

fields—science, technology, engineering, and math—especially as more than 60 percent of U.S. employers face difficulties finding qualified workers in the STEM fields, it is essential that we support education in the STEM fields to remain competitive in a 21st century global economy.

That is why I have introduced the Innovative STEM Networks Act, which will establish a grant program for school districts to create partnerships with universities, business, and local nonprofits to support learning in the STEM fields.

Schools like FIU, Miami Dade College, and the University of Miami have dedicated resources to ensuring their students have a strong foundation in STEM subjects, and my bill will replicate this success for students preparing to enter college or the workforce.

I urge my colleagues to work with me to create jobs and spur economic growth by supporting STEM education.

MAYO CLINIC NAMED BEST HOSPITAL

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I just want to congratulate the Mayo Clinic on being named the best hospital in the country by U.S. News & World Report, beating out nearly 5,000 medical centers nationwide.

U.S. News & World Report takes into account several factors, such as survival rates, technology, patient safety, and physician surveys. This was the first time the Mayo Clinic has been awarded the top prize, beating out other outstanding facilities like Massachusetts General and Johns Hopkins Hospital.

The Mayo Clinic is the largest integrated nonprofit group practice in the world, attracting people from all 50 States and 150 different countries. In addition to providing patients with unparalleled care, the Mayo Clinic engages in cutting-edge research, community outreach, and the education of the next generation of medical professionals.

Madam Speaker, I just want to commend the Mayo Clinic's commitment to providing high-quality care for its patients, and I congratulate them on this well-deserved distinction and recognition.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, my community has experienced over the last couple of weeks senseless horrific violence done with guns, wrapped and intertwined with domestic violence.

First, I offer my sympathy to Cassidy Stay, who lost six members of her fam-

ily at the hands of a gun and an individual who was coming to do harm to her aunt; and then to the family of Candace Williams, whose three children—7-year-old Neira, 1-year-old Paris, and 6-year-old Torian—watched their mother gunned down in her bedroom with baby Paris, 1-year old, sleeping alongside her mother; and of course, the Stay family—Katie and Stephen, Bryan, Emily, Rebecca, and Zach—who lost their lives at the hand of a violent individual who was, as I said, coming to do harm to his own ex-wife.

It is time to raise the understanding of domestic violence. Today, at a press conference in Houston, we announced the Candace Way Out, so that women all over America would be able to know there are places to go.

I intend, Madam Speaker, to introduce legislation to enhance the penalty for anyone involved in domestic violence that uses a gun that results in the death of that loved one. Madam Speaker, violence, guns, and domestic violence must end.

Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to speak to a tragedy resulting from another senseless act of domestic violence in my congressional district.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the friends and relatives of Candace Williams, especially her three young children, 6-year-old Torian, 7-year-old Neira, and 1-year-old Paris, who were left without parents following the murder of their mother who was killed by their stepfather before taking his own life.

A few days earlier, Stephen Stay, his wife Katie, and their four children—Bryan, 13, Emily, 9, Rebecca, 6, and Zach, 4 were brutally shot and killed in their suburban Houston home by the ex-husband of Katie Stay's sister.

I offer my deepest sympathies and condolences to Cassidy Stay, the sole survivor of this horrific crime but who is also a hero for leading the authorities to the perpetrator of this crime.

It is imperative that we come together in strong support of a broad and comprehensive strategy to address the causes and effects of gun violence when domestic violence is involved.

Weighing heavily on our hearts and consciences is the fact that an estimated 46 million children in our country are exposed to violence each year through crime, abuse and trauma.

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, or other abusive behavior perpetrated by a family member or intimate partner against another.

It is an epidemic affecting individuals in Houston and across the nation, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality or educational background.

Violence against women is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior, and thus is part of a systematic pattern of dominance and control.

Domestic violence results in physical injury, psychological trauma—and as we have seen in Houston—too often in death.

The emotional, physical, and psychological damage caused by domestic violence can last a lifetime. Consider the following facts:

1. One in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime

2. Historically, females have been most often victimized by someone they knew.

3. There were 187,811 incidents of family violence in Texas in 2010.

4. There were 120 domestic homicides in 2010 as a result of domestic violence of which 43% were committed by a spouse and 24% were committed by a dating partner.

