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U.S. MILITARY CODE OF CONDUCT

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, the military Code of Conduct reads:

I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.

If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no

information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number, and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.

PUYALLUP HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, in Washington State, 67 schools compete in the 4A high school sports division—67 schools, nine spring sports teams and one dream.

For three spring teams representing the Puyallup purple and gold, that dream came true.

This spring, Puyallup High School, located in the 10th Congressional District, captured State titles in baseball, fastpitch softball, and boys golf.

The Vikings baseball team finished their season undefeated, and for the first time in the history of our State, both the baseball and the fastpitch softball teams won their State championships. Boys golf joined them, and three of the top five players were from Puyallup High School.

When I was in high school, it was a thrill beyond measure just to get to the State playoffs. It is inconceivable to win not one, not two, but three State championships. The 10th District is proud of the Vikes, and we congratulate all of the student athletes who made these dreams come true.

FATHER'S DAY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor our fathers—fathers of this country—who have provided the stable, loving atmosphere for children all over the Nation.

I thank, in particular, my late father, the first African American comic cartoonist, Ezra Jackson, who provided me with such stability and love and inspiration; my father-in-law, a Tuskegee Airman, who served in World War II; certainly, my own husband, Dr. Elwyn C. Lee, who integrated the faculty of the University of Houston and its administration.

But the real tribute is to the many fathers across America who have taken children and treated them with love and dignity and who have given them, even if they did not have it, some semblance of comfort—fathers who have

adopted, fathers who have foster cared, fathers who are incarcerated but who still try to maintain the love and connection with their children, poor fathers, working fathers—those who have found their way to claim Sunday as the day when we say, “Happy Father’s Day.”

We honor the fathers of America. We thank you for the foundation that you have given to this Nation.

CLIMATE CHANGE DENIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to spend a few moments this afternoon reflecting on the recent order that is being promulgated by President Obama and the EPA dealing with the goals for carbon emission.

Now, even before the President’s announcement of the carbon goals last week, the spin machine was in full battle mode. There was a full-throated expression of outrage for the apologists for pollution. Those who are profiting from what we are doing now and who are investing the least amount of change are making dire predictions that sound eerily familiar.

The reason they sound familiar is that we have, in fact, heard them before. There was similar gloom and doom that greeted the Federal Government during the first Bush administration that was, if you will forgive the phrase—hold onto your hats—a cap-and-trade program to deal with acid rain. There were claims that it was unworkable, that it would be expensive, that it would create far more problems than it would solve; frankly, we just couldn’t afford to move ahead, that we should instead continue the same approach we had for years, the same approach that resulted in minimal progress and contributed to acid rain damage to our waterways, to our forests, and to the health of our people. But the Bush administration argued against the naysayers in that by setting a framework requiring limits to be met and giving flexibility to the States’ utilities on how it would be achieved, we would make progress for relatively minor costs, and it would be worth it.

Almost 25 years later, the verdict is in. It has been a remarkable success. The program didn’t require massive bureaucracy or a huge, unmanageable cost. We have, in fact, dramatically reduced acid rain. We have promoted investment in new technology. Our lakes and forests are healthier, and so are our people. The cleanup was achieved in the regular course of business, changing the incentives and the signals that were sent.

This success, with bipartisan support, may be one of the reasons that, as we moved into the new century, the

2000s, there was initially broad, bipartisan interest in reducing carbon pollution. In fact, the situation we faced in the United States then was much like the situation I encountered in meeting with British members of Parliament 6 years ago on their approach to climate change.

Now, they acknowledged that there were differences between the three parties in Parliament about the details of what they were planning, about the best approach going forward. Some favored a more command and control, and others were dealing with incentives or taxation or a combination, but they were engaged in a debate about the details of how to achieve the objective of reducing carbon emissions, not the wisdom of doing it, not challenging the climate science.

Maybe this was because Great Britain is an island nation that really couldn't afford to be indifferent to shifting weather patterns, rising sea levels, the impacts of storm, disaster, and crop patterns.

□ 1230

Maybe it was that the British parliamentary system made it harder for the leaders of government and the parties in opposition to insulate themselves from day-to-day debate, debate that is largely unknown here in this Chamber on an ongoing basis.

Maybe it was because the British Government itself had been involved in such sweeping research and planning. Remember, Sir Nicholas Stern had a seminal report on climate that was widely acknowledged and respected, that served as a prod for action.

During the 2000 election, President Bush, then-Governor Bush, said he would move to limit carbon pollution. During a period shortly thereafter, then-Governor Romney of Massachusetts was one of the leaders in the regional greenhouse gas initiative of the Northeast States that started the limited cap-and-trade program, that put a price on carbon, and used those monies to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

It has been relatively successful, despite the massive recession and the Tea Party heat that caused Presidential candidate Romney to repudiate what he helped put in place, and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie pulled back.

In 2008, the Presidential nominee for the Republicans was Senator JOHN MCCAIN, who had been involved, on a bipartisan basis, with legislation to restrict greenhouse gases. And at this point, Senator MCCAIN was not a climate-denier; he was a believer that our government and our economy were not helpless in the face of threats from human impact on climate change and weather instability, let alone spreading doubt about the scientific consensus.

We are coming to the floor this afternoon debating, discussing impacts on climate, the need for modest steps proposed by the administration, restating some facts, and broadening the conversation.

I would like to turn, if I could, to my colleague from Maryland, Congressman SARBANES, to add his voice. The Congressman has been deeply concerned with the environment, with climate, with energy, playing a key role on the Commerce Committee. I welcome him to this conversation.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for pulling us together this afternoon to talk about this important development that the EPA has taken to address climate change, to reduce pollution across the country.

I want to start by thanking the EPA. I mean, a lot of people are piling on right now, critics of this action, and saying this is going to cost jobs and it is too disruptive and so forth. I have a completely different perspective, and I wanted to mention a couple of things along those lines.

First of all, this is an important step to take, just from a health perspective. In other words, there are many ways you can come at it. You can look at it in terms of climate change, which is kind of a slow-moving crisis, and I will speak to that in a minute, but it is accelerating.

But if you just look at it in terms of protecting the health of the American people, frankly, and beyond, but let's talk about America's interests here. If you cut down on these carbon emissions, particularly from coal plants, you are going to be promoting clean air. You are going to be promoting clean water.

The Chesapeake Bay, which I hold very dear, representing the Third District in Maryland, and having parts of the Third District which touch the Bay, and many tributaries and rivers and waterways that lead into the Bay from across the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the Chesapeake Bay, the pollution that comes into the water often is from air deposits that come into the water because of this carbon pollution that we have.

So whether you are talking about breathing clean air, which we all want for ourselves and for our children and for our grandchildren, or drinking clean water and having clean water and high water quality, this is a very, very important step to take, this notion of now setting a goal to cut by 30 percent the carbon emissions from power plants across the country.

But let's look at it through the lens of climate change, which my colleague has already raised. We are seeing the effects of climate change, as I mentioned, accelerating every single day.

So, obviously, there is a warming going on of the planet, generally speaking, and the scientific support for that being connected to the activities of humankind is pretty incontrovertible. We have the opportunity in the Energy and Commerce Committee to get a lot of testimony on that front.

We are seeing violent weather events across the country which are having a tremendous impact on communities,

damaging those communities, harming, actually producing harm to individuals, but also having a terrific impact on economic productivity across the country.

So the average American out there, I mean, everyday citizens, when they look at this issue, the great majority of them are saying, we need to do something about this. We can't just sit on our hands. In fact, there is recent polling that indicates that 70 percent of Americans favor stronger limits on the amount of carbon that is emitted by power plants.

Well, okay. That is exactly what the EPA is doing here. It is taking action to reduce the carbon emissions from power plants. The EPA is listening to the American people. The Obama administration is listening to what the American people are saying, day in and day out, about the action that we need to take.

Unfortunately, this Congress, the leadership in this House, in particular, has not, apparently, heard the cry of the American people when it comes to doing something about climate change.

So I congratulate the EPA for taking these measures because this is what the American people want to see, and it is going to have a tremendous positive impact.

On climate change per se, 80 percent of Americans think the U.S. should take action to address climate disruption, 80 percent of Americans. So those are like commonsense people getting up in the morning, going outside, getting their newspaper, opening the newspaper and seeing that there have been violent storms here, or that there is a drought happening here, or that the water supply is in danger there, all connected back to what is happening with the climate and affecting their communities.

So they are saying, okay, the commonsense thing for us to do is to take some considered and reasonable and rational steps to try to address one clear cause of climate change and pollution, and that is the carbon emissions from power plants.

Thank you to the EPA for taking this initiative and responding to what the American people are saying.

Before I hand it back, I do want to touch, though, on what I think is part of the problem here, why it is that the EPA is the one that is having to step up here and take the initiative, and why we are not taking more initiative right here in Congress.

I think it is because the machinery here has sort of gotten gummed up by the influence that some of these polluters have. There was a report recently issued that indicated or estimated, I guess, that the fossil fuel industry is getting a 5,900 percent return on the investment it is making here in Washington through campaign contributions and lobbying expenditures.

That estimate comes from looking at some of the taxpayer subsidies that continue to flow to that industry, even

though this is an industry that makes over \$100 billion in profits every year. But the influence is also found, not just in sort of that corporate welfare that that industry is taking out of this Congress, but it is seen in the way in which our efforts to try to address climate change, to try to address the issues of promoting clean air and clean water, keep getting stopped by certain industries. So we need to look at reforms on that front.

What do we do to lift up the voices of everyday Americans in a world where money is speech? How do everyday people and people of modest means have speech in that environment and push back on those influences so that we can actually process their will here in Congress?

Then let me just close with this observation, because it goes to the argument that is made that somehow this is going to harm us economically as a country, to put those goals in place and begin to cut these emissions.

My colleague pointed to the sky is falling narrative at the time when we were going to do something about acid rain. And people said, industries aren't going to be able to handle this. It is going to cause parts of the industry to shut down. Americans are going to lose their jobs.

What happened?

The country, America, stepped up to the challenge and found its way to new opportunities. And I hear a lot of times from industry who say, well, you know, putting these measures in place, particularly when maybe peer nations aren't doing as much on that front as they could, it is going to put us at a competitive disadvantage. We need to have a level playing field and so forth.

I get that, but sometimes it makes sense to push us to go find a new playing field. And I think that is what the EPA is helping us do. It is expressing what the American people want to see. Go innovate, go figure out a way to do these things differently. Find, create a new energy portfolio that makes sense from a health and safety standpoint, makes sense in terms of combating climate change, but also will create tremendous new economic opportunities and generate millions of new jobs across the country.

So these things are not mutually exclusive. Economic productivity and innovation are not mutually exclusive with doing the right thing with the environment. In fact, if you look back with a clear eye, historically, you will see that when we push ourselves to do the right thing for the environmental reasons, for the health and safety reasons, we often get ourselves to a place of increased economic productivity and innovation.

In closing, and I thank my colleague for giving me a few minutes here today to talk on the topic, I want to thank the EPA for carrying out—listening to what the American people are saying about the steps we need to take to address climate change, to address our

health and the environment out there, and taking this very, very important step that I think is going to be productive and positive for the American people. Thank you.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you. I appreciate the gentleman joining us and his observations, in particular, the thought that the sky is falling rhetoric is not necessarily born out.

I am reminded that 3 years ago one of the operators of perhaps the dirtiest coal-powered plant in the country, in Homer City, Pennsylvania, warned that there would be immediate and devastating consequences from the Obama administration's push to clean up pollution from coal.

It was facing the requirement to cut sulfur dioxide pollution by 80 percent in less than a year, and it sought to block the rule. They were unsuccessful. In fact, it was the recent regulation that the EPA's—excuse me—the Supreme Court upholding the EPA's rule in this case was initiated by the Homer City generating station that precipitated all of this.

But today, the Homer City power plant is now a model. It hasn't been shut down. There haven't been devastating consequences for that community. It has been able to adopt new regulations, set them in place. It has dramatically reduced its emissions, and it is operating successfully.

The EPA estimates that about 30 percent of the coal-powered units in the United States are operating without scrubbers. Remember, our friend from Maryland talked about the immediate health benefits, not just environmental. The pollution control equipment is not only for sulfur dioxide but mercury.

□ 1245

It is inexcusable that there are plants still operating without these minimal protections.

Mr. Speaker, we are joined by one of my colleagues who is also from Maryland, Congressman JOHN DELANEY. One of the things I appreciate about the perspective that Mr. DELANEY brings to Congress—being a relatively new Member, but having pursued a successful business career—is that he is often taking an approach from an economic perspective that deals with some of these elements.

One of the reasons I am pleased that the EPA is moving forward is that this is an economic solution that can have a huge difference, not just improving the environment, but new technologies and doing so in a cost-effective way.

So we are pleased to have Mr. DELANEY here, and I yield to him for any comments that he may have about the situation.

Mr. DELANEY. I thank my colleague for his leadership on this issue, for organizing our discussion here today, and for his leadership on so many other important issues here in the Congress, and I like the way he introduced this next segment of our discussions around

economic policy because I will spend a little bit of time on that.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to start by talking about probabilities and severities—because I think it is important to think about that when we are thinking about climate change—and then move into some market-based solutions that I think work very well with some of the EPA's recent guidance, which I am very supportive of.

Let's start with the view of what experts think of this issue. It is estimated that 97 percent of the serious climate scientists in the world believe that climate change is occurring and that human behavior is contributing to this.

A friend of mine had a very good analogy for this when he said: If you took your child to 100 physicians and 97 of those physicians said that your child had a condition that needed to be treated, would you wait to get the last three? Or would you act on the advice of 97 percent of the physicians?

That is effectively what we have with respect to the advice that serious climate scientists have with respect to the two questions as to whether is climate change happening and is human behavior contributing to it.

Secondly, there is a body of work around what are the consequences if climate change were to continue, and it is similarly overwhelming in terms of the view that, if it were to occur, the costs, both moral—right, in terms of the stewardship of our planet, but we will put that aside for a second—and financial, are very significant.

If you look at the United States, if you look at costs associated with weather—extreme weather along our coasts, extreme weather in the Midwest, droughts in the west, fires that are being caused from that, disruption in people's lives, costs to the Federal Government, these are very, very significant costs.

That is not even counting the geopolitical costs associated with continued climate change. A very large percentage of the poor people in the world live at or below sea level. The effect that rising tides will have in disrupting their lives, we should understand will have a very significant geopolitical implication.

So let's think about the probabilities and severities. There is some chance—I view it very small, but some chance—that 97 percent of climate scientists are wrong, that, in fact, nothing is happening. I view that as a 10 percent probability.

So whatever we do, the changes in our behavior have to be measured against the 10 percent of the probability. There is an overwhelming likelihood that the scientists are right. That is why 97 percent of them agree.

The fact that they are in accord on this issue would make me think, from a probability-weighted basis, that there is an 80 percent probability that they are right.

Then there is probably a 10 percent probability that they are wrong the

other way, that they are seriously underestimating the effects of climate change, and it could accelerate, and the consequences are actually much greater than we had believed.

So if you add up all of those probabilities and multiply them by the severities, you come to a view that this could be one of the central generational challenges of this era, in terms of addressing this issue from a both moral and economic perspective.

I think my colleague from Maryland framed it well when he talked about the economic opportunities because I think we have been presented with a false choice. The choice has been act on this issue, act against the advice of 97 percent of the climate scientists, or, you know, ruin our economy if we do that; and that is the choice we have been presented with.

That is fundamentally not the right choice because, if you have a view that the evidence will continue to mount, you have to assume that, ultimately, humans—both in the United States and around the world—will react to this issue. That is the logical assumption.

If that logical assumption turns out to be true, then we should assume that, in 25 to 50 years, the way this world—and this country in particular—but the way this world produces energy, distributes energy, utilizes energy, and conserves energy will be very, very different than it is today.

As a businessperson, I look at that, and I say big, big opportunity. It is a big opportunity to be the leader in energy production, energy distribution, energy conservation, and energy utilization.

So there is a concept in business known as the first mover advantage. The person who reacts first gets the best technology, gets the best experts, gets the best insights, and that is what I believe, as a matter of economics, this Nation should be doing.

As someone who believes the power of markets is very significant to change behavior—in fact, I believe there are only two things that really change human behavior: one is their faith, and the other is financial incentives.

We have an opportunity, I believe, as it relates to climate change to not only get the faith community behind this issue—which I believe they will, the faith community cares deeply about the stewardship of the planet, God's greatest gift to us. I believe in the future, we will see the faith community—and it is already there, to a very significant extent—getting behind this more.

I also think there are things that we can do in terms of creating the right financial incentives to change the behavior. I believe things like a carbon tax, where you create a market-based solution and you tax something that we fundamentally shouldn't like—carbon—in exchange for taxing things we should like—like human beings and profits—is a better scenario for our

country going forward, which is why, in combination with the new EPA regulations, we are introducing something called the State's Choice Act.

What the State's Choice Act does is require the Federal Government to give every State in this country another option. It is not a requirement. It is an option, and if the State decides to put in place a carbon tax, where they tax something we shouldn't like today—and I am sure we definitely will not like in the future, which is carbon emissions—and they can take the revenues from that carbon tax and deploy them against any priority they have, including lowering other taxes in their State, if a State puts in place a carbon tax, then they are deemed in compliance with the EPA regulations.

So it is providing States with an option—not a requirement, an option—to put in place a mechanism—a market-based mechanism in lieu of a regulatory framework.

Environmentalists believe a carbon tax is the best solution because they understand that financial incentives change behavior most significantly. Business broadly believes this is the right solution because it is a market-based approach.

In fact, the largest energy company in the world, ExxonMobil Corporation, disclosed something last year that I viewed as very consequential, that they will begin, in their financial assumptions—so in other words, when ExxonMobil projects the future and their business against those projections, they are assuming that, at some point, there will be a social cost of carbon imposed through some form of taxing system.

What that means, Mr. Speaker, is that ExxonMobil is, today, making business decisions based on the fact that that will happen. Most major corporations, most of the Fortune 500 is doing the same thing. They see where this is going.

I believe that, when government and the private sector work well together, we get the best outcomes. So when you see policymakers and people who care about climate change saying their carbon tax approach is the right answer and when you see the overwhelming majority of the Fortune 500 believing a carbon tax is the right answer, I think we should be embracing market-based solutions, which is what we are trying to do with this State's Choice Act.

We applaud the actions of the EPA. This is a serious problem for the reasons I discussed earlier, and I think their actions, particularly in the absence of other actions coming out of Congress, are the right answer.

We believe this is a great opportunity to also start the conversation around market-based solutions, which is why we would like to give every State in this country the option to pursue a market-based solution in exchange for a regulatory solution.

This is an incredibly important topic. Again, I want to thank my colleague

for organizing us here today and giving me the opportunity to comment on my views on this.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you, Congressman.

I must say, I appreciated your observations. I personally am intrigued with your State's Choice Act. I look forward to exploring that further with you. I am absolutely convinced that, in the course of the next decade, this country will be moving to a broader carbon tax.

It is a key to ultimately controlling emissions. It is a way to reform our tax system. It is a way to simplify the equation, and what you proposed, I think, is an intriguing way to accelerate that conversation. I look forward to continuing it with you.

Mr. Speaker, there have been certain concerns that have been raised in terms of some of the horror stories. People feel it is just too much hard work, too much risk with being able to move forward with reducing carbon emissions.

I must reflect on my own personal experience on this, and then I will turn to my colleague from Virginia, Congressman MORAN. From his perspective, he has a great deal to offer on this, and I appreciate his environmental leadership.

Over 20 years ago, I was a member of the Portland City Council, and we were involved then with work to deal with carbon pollution. In fact, Portland became the first city in the United States to make a commitment to reduce its carbon emissions. Our plan was to reduce these emissions. We had committed to making a reduction of 40 percent by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050.

It was fascinating to watch as we moved forward with aggressive work, with energy efficiency, with transportation, bicycles, light rail, streetcar, building design and planning, having a comprehensive effort to tie these pieces together, to change how we did business to meet the carbon objective.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that it is working. As of 2012, our greenhouse gas emissions are 11 percent below the 1990 levels, even though our population has grown 30 percent over that time. It means, on a per-person basis, it has been reduced by a third. Emissions from homes are down 13 percent and are down 16 percent in commercial, industrial, and multi-family sectors.

Now, Portland—anybody who has visited it in the last 20 years—is not impoverished. It is not a place that people are fleeing. Indeed, we are finding that the cohort of well-educated, young professionals—the 20- to 34-year-olds are actually increasing in the city of Portland, while the quality of life has been maintained.

During that same period of time, jobs are up 18 percent, and some of the best-paying jobs are in those areas that deal with innovation, with energy efficiency, with design, with transportation.

So this, from my experience in my hometown, having been involved with

it now for a quarter of a century, it is not only within our capacity, but doing it can actually improve the economy and the quality of life.

There is another critical area that we need to address, and that is why I am so pleased that Congressman MORAN is here. He is a senior Member, the dean of the Virginia delegation—who, sadly, has decided that he may move on and retire after this Congress, after a long and distinguished career.

One of the areas in which Congressman MORAN is a powerful and respected voice is in the area of national security, and I am pleased that he is with us here this afternoon and perhaps can have some observations about what this means to the future security of our country, not just in terms of the environment.

Mr. MORAN. I thank the gentleman from Oregon for giving me the opportunity to join my distinguished colleagues, but particularly you, my very good friend, Mr. BLUMENAUER. I just cannot thank you enough on behalf of this country for your leadership on this issue.

This is an important opportunity to discuss the President's proposed standard to limit carbon pollution because, just last week, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy announced proposed regulations that would reduce carbon pollution by 30 percent, below 2005 levels, basically below what they were a decade ago.

So that is going to help many States who have already made substantial progress, such as Oregon, toward that objective. That is a baseline that most scientists believe is absolutely necessary to prevent irreversible climate change.

□ 1300

The new standard relies heavily on the existing State and Federal Clean Air Act partnership that already exists which enables States to develop their own paths to reduce carbon emissions.

States are going to have the flexibility to cut emissions based on what makes the most sense for their unique situation, including options like reducing demand to encourage production of cleaner sources of electricity, cap-and-trade programs, and a menu of other energy efficiency ideas. States can work collectively with other States to develop multi-State carbon reduction plans. But without this major course correction, our present trajectory on climate change threatens the future of this planet.

As each day passes without action, the more we are destined to harm our environment, our country, and our loved ones. So while this plan may not be perfect, the current public comment period does provide an opportunity to improve on it. And given the inability of Congress to enact meaningful legislation on this or almost any of the other pressing issues our country confronts, I fully support the President's

decision directing the Environmental Protection Agency to issue a standard for carbon emissions because it has become clear that this Congress will not do so.

It is no secret that the majority who control this Chamber are in climate change denial. Just 2 weeks ago, the House passed an amendment offered by Mr. MCKINLEY of West Virginia to the National Defense Authorization bill that prevents the Pentagon from using funds to implement climate change assessments. This is a head-in-the-sand amendment, essentially a way to ensure that the realities of climate change are ignored by our national security policymakers.

It is an absurd notion that our military leaders should not react to the unequivocal fact that the planet is warming and that human activities are responsible. The McKinley amendment, and those who voted for it, remind me of the 16th century Catholic Church, Mr. BLUMENAUER, that condemned the work of a scientist by the name of Galileo who dared to claim that the Earth was not the center of the universe but that it, along with the planets, revolved around the Sun.

Now, those who voted for the amendment—and I hate to say the number, it was embarrassingly large—but those who voted for the amendment were telling our military to irresponsibly disregard the findings of the scientific community that our planet is warming. But our military leaders, fortunately, do get it. They do understand that the climate is changing, and they are doing their best with limited resources to be prepared to respond to that changing environment.

Climate change is a national security concern for a number of reasons. First and foremost, it is a catalyst for instability and conflict around the world. The U.S. Department of Defense's own Quadrennial Defense Review—this is the document that defines the Department's strategic objectives and potential military threats—declared the threat of climate change is a serious national security vulnerability that could enable terrorist activity. The Quadrennial Defense Review specifically states:

The pressures caused by climate change will influence resource competition while placing additional burdens on economies, societies, and governance institutions around the world.

The results will be a higher demand for American troops abroad, even as we struggle to deal with the devastating impacts caused by flooding and extreme weather events here at home.

Climate change is also a new form of stress on our military readiness. The Navy, for example, estimates that 128 of its installations just at the Norfolk, Virginia, Naval Shipyard alone would be affected by a 1-meter rise in sea level which we have to anticipate. It recently had to spend \$240 million to double-deck four of its piers down at the Norfolk Naval Base so that they

could harden utility lines and make the structures more resilient to sea level rise and more extreme and more frequent weather events.

Now, as an appropriator, I and my colleagues on the committee are dealing with the reality of climate change in Federal agency budgets. The effects of climate change are ratcheting up Federal expenditures. The 10-year average for wildland fire costs, the basis on which we attempt to budget for fighting wildland fires, is going up every year. We spent more than \$800 million on wildfires just last year.

So, our military gets it, the vast majority of the American public gets it, and the executive branch gets it. It seems that almost everyone—almost everyone—gets the fact that climate change is happening; that is, everyone but a majority here in the House and a filibuster-sufficient minority in the Senate. Perhaps they are in denial because their political base either chooses to be ignorant or is profiting from inaction.

Perhaps it is a generational issue. I have seen a poll that a majority of all self-defined Republicans under the age of 34 think politicians who deny that climate change are either—and I am just quoting now, of course, these are not my words.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Of course.

Mr. MORAN. These are the words of the majority of Republicans under the age of 34 that they are either “ignorant, out of touch, or crazy.” Ignorant, out of touch, or crazy. Now, we wouldn't use those words, but the majority of Republicans under the age of 34 do use those words towards those who deny that we should do something about climate change.

We, along with the rest of the world, have a duty to protect our children and future generation from the effects of climate change. So I stand here with my colleagues to ensure that the Obama administration's effort to limit carbon pollution is not diminished or blocked by the Congress. For the sake of our national security, and the sake of a better future, the Obama administration's proposal to limit carbon emissions must be allowed to go forward.

I thank you very much, my friend, and I thank you for your leadership. Let's hope things get better.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Well, I appreciate very much your being here, Congressman MORAN, and your voice makes me think that maybe you have been giving diction lessons to Gina McCarthy, but it is not so much how she talks but what she says.

Mr. MORAN. You are making fun of our New England accent, Mr. BLUMENAUER.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I am talking about the distinctive way in which you communicate as well as the power of the words, both of the administrator and of you. I deeply appreciate your putting numbers around some of these threats. The notion that we have the largest naval base in the world, and

you are saying we had to invest almost one-quarter of a billion dollars because it has had the greatest increase in sea level on the entire eastern seaboard.

Mr. MORAN. Absolutely. We just were shown a map by naval executives, and I hesitate to say this because it is so scary, but the reality is that the entire Naval Shipyard and the Norfolk shipbuilding base which builds our nuclear carriers within a relatively short period of time, a few decades, is liable to be underwater. So we can't afford to continue to deny climate change, literally.

So I appreciate your leadership, again, on this, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and we have got to continue the fight.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. It was interesting. There was a recent article in *The Washington Post* about a church on the waterfront in Norfolk. And they are having to vacate because this rising sea level is making it—the pastor of the church was quoted as saying that people shouldn't have to consult a tide table to figure out whether or not they can go to service.

I deeply appreciate your focusing on this, the reference you make to the Defense Department needing to have the best information possible and the outrage that an amendment was approved to the defense authorization that would have, in effect, locked climate denial into that authorization.

Mr. MORAN. Absolutely. And the executives, the folks who have been involved with the Navy who showed me this map of our naval shipyards, within my son's lifetime are going to be under water. They did say, well, if it is any consolation, Florida is in worse shape. Of course, it is no consolation that Florida is in worse shape than Virginia, but the reality is it is obviously not confined to Virginia; it is all along the low-lying coast. Unfortunately, by the time that some people wake up and accept it, it may very well be too late.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I just had my first two grandchildren, and I would like some day for these two little boys to be able to see Miami and not have to be snorkeling.

Now, your reference to the defense amendment that was passed makes me think of what happened in North Carolina, where the legislature tried to mandate that the State agencies could not use the best science to make choices, the best information to protect the coastline.

Well, I deeply appreciate your joining us this afternoon. I appreciate your leadership and look forward to continuing with you this conversation.

Mr. MORAN. Thank you, Mr. BLUMENAUER.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there are some who claim, well, we really don't need to move forward with this because maybe or maybe not the administration's plan will work as they say. Maybe it is affordable, maybe it will create those jobs, it will improve air quality, and reduce carbon emissions. But they say that it really

doesn't matter what the United States does. It is ironic, because some of the same people who are denying climate science are then turning around and saying, but it won't matter what we do because the Indians and the Chinese are building a coal emissions plant every week or two, and so anything that the United States does will really be drowned out, will lose its effect because of other events.

Well, this argument is wrong on all counts. It is not as much as we need to do. I am absolutely convinced, as I stand here on the floor of the House today, I am absolutely convinced that over the course of the next 20 years we will not only implement the requirements of this carbon emission rule, but we will go beyond it. We will go beyond it, and we will find it is not only manageable, but it is the right thing to do.

Even though this modest step will have some short-term pain and some difficulty in changing current patterns of business and politics, it is something we can and should do. Being able to make this pivot to start changing how we do business is in and of itself significant because it is these first steps that are going to make it possible for us to take other, more important, longer-term steps that will be even more significant.

But it is also critical to demonstrate American leadership. Our failure to lead on reducing carbon emissions will encourage other countries that are poorer and are heavier carbon emitters on a per capita basis to just sit back and wait. Some of them will say, hey, you in the United States are the people who have created most of this problem. The United States has now been passed by China in terms of annual current carbon emissions. But in terms of total carbon in the atmosphere, the United States is the all-time leader and will be for some time.

On a per capita basis, we are still far and away number one. Americans can emit three times as much carbon per person as the Chinese and six times more carbon per person than the Indians. So the United States is the greatest historic carbon emitter, and we are still emitting far more carbon per person. If we don't step up, being rich, powerful, and more technologically advanced, how is it that we are going to expect poorer countries where people are struggling with existential challenges for food and sanitation, how do we expect them to ever follow suit if we are afraid to lead?

Well, I think this rule that is being promulgated is an expression that we are not afraid to lead. As I say, it is an important interim step, it sends an important signal, and it starts a broader conversation internationally.

I was in Copenhagen 4 years ago and watched as the United States shuttled back and forth, the President trying to get people aligned, and dealing with the European Union. But, frankly, we are never going to be able to have one, large multinational organization that

is going to put all of these pieces together. It is going to require leadership. It is going to require leadership from the United States, showing the way that we are willing to do this, and then working with not just the Chinese and the Indians, but the Brazilians and the Indonesians. In this political and economic climate, it is wildly unrealistic to expect that the United States is going to assume the entire burden itself, but it is important for us to send the signal that we are moving in the right direction.

□ 1315

The United States, over the course of the next 50 years, is going to be challenged to deal with all that we need to do; plus, as my friend from Virginia mentioned, we are facing serious problems in terms of climate change that is already underway.

If we, in some way, could be able to drop global carbon emissions below the 400 parts per million that we are at now back to 350 parts per million, we are still going to watch the climate effects unfold. We are still going to watch Florida sink, with oceans rising and problems for its water supply.

We are going to watch large chunks of the Arctic ice sheet collapse. We are going to watch parts of Greenland disappear. Ocean levels are going to continue to rise. This means that the United States is in a race to be able to deal with things to help people adapt with climate change and, for heaven's sake, not to give up because it is going to be a problem. We don't want it to accelerate. We don't want to make it worse.

If we are going to be able to deal with the challenges 50 years from now, it is what we do in the next 5 years in communities all across America that is going to make a difference.

Acting with cleaner technology, cleaner energy, and greater efficiency will save American families money over the next 20 years, compared to the current wasteful patterns. It is an opportunity for us to realign our economy for the economy of the future. It is an opportunity for us to be able to minimize the consequences of climate change.

Frankly, every single use of energy has some negative consequences—every one, but being able to use that energy for efficiently, more effectively, and do it sooner minimizes those negative consequences while we harness the economic power to change the economy.

I want to conclude with just one observation about the way that the administration has proceeded. They have signaled the approach that they are taking going forward. They have taken goals and adjusted those carbon goals based on where States are now, what their energy mix is, and what they can do in a reasonable way in the years ahead.

They have taken those goals and given great flexibility to the individual States. This is not a one-size-fits-all

solution. To the contrary, giving them realistic goals and giving them flexibility on how they are going to achieve it is a terrific way to harness market-based solutions and the ingenuity of the individual States.

The administration, I have heard from a number of people in the industry, has reached out, talking to people with electric utilities, gas, and working in terms of large industrial users. Having those conversations with States, red State and blue, regardless of their energy mix, they have made it clear that they are encouraging people to take advantage of the flexibility that has been given to them.

I think this is an ideal model for going forward, not denying the problem, not trying to solve it all overnight, not trying to have one size fits all, but to deal with a minimal standard going forward that sets the base, giving people a range of options to meet it, and inviting their ingenuity and their activity.

Mr. Speaker, there is no issue that is more important that this Congress should be addressing. Sadly, you know we have not done much to deal with it on the floor of the House, but the administration is at least stepping forward to not deny climate change, but to be able to give people choices to meet our objectives.

I commend the administration for the steps they have taken, and I hope that all Members will take the time to familiarize themselves with it and what their States can and should do to be able to meet that objective for America to exercise leadership at home and abroad—meet these minimal objectives and to exceed them in the years ahead.

As we did with acid rain, we can do with carbon emission. I urge my colleagues to focus on how we can do this, so we can make it a great success story to preserve the future of our children and grandchildren. I appreciate the opportunity to share this discussion.

I yield back the balance of my time.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 201(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 USC 6431) and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following individual on the part of the House to the Commission on International Religious Freedom for a term ending May 14, 2016:

Ms. Hannah Rosenthal, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

ONGOING STRUGGLE AGAINST BOKO HARAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60

minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week, I spent four days in Nigeria, and while in Abuja, I met with one of the Chibok girls who escaped after the infamous mid-April Chibok school abduction.

This brave young woman has suffered much, was clearly traumatized, and in deep emotional pain. You could hear it in her voice. You could see it in her eyes, as she sat motionless, recounting her tragic story, yet she spoke of concern not for herself, but for her friends and classmates who remain in captivity. She pleaded for their rescue and for their protection.

In Nigeria last week, I met with a Muslim father of two girls abducted from the Chibok school. Fighting back tears, he said the agony was unbearable. The story of his daughters underscored the fact that Boko Haram brutalizes Muslims as well.

Last week, I also met with several other Boko Haram victims, including a Christian mother whose two daughters were abducted in February of 2012.

For the past 2 years, this mom has had no idea where her two girls are or whether or not those two daughters are dead or alive. She told me that her husband was shot on the spot when they raided her home, simply for being a Christian.

Three months later, Boko Haram returned and asked if her son had converted to Islam. When she said no, he was shot and killed.

Mr. Speaker, on another trip to Nigeria, last September, I traveled to the city of Jos and visited churches that were firebombed by Boko Haram and met with survivors, those who lost loved ones and those who have been wounded in those terrorist attacks.

In an internally displaced camp, I met with a man named Habila Adamu. Habila Adamu lived in the north, had fled to Jos, but here was a situation where Boko Haram broke into his home, put an AK-47 to his face and said: If you convert to Islam, I will spare your life. If you don't, I will shoot you.

He told the terrorists: I am ready to meet my Lord.

He was shot immediately, with his wife pleading with the terrorists not to do so. It blew away much of his face. When I met with him, I was so moved by his story, I invited him to a hearing.

When he testified, he told that story to members of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, and you could have heard a pin drop—what courage, what tenacity, what love. I was struck by the fact that he had absolutely no malice for the man who pulled the trigger, who almost turned him into a martyr.

In Jos, I also met with Archbishop Kaigama and Muslim leaders in that city who told me how Christian and Muslims were working together to assist the victims and to try to mitigate

the threat, but, Mr. Speaker, the violence has gotten demonstrably worse and shows absolutely no signs of abating.

After the May 20 Boko Haram bombings in Jos that killed 118 innocent people—that is less than a month ago—and wounded at least 56, Catholic Archbishop Kaigama, an extraordinarily brave and compassionate religious leader, reminded the world that Boko Haram is faithful to its target of eliminating and destroying Christianity from parts of the country.

The only difference is that we are not just seeing Christians dying and being abducted, we are seeing attacks on Muslims, as well, who Boko Haram considers not Muslim enough.

The Archbishop said:

The international community can help in a number of important ways. The sale of arms is of grave concern. In short, the government needs help in cutting the supply lines of Boko Haram.

Mr. Speaker, Emmanuel Ogebe, special counsel for the Justice for Jos Project and also a leader in the Jubilee Campaign testified yesterday:

Boko Haram continues to ravage northern Nigeria, killing over 1,000 people in 8 weeks. The terrorists are bolder and more diabolical than ever and have completely overrun several borderline rural communities. Prior to the Chibok schoolgirl abductions, much of the international response was inattention and inaction. Now, it is attention, but inadequate action.

Mr. Ogebe also testified that it took the United States 25 months after the first two Americans were attacked and 1 year after the third and fourth Americans were targeted before Boko Haram was designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the Obama administration.

I would note, for the record, that during the last 2 years, I have pushed hard—and I am not the only one in this Congress who has done so—to designate Boko Haram as a foreign terrorist organization, or FTO. I introduced legislation, H.R. 3209, the Boko Haram Terrorist Designation Act of 2013, in an attempt to make it so.

On December 13 of last year, I chaired yet another congressional hearing on Boko Haram and was prepared to advance the legislation. However, on the day before the hearing, the Obama administration finally announced FTO designation—late, but welcomed—which is designed, in part, to slow or help interdict the flow of arms and terror financing.

Mr. Speaker, at yesterday's hearing, we also heard from the former American Ambassador to Nigeria, Robin Renee Sanders, an experienced and very distinguished diplomat, who told my committee:

Nigeria is at the beginning of a long war, and they have to realize this. This is no longer a localized conflict or insurgency. There is no easy fix, and every attack and response to Boko Haram cannot be viewed as a death knell blow to it. A long-range security framework to the terrorist threat is what is needed.