

for a growing economy, technology and industrial products, and enough economic opportunity that every NDSU graduate could not possibly take advantage of. But, today, Madam Speaker, I salute the best FCS football program in the United States with a hearty congratulations and a Go Bison.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, as we continue on our economic recovery and debate about raising the minimum wage for hardworking Americans, I want to talk today about raising the standard of living for women in America.

According to the latest BLS report, the monthly job gains were filled entirely by women in our country. This may seem like great news, but please understand that women's recent gains have been concentrated in low-wage sectors, like retail or hospitality. Women still tend to be driven away from the manufacturing sector, which, on average, pays 17 percent higher than non-manufacturing jobs. As a result, the pay gap between women and men in our country continues to be an issue.

Before Republicans deny an extension of unemployment benefits to job-seeking women everywhere, we need to take a multi-faceted, bipartisan approach to solving the pay and job discrepancies. That includes increasing access to STEM education for women and getting them more interested in these manufacturing careers. We have a manufacturing gap in this country that needs to be filled, and women can help do it.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI'S DONNA SHALALA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donna Shalala, the former Secretary of Health and Human Services and the president of my alma mater, the University of Miami.

President Shalala is the recipient of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's Sand in My Shoes Award, which is given to community leaders who have shown through their exceptional contributions that south Florida really is the best place in which to live and work. Under Donna's leadership, the University of Miami has grown in quality and prominence and is ranked not only as the best university in Florida, but is consistently in the top 50 nationwide; and its undergraduate, sports, law, and medical programs are recognized as some of the best in the country.

President Shalala's achievements at the "U" have strengthened and ad-

vanced our unique, diverse, and remarkable community. Donna Shalala is a true champion of south Florida.

Congrats, Donna, and Go Canes.

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. MICHAEL S. GREEN

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

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with pride and pleasure to congratulate Dr. Michael S. Green, professor of history at the College of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas, on his recent selection as the recipient of the American Historical Association's 2013 Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Award.

The AHA, which is the leading professional organization in the country dedicated to the study and testing of history, awards this prize only once a year to recognize outstanding teaching and advocacy for history. This is the first time ever that this prestigious award has gone to a community college professor. Dr. Green's vitae is too extensive and impressive to be described in 1 minute, so I will include additional information in my extended remarks for the RECORD.

Meantime, let me just say that I can imagine no one more deserving of this award. I commend Dr. Green for this distinction, and I am proud to have him as a friend, a colleague, and a constituent in District One.

CONGRESS MUST EXTEND EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of H.R. 3824, the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act.

It is unencumbered; it is unconditional; and we could put that on the floor today to extend unemployment benefits for all of those Americans—1.3 million of them—who lost their unemployment benefits as of December 28. In the couple of weeks since then, another 218,700 Americans have also lost their unemployment benefits. We are talking about a modest benefit here, Madam Speaker, \$313 a week, on average, to pay for food, housing and gas to look for a job.

Over the holidays, I spent some time with unemployed workers at our local electrical union; and every time a job appears, 200 workers show up to try to get that job. These people are hard-working, and they have earned the benefit.

It is time to put H.R. 3824 on the floor today. Americans must be saying, Come on, Congress, get your act together, and pass an extended unemployment bill.

FLEET AND CLIMATE

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, improving the fuel efficiency of our cars and trucks is one of the most important things that we can do to fight climate change.

Thanks to an executive order signed by President Obama, the Federal vehicle fleet is becoming more efficient. By 2020, it will reduce petroleum use by 30 percent, saving money and cleaning the air.

But the United States Postal Service, which owns and operates the world's largest civilian fleet, is exempt from this critical effort; and it is headed in the wrong direction on fossil fuel consumption as 141,000 of their vehicles, nearly three-quarters of their delivery fleet, are aging Grumman LTVs, the old mail truck that we see in our neighborhoods every day. Most get less than 10 miles to the gallon, and they are reaching the end of their operational life span. To save money and cut emissions, the postal service desperately needs a modern, efficient fleet.

That is why I am introducing the FLEET Act, the Federal Leadership in Energy Efficient Transportation, in order to close the fuel efficiency gap between the postal service and other modern, fuel-efficient fleets. A quarter of our Nation's greenhouse gas emissions are emitted from the transportation sector. It is time to take our worst fleet and make it into our best fleet.

BIOFUELS SHOULD BE A NATIONAL PRIORITY

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the Environmental Protection Agency's recent proposal to lower the number of biofuels in our gasoline. Every year, the EPA is required to provide guidelines to oil refineries on the number of biofuels to blend into the fuel we pump into our vehicles. While the EPA has the authority to reduce the number of biofuels, it never has before.

Lowering the number of biofuels simply defies common sense. This isn't just a proposal that will hurt Illinois' rural farmers or our communities in the rural areas, but the economy at large in my home State. It also builds a brick wall in the middle of our Nation's path toward energy independence. It threatens to drive up prices at the gasoline pump, and it risks jobs in an industry that really offers real promise.