In the United States, 9,146 people were killed by firearms in 2011 a number 223 times greater than the United Kingdom, which experienced only 41 homicides by firearm.

Homicide rates in the United States are 6.9 times higher than the combined rates in 22 most populous high-income countries.

Madam Speaker, we must begin discussing common-sense steps we can take right now to combat gun violence.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee and the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, I have introduced H.R. 65, the Child Gun Safety and Gun Access Prevention Act and other legislation to reduce the incidence of gun violence.

Changing a culture of violence will not happen overnight but that is no excuse for failing to try. We must try. We must not give up.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in redoubling our commitment protect our children and our communities from domestic violence.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of the victims of domestic violence everywhere.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, when talking on the floor, presenting legislation, it is always good to have a compass, so you can have some sense of where you are going and what it is all about.

This is one I often bring to the floor when we talk about the issues of the day. This is from FDR—Franklin Delano Roosevelt—and he said the “test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.”

It is a compass, and it is a way of judging progress or a lack of progress, and we seem to have more of the latter than the former. We have much to do if we are going to add to those who have little.

In America, the American middle class, the working men and women, the families who raise their children try to buy a home, a car, maybe take a vacation—they have been struggling for the last 20 years. It has been tough. They have not seen income growth.

The statistics are stark and clear. The middle class of America has stagnated, and, in fact, it has shrunk, as more and more Americans have fallen into the lower income class.

There is something we can do about it, and we, Democrats, intend to do just that. We want to jump-start the middle class. We want to put in place

policies that will grow the opportunities for the working families of America, for those men and women that get up in the morning, feed their children, get them off to school while they are getting off to a job.

There are things we can do. I want to talk about that tonight. Some of my colleagues will join us a little later.

Let me put up the agenda for jump-starting the middle class, the Make It In America agenda, rebuilding the American manufacturing sector, which was the heart and—in many ways—the soul of the working middle class of America, where they could get a decent wage, where they know that a husband or a wife, by themselves, could provide sufficient income for the family to have a home, a car, and enjoy the benefits of this great Nation.

So we will talk about the Make It In America agenda, and we will go at that in some length tonight because that is our basic subject matter.

The other one is very simple. It is a reflection on the demographics, and it is a reflection on the working people of America, and it is women. It is women. What we say is that when women succeed, America succeeds.

There is a set of policies that we need to put in place all across this country that will guarantee that the women of America that are out there working day in and day out have an equal opportunity. Right now, they don't.

They make about 70 cents on every dollar that a man makes. There is an inequality that exists in America's workplace, and our agenda is to end that inequality, to make sure that whether you are a man or a woman, you are going to be paid an equal amount for the same amount of work, the same experience, the same productivity. So when women succeed, America succeeds.

There are several other policies here that are family-friendly policies, and we will talk about that another day.

If the middle class is to succeed, if we are going to jump-start the opportunities for the middle class, a key element is education. So that is the third plank—the third leg upon which we rest our policies.

How can we jump-start the middle class? Education—there are very many things that we can do in education. One just passed the House of Representatives on a bipartisan vote after almost two decades of struggle.

We are revamping the job training programs in America, so that the preparation that people need to get a decent job are streamlined, effective, and efficient, and that is part of it, the job training programs, but it is more than that.

American students now have to—in almost every case—borrow an extraordinary amount of money in order to get a higher education, whether it is community college or the 4-year colleges and beyond.

That extraordinary debt burden is enhanced by extraordinarily high in-

terest rates, so what we want to do is to bring down those interest rates, and there are three or four different pieces of legislation that our Democratic team has put forth, all of them to accomplish the same goal, bringing down the interest rates.

We would like to see it go down to the same interest rates that banks pay for the money that they borrow from the Federal Government and the Federal Reserve—wouldn't that be nice—because it is almost zero, but we don't think we can get that far.

We know it can bring that interest rate down from 6, 7, 8 percent down to the 3 percent, maybe the 4 percent range—literally cutting in half the cost of that money. So there are a series of policies on education.

Let me turn to the one that we want to focus on tonight, which is the Make It In America agenda. There are many pieces to this. One of them was put forward by our team, and there are about seven different elements to this program. This is our logo, Make It In America, so that Americans can make it.

Trade policy, taxes, energy policy, labor, education—which we just talked about—research, and infrastructure, these are the elements of a solid program to have the middle class have an opportunity, to jump-start the working men and women so that they can, once again, make it in America—by rebuilding the manufacturing sector, by having decent trade policies, where we don't give it away and see the American corporations simply run off to China or Bangladesh or wherever to get the lowest possible wage, trade policies that are fair to America.

Our tax policy is critically important. If anybody was reading the newspapers, *The Wall Street Journal* or other business newspapers last week, the word now is "inversion."

Well, what is inversion? It is simply a runaway American corporation, running away to the lowest possible tax haven in the world and making themselves domiciled in that country, leaving America behind, where they got their start, where they built their enterprise and simply running away, leaving those who cannot run to pay the burden of operating this great country's security, our defense, and all of the other things we need to do. So tax policy fits into it.

Energy policy, labor—we will go through some of these tonight. We won't get to all of them.

I want to deal very quickly with this last one, which is the infrastructure. We passed a bill last week, and it was a stopgap. It was a kick the can down the road bill to keep our national highway system funded. It was really a pretty lousy bill.

It would extend for some 10 months an inadequate amount of funding for the transportation systems of this Nation, and it was funded by a cockamamie scheme of somehow smoothing pensions, which basically

meant that American corporations didn't have to pay as much into their pension system, so that they could pay more in taxes. It is not going to happen.

If you wonder why Detroit, why San Jose, why other cities and companies across this Nation have troubles with their pension systems, it is because of this kind of foolish legislation.

What are you to do? Let the highway program stop? No. We passed the bill, and we will see where it winds up.

What we really need is what the President has proposed—a robust, comprehensive make it and build it in America program. It is called the GROW AMERICA Act, to grow America, to build the infrastructure, and there are several pieces to this piece of legislation—all of them deserve the immediate attention of the 435 of us in the House of Representatives and the 100 Senators—proposed by the President and, therefore, dead on arrival here.

If it had been proposed by—I don't know—any other leader in the world, it probably would have passed by now, but the Republicans will not allow President Obama's proposals to move forward.

Here it is, the highway system. Now, this is just in 2015. The highway system would get even more money than it has today, some \$60 billion total, \$7.6 billion to fix the current highway system, and this is in addition to the money that the States and locals are putting in—public transit, an increase in public transit, the buses, the light rail trains, and the like, inner city rail, Amtrak, boosting that—I am going to come back to Amtrak in a few moments.

International trade—back to what I talked about a few moments ago in the Make It In America agenda—international trade, the ports, revamping the ports, a freight policy—really, for the very first time, we would have an opportunity to have, in the United States, a freight policy.

□ 1945

How do you get the containers off the ship in Long Beach, put them on a railcar, travel across the United States to some terminal, and then, once again, put them on a truck to go to wherever they are going? A policy, a comprehensive policy about how we move freight is critically important to the United States. International commerce and fair trade is important because it does allow for the boosting and the growth of the American economy. Now, free trade is something different, and that basically means give it away to some other country, which we should not do.

This GROW AMERICA Act is one of the principal elements in jump-starting the middle class. Why? Because these are middle class jobs. These are construction jobs on the highways, on the transit system, in the railroads, and certainly in the ports and the freight system—middle class jobs. How do we grow the economy? Build the infrastructure, increase the jobs for the

working men and women and the families of America, and we grow the economy.

By the way, we also grow the tax revenues because people are working. They are not tax takers, they are taxpayers.

So this is a proposal that the President has put forward. There has not been one hearing in the House of Representatives on this proposal that is now over 4 months old. Why? Why? Why is it that we have not given the President of the United States at least the consideration and the courtesy of having a hearing on his proposal? We should do so because it happens to be a very, very good proposal.

Let's take a couple of these elements for a moment. This bridge collapsed. Now, this isn't a bridge from Donetsk in Ukraine that was bombed during that war there. This is a bridge in Washington, a bridge north of Seattle on Interstate 5, the highway system between Canada, the United States, and Mexico, right down the coast, the west coast of California. This bridge collapsed just a couple of years ago. And this is not unusual. We have had bridges collapsing all across the United States.

This is part of the GROW AMERICA agenda. It is part of the agenda that we have in mind for the middle class, jump-starting the middle class, because when this bridge is built of American-produced steel in the Buy America laws that are presently on the books—which, by the way, the President says we ought to make even more robust so that your tax dollars are spent on American-made steel, American-made concrete, and the other elements that go into building these infrastructure projects, in other words, spreading the opportunity that comes from the transportation system and the growing and the building of the transportation system into all the other elements in the economy. It can be done.

The GROW AMERICA Act is specifically designed to deal with the deficiency in America's roads, and particularly in the bridges. Oh, the economic loss as a result of this highway system being shut down? Unfathomable. Didn't have to happen. And if we pass the GROW AMERICA Act, it is not likely to happen.

I want to pick up that little piece about what happens when you spend your tax money on American-made systems. Now, we talk a lot about green energy, as we should. We talk about energy conservation, as we should. We talk about wind turbines, and we talk about alternate energy systems such as solar, as we should. But where are those manufacturers? Where are the wind turbines manufactured? Where are the solar systems manufactured? Oh, China. By the way, we have a trade suit against China for dumping solar panels in the United States and decimating the American manufacturing system.

This piece of legislation, 1524, I like it. I am the author of it. H.R. 1524, Make It In America, create clean energy manufacturing jobs—simple. Your tax dollars must be spent on American-made solar, wind, and green energy systems. Now, if some developer out there wants to build a solar energy plant and use your tax dollars as a subsidy to pay for that plant, then if this becomes law, he must buy American-made solar panels. Now, if he wants to use his own money, he can buy whatever he wants. But I believe your tax dollars ought to be spent on American-made equipment, which is part of the Make It In America agenda.

There are many other pieces to this puzzle, and in the Democratic Caucus, we have introduced well over 50 pieces of legislation to advance the program of Make It In America so that the American middle class has a chance to grow and a chance to prosper. We can do that. Any number of those bills—or, in fact, all of them—would advance the middle class, literally jump-starting the middle class and giving American families an opportunity to enjoy the benefits of this incredible society and this incredible country we call America.

Joining me tonight is a woman from Ohio who has spent many years dealing with manufacturing and talking about the things we need to do to build and to grow the manufacturing sector of America.

I think you come from the heart of that. MARCY KAPTUR, welcome. Please share with us your thoughts.

Ms. KAPTUR. Well, first of all, I want to compliment Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI for his exceptional leadership in the Make It In America agenda and allowing Members like myself, Congressman TONKO from New York, and others to participate in focusing the spotlight on what counts. I wanted to follow on what the gentleman had said about what we import versus what we export.

People say, well, America has a budget deficit. Well, we have a jobs deficit that grows from importing more than we export. You mentioned the energy sector, one that I have particular responsibility for here. Last year, we imported \$369 billion more of petroleum than we exported energy products. That translates into lost jobs in our country of over 1.8 million, nearly 2 million jobs just in the energy sector that we could bring back home if we focused on an all-of-the-above energy strategy that would help us recapture that wealth.

Those jobs here at home, automotive, a sector that our region of the country, Toledo, Sandusky, Lorain, Cleveland, Parma, and Brook Park, we know the auto industry very well. Last year, we imported into our country \$309 billion worth of automotive products from countries that didn't accept our parts for vehicles—take Korea for one—and that lost wealth, that ceded power inside this economy translates, just in

the auto sector, to over 1.5 million lost jobs just in 1 year. That is just 1 year.

If we look at consumer goods, we see all these children streaming across our border from Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Honduras; and you look at the economies of those countries and the sweatshops that are making apparel, for example—those are some of the consumer goods that come in here—the people are earning a dollar a day, maybe \$10 a day. They live in utter poverty.

Okay. So those goods are sent here, and Americans spent \$533 billion on imported consumer goods last year. That translates—rather than making it here, we imported it—just in the consumer goods area, in 1 year, we lost 2.6 million jobs.

So if you add up just the energy jobs, the auto jobs, and the consumer goods jobs, you are talking about nearly 6 million jobs in 1 year. And we have 20 million Americans who remain unemployed or underemployed in our economy right now. Think about what this hemorrhage is costing us.

Some of the very companies that have moved these jobs from California, from New York, and from Ohio, they still operate those companies in foreign locales. Congressman LEVIN of Michigan calls it an inversion. That is kind of a good word, actually. Others have called it outsourcing. Others call it shipping out, shipping out our jobs and shipping out our wealth. People say, well, what has happened to the middle class? Well, it has gone global. Unfortunately, the people in those places are not middle class. They are working under horrendous conditions. And those goods are sent here, whether they are agricultural goods or whether they are industrial goods.

I want to compliment you on keeping a focus on Make It In America.

I do have a bill I wanted to put on the record, H.R. 194, which is the Congressional Made in America Promise Act, that would amend the Buy America Act to require this branch of our government, the legislative branch, in all of its gift shops and supply shops to emphasize the procurement of goods made in America. Doesn't that make sense? If you go around and you look at what is in there, you will be very surprised to find many products that are made overseas. We are just saying put as much effort into finding goods made in America and sell them in our gift shops.

So I would hope that some of our colleagues that are listening would co-sponsor H.R. 194. It is a very well-written bill. It is our bill. It makes sure that if something is overpriced and doesn't belong in a gift shop, there are requirements. It is very sensible, and it would have some affirmative effort by the shops here on Capitol Hill to buy American-made goods.

So I want to thank the gentleman very much for his leadership. This is what the American people long to hear, a discussion here in the Congress on

jobs and economic growth. It seems to be an agenda that the Speaker and the leadership is not willing to put on the floor, so I thank the gentleman from California for your leadership.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank you, Ms. KAPTUR, for bringing to our attention ways in which we can actually do something. It may seem small, but we get thousands and thousands of people coming through the gift shop here at the Visitor Center, can they find something made in America. They ought to be able to.

I like your bill, and it will send a message, a message to us, because we will set the policy. If we set that policy right, we can grow the American middle class, jump-start the American middle class, and give the working men and women a real opportunity to enjoy the benefits of this society.

I noticed while you were chatting a colleague of mine who often shares this hour, Mr. TONKO from New York. Thank you for joining us once again. We were here last week, weren't we?

Mr. TONKO. We were, and it is always a pleasure to join with you, Representative GARAMENDI, and with Representative KAPTUR for the purposes of highlighting what can be done in this arena to cultivate a climate that grows private sector jobs and to be supportive of American-made products. So I stand here this evening in support of H.R. 1524, which would allow for us to prosper with the energy innovation and energy alternative technology which, as American produced, would be highlighted, would be the focus of attention with H.R. 1524.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Would you excuse me?

Before you came to Congress, were you not responsible for the State of New York innovation, energy, and related issues?

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. I served as president and CEO before this work in Congress at NYSERDA, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, and some of the partnerships that we inspired, public-private matches, where NYSERDA would have a piece of the action working with our innovator community and our entrepreneurial community and come up with these innovative designs that would allow for us to meet energy demands or to foster energy efficiency concepts which are very important to the outcome of energy policy and performance in this country. So, absolutely, I was involved in that.

I know that that is a growing edge. It is a meteoric rise within our manufacturing sector with all of this challenge as energy consumers to not only provide for alternatives and more efficient and effective outcomes and perhaps, in many cases, reduce costs, which are important, but also embracing an environmental agenda that deals with carbon emission and methane emission through the concepts of climate change and global warming.

So it is an across-the-board win, Representative GARAMENDI. I applaud you

for H.R. 1524 and am supportive of H.R. 194, just recently spoken about by Representative KAPTUR, where we have the opportunity, again, to govern the decisions to either sell American-made products in gift shops or not.

One thing I would like to highlight here this evening, we have many traditions that have followed through the Halls of this Congress through the decades, one of which is the Export-Import Bank. So as we talk about product development and working within an international marketplace, there are those concepts in competing nations that help them with their export-import development. We have such a bank. The Export-Import Bank is at risk because it needs to be reauthorized, and, again, there is a sluggish outcome here where there is denial as to that concept.

□ 2000

I can tell you that Export-Import Bank supports about \$1 billion worth of sales in my own district. That is no small change. And so we need to make certain that we move forward with this concept of the Export-Import Bank being reauthorized. You look at the Ex-Im Bank and where it provides great services, and that is with the small business and medium-sized business community. Those are the up-and-coming efforts within the resurgence of our economy that need assistance. This program does it. Whether you are selling state-of-the-art energy innovative products or whether it is alarm systems or whether it is electronics, there is a great bit of assistance provided by the Ex-Im Bank.

Just last month, the National Association of Manufacturers and the United States Chamber of Commerce, who don't always agree, came together supporting their togetherness in swiftly addressing reauthorizing the Ex-Im Bank. So I think it is very important. You have an organization here that has supported \$37 billion worth of sales through last year that sustains some 200,000-plus jobs with over 3,400 companies. The important thing to note is their track record is stellar. For 80 years, they have been performing without assistance from taxpayer dollars. Their default rate is below 2 percent. Who can argue with that sort of success story?

So as we develop this Made In America agenda, we need the complementary efforts of the Ex-Im Bank so we can wholeheartedly go forward with every tool in the kit for our American manufacturers and our businesses, small and medium and industrial style, to be able to allow them the engine that heightens their export-import opportunity, and that is the way the work should be done, not denied here, not procrastinating about whether or not it should be reauthorized, not making it a political football, but really going forward and showing enthusiastic support based on tradition, on history, on performance, on success.

Let's get it done. Let's do our Export-Import Bank reauthorization. It is the right thing to do. This majority in the House of Representatives, the Republican majority, ought not hold back that progress. It is a support network that is essential to the future, the soundness of our business community, from small to medium to large.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Representative TONKO, thank you.

I was just thinking through that Export-Import, and the buzz inside the Beltway here in Washington that it only helps the big companies—General Electric and Boeing. The fact of the matter is, yes, it certainly helps those companies export airplanes and jet engines and whatever else, but it is the small companies that really take advantage of it. It is the start-ups and the growing companies that need that support.

I asked my staff, actually an intern, to do some research on the kinds of financing mechanisms that China, Japan, and Korea use to export their ships that they make.

The great shipbuilding industry is no longer in the United States, it is in those countries. There are one or two European countries that are also involved, but each of those countries support those shipbuilding companies with programs that are exactly the same as the Export-Import Bank, which is a loan guarantee. And it works.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. They are more aggressive than our program. So why would we reduce the complementary force that we provide to Ex-Im Bank. Ninety percent, as you just pointed out, a great amount of the activity, is with our small and medium-sized community; 90 percent is with the small and medium-sized business community. So what gives? Why are we not going forward with great energy, with great passion to say we can't miss, we need to reauthorize.

Instead, we are hearing vibes about not reauthorizing. We are having all kinds of groups coming together in nontraditional fashion, imploring us to do the right thing here. And again, it is being held back by the majority in the House. It is unacceptable, and it is unintelligent to do so.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I actually think, if I might say so, it is a small group in the Republican Party that is really taking the lead in this issue. Somehow they believe that government ought not be involved in commercial enterprise, when in fact since the very beginning of our Nation government has been involved, and together with the private sector is responsible for the growth of this incredible economy. This is but one example. There are numerous other ones.

I was just thinking about some of the words that the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) spoke regarding energy policy.

We are now generating and extracting a large amount of natural gas, and so much so that now there is a desire

to export that natural gas in liquid form called liquefied natural gas, LNG. We have to be careful because that natural gas has given us the opportunity to pull down our energy costs, manufacturing costs, so we are now seeing companies returning to the United States. Dow Chemical is but one example. I used to represent their major plant out in Pittsburg, California. They are coming home because of energy policy, so we have to be careful about the export of LNG because it can drive up the price and harm the growth of our manufacturing sector.

However—and here is an opportunity—the LNG is a strategic national asset. It is bringing down our cost of energy. Shipbuilding is also a strategic national industry. Our United States Navy, the most powerful and most effective and awesome in the world, depends upon American shipyards. However, private shipbuilding in the United States has basically gone downhill, together with the mariners, the maritime crews that are on those American-built ships. We have an opportunity here. If we are going to export LNG, then we ought to export that LNG on American-built ships with American crews.

It is an issue of public policy. We can do this, and in so doing, we can revitalize an important sector of the American economy, the shipbuilding economy, which is found on all of the coasts of America, from Maine, Philadelphia, around in the gulf to San Diego, and all of the way up to Seattle. There are shipyards that are desperate for business, and the LNG export is an opportunity to capture and bring home the shipbuilding, and when it is coupled with the Export-Import Bank issue, we can really restart and rebuild a critical element in the economy of America.

Mr. TONKO. I hear you making mention of a long-standing skill set, that of shipbuilding. It is important as we look at that Make It In America agenda that the Democrats in the House of Representatives have put together, a very sound platform of initiatives, of policy and resource advocacy, a multifaceted concept of how to underpin the strengths of our manufacturing sector.

As we move forward with those skill sets that are required to build these ships, we need to make certain there is an investment in skills development and training, retraining, so we are doing it smarter. It doesn't have to be the cheaper price delivered to the market; it has to be the most quality also. And so we can win several of these contracts through brain power, through the investment of our intellectual capacity.

We are a Nation of pioneer spirit. I think that holds true to this day. Our humble beginnings taught us that we impacted not only the growth of this country with a westward movement, but through an industrial revolution. It affected positively the quality of life throughout this world because of that intellectual capacity, because of that pioneer spirit, because of that creative

genius. And so it is important for us to include in our package as we do training and retraining, education formats, and research. We see it in the energy sphere. We see it across the board. It is important.

Mr. GARAMENDI. If I might interrupt you, before you move to the research agenda, which is absolutely critical, today the President of the United States signed the revamping of the job training programs in America. This is a bipartisan effort. It passed the House on a bipartisan vote—I think almost universal votes for the Democrats; the Republicans, maybe two-thirds voted for it and a third against it—but it is a complete revamp of an important element of what you just described, which is the job training and the job preparation and the training that is needed for these advanced manufacturing technologies.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. And it is the way we keep our cutting edge as sharp and precision-oriented as possible.

We know that it is three areas of investment. It is investment in capital infrastructure, physical infrastructure, and human infrastructure. Having that quality workforce, well prepared, skill sets that are at the cutting-edge quality so that we can continue to prosper as we compete, our companies compete, our businesses compete, at that international market. So it is important for us to constantly invest in that upgrading, in that training and retraining, and in that enhancement of education for our young people.

So there is the cornerstone of our plan, along with research which, as we have seen through the last couple of decades, it is critically important. If we look back as far back as the global space race, that space race required an investment of research. Landing a person on the Moon first of any nation, with that American flag being anchored onto the surface of the Moon, didn't just happen; it took an order of planning and commitment and passionate resolve so that with that passion we could make a difference. Well, it happened, and America was energized and it was lifted in the eyes of nations around the world as that leader.

We are at a critical juncture again, and can we afford to walk away from an investment in research? Can we afford to walk away from an investment in training and retraining? Can we afford to walk away from an investment in education, or the Export-Import Bank, or all sorts of incentives that provide for upgrades to manufacturing, advanced manufacturing, robotics, technology that allows us to build the best product out there, and we set the pace, we set the tone? It is about this wonderful agenda of Make It In America, established by so many people, including yourself, Representative GARAMENDI, the leadership in our House, Leader PELOSI and the Democrats in the House, advancing this cause of investment in tomorrow, in-

vestment in today. It is how we get there and how we always achieve by seeing the problem, meeting the challenge, and investing in America and her people.

We don't get there by cutting our way to prosperity, by denial, by games on the House floor, by resoundingly defeating a reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. It is absolutely essential that we do those building blocks that take us to the next generation of competition, the next generation of workers, and it can happen only if we plan accordingly and if we take that effort to lead rather than just hold back.

Mr. GARAMENDI. You are so correct.

Let me give you an example. Yesterday I called together my manufacturing advisory committee. We had about 50 manufacturers, some very, very large—Boeing was there—and some very small companies. The discussion centered around precisely what you talked about. We had representatives from Lawrence Livermore National Lab, Sandia National Lab, Lawrence Berkeley Lab, and the University of California Davis, researchers, the most advanced research going on in the world.

Their discussion was not about nuclear weapons, which you might expect from Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Labs, because that is their principal job, how to deal with the nuclear weapons issue, but they were talking about technologies that they have come into and have advanced through their research, like laser research.

One of the companies that was there was a spinoff from research that was done at Lawrence Livermore National Lab on laser technology, and it is called laser peening. Now you have heard of a ball-peen hammer that is used to strike metal, and in striking the metal, it actually strengthens it. Well, now they are using lasers to strike that metal, and the result of it is that you significantly strengthen the metal. And this is now used by General Electric and others in the manufacturