”

Rollcall Vote 265—Garrett Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used by the DOJ to pursue litigation using the “disparate impact” legal theory—“aye.”

Rollcall Vote 266—King (IA) Amendment—Prohibits funds from DOJ—Office of Justice Programs—State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance from being used in contravention of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996—“aye.”

Rollcall Vote 267—Meadows Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used to enter into a trade agreement that establishes a limit on greenhouse gas emissions—“aye.”

Rollcall Vote 268—Motion to Recommit H.R. 4660—“no.”

Rollcall Vote 269—Passage of H.R. 4660—Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015—“yea.”

Rollcall Vote 270—Motion to Recommit H.R. 4681—“no.”

Rollcall Vote 271—Passage of H.R. 4681—National Intelligence Authorization Act, 2015—“yea.”

COMMENDING THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM FOR OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE INTERIM REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN VIETNAM

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest appreciation to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for officially recognizing the Interim Representative Committee of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Vietnam, of which I am a member. I thank the Politburo, Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, President Truong Tan Sang, the Fatherland Front, the National Assembly, Foreign Ministry, Public Security, and any and all government agencies, especially the Committee on Religious Affairs, for sparing no effort to bring this day about.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the efforts and leadership of Chairman Pham Dung, Vice Chair Bui Thanh Ha, retired Vice Chair Nguyen Thanh Xuan, as well as Director Hoang Thi Thao, and the entire staff of the Committee on Religious Affairs.

I am grateful to H.E. President Nguyen Sinh Hung, Vice President Madam Tong Thi Phong, Vice President Madam Nguyen Thi Doan of the National Assembly, as well as Vice Chairman Ha Huy Thong of the Foreign Committee and all other Members of the National Assembly.

I thank Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh as well as any and all associated with the Foreign Ministry.

I also express my deepest appreciation to Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong, Dr. Luan Thuy Duong, and Mr. An Nguyen at the Embassy of Vietnam in the United States for their tireless efforts.

I also thank officers of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, including The First Presidency, the Quorum of the Twelve, the Asia Area Presidency, as well as local leaders in Vietnam. In particular, I thank members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Vietnam and abroad.

I thank all those who have participated in this marvelous work and glory—those named in addition to all those who have added their efforts and prayers to ours, including those who have gone before us.

May 30, 2014, the official day of recognition, is a special occasion, a sacred occasion. Vietnam is a multi-religious society with approximately 25,000 places of worship and about 24 million followers of various faiths. In my official capacity as former Chairman and current Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs’ Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I have attended religious services in diverse houses of worship in Vietnam, and did so unannounced. Always, I found Vietnam to be a place favorable for religious activities and I thank Vietnam for encouraging and protecting the rights of individuals, families, and congregations to practice their religions and contribute as good parents and good citizens under the law.

I am very proud of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the work it does to protect activities of religious groups, including those of my faith. I consider the followers of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Vietnam my brothers and sisters. I feel the same about the leaders and officials of Vietnam. With mutual understanding, respect and trust, we have walked together to this day of recognition. We have walked together with faith in every footstep. And, as we journey forward, I am confident we will do so side by side.

When President Brigham Young led the followers of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints into the Salt Lake valley in 1847, he declared: “This is the right place. Drive on.” To members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to government and party officials in Vietnam, to friends and family, I echo Brigham Young’s words. Drive on knowing that May 30, 2014 will forevermore be one of the best days of my life, and I am sure many others will always cherish this day, too.