The administration's proposal doesn't even maintain the status quo—it moves us backward—and I see that as unacceptable. I am proud to lead a

bipartisan effort with Congresswoman KRISTI NOEM in urging the EPA to revise its proposal because if energy independence is a national priority, then so, too, should be biofuels.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 3547, SPACE LAUNCH LIABILITY INDEMNIFICATION EXTENSION ACT; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 17, 2014, THROUGH JANUARY 24, 2014; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 458 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 458

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3547) to extend the application of certain space launch liability provisions through 2014, with the Senate amendments thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a single motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House (1) concur in the Senate amendment to the title and (2) concur in the Senate amendment to the text with an amendment inserting the text of Rules Committee Print 113-32 in lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate. The Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of the motion specified in the first section of this resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 74 shall be considered as adopted.

SEC. 3. The chair of the Committee on Appropriations may insert in the Congressional Record not later than January 16, 2014, such material as he may deem explanatory of the Senate amendments and the motion specified in the first section of this resolution.

SEC. 4. On any legislative day during the period from January 17, 2014, through January 24, 2014—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 5. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 4 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Worcester, Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), my colleague and friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consider-

ation of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, yesterday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule for the consideration of H.R. 3547. The rule authorizes the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations to offer a motion that the House concur in the Senate amendment with the House amendment consisting of the text of the fiscal year 2014 omnibus appropriations bill.

The rule provides for 1 hour of debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations. Additionally, the rule conforms the title to the content of the bill by providing for the passage of an enrollment correction after the adoption of Chairman ROGERS' motion.

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Lastly, Madam Speaker, the rule provides floor management tools to be used during next week's recess.

Madam Speaker, I want to commend my good friends Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member LOWEY for bringing to this House a bipartisan bill that brings to a close the fiscal year 2014 appropriations process while maintaining the Republican commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Since Republicans took control of the House, we have cut discretionary spending 4 years in a row—the first time since the Korean war. At the same time, this bill provides no new funding for the Affordable Care Act and also includes a pension fix for medically retired personnel and survivor benefit plan annuitants. While there is still work to be done to ensure that we honor the service of our veterans and military retirees, this is a good, bipartisan first step.

Madam Speaker, I know many of my friends here voted against the Ryan-Murray compromise budget, and they voted against the fiscal cliff deal of 2011. However, look at where these pieces of legislation have brought us. We have cut discretionary spending 4 years in a row, to a level \$164 billion below the fiscal year 2008 level, the last year of the Bush Presidency. That is a feat to be commended. We have dealt with tax expenditures, in part, as a portion of the fiscal cliff deal. Yet, despite this progress, we still have not been able to close over \$600 billion of our annual budget deficit.

Madam Speaker, discretionary spending has paid more than its fair share in dealing with our budget deficit. Entitlements such as Medicare and Medicaid spending and other mandatory programs must be reformed in order to put us on a path to a balanced budget.

With the passage of this omnibus, which releases us from the threat of a government shutdown, we are showing the American people that we actually are capable of working in a bipartisan manner. I hope in the future we can work to capitalize on our bipartisan success and bring America's bloated debt and deficit under control.

Madam Speaker, passing this rule and this omnibus spending bill is the responsible thing to do. It is the thoughtful thing to do. As opposed to lurching from crisis to crisis, this omnibus is carefully crafted over a period of many months. And it sets priorities, controls spending, and reasserts congressional authority over the appropriations process far more effectively than yet another continuing resolution ever could.

Many of our colleagues have not seen regular order in the appropriations process. And, sadly, until the Senate is able to pass bills for us to conference together, I think we will be forced into relying on omnibuses in the future. But this is not a continuing resolution. The Ryan-Murray agreement gives us a reasonable foundation for our work in fiscal year 2015.

With that, I urge support of the rule and the underlying bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, what we have before us can be described—very charitably—as a mixed bag. This is a 1,500-page bill that nobody has actually read. This is, by the way, two-sided. It came before the Rules Committee less than 24 hours after it was filed. Because of this rule and the process used to create the bill, no Member, Republican or Democrat, will have the opportunity to amend it or change it in any way.

To top it all off, the legislative vehicle that the Republican leadership is using to rocket this bill over to the Senate is H.R. 3547, the Space Launch Liability Indemnification Act. No wonder the American people think Congress is living on another planet.

When people talk about regular order, this ain't it.

But we are where we are. And I do want to thank Chairman ROGERS, Ranking Member LOWEY, and the House and Senate appropriators for their hard work in putting the underlying omnibus appropriations bill together.

I will support this bill, very reluctantly, because the alternative is far worse—yet another Republican shutdown of the government, yet another unnecessary economically devastating and politically motivated mess, yet another attempt by congressional Republicans to damage an economy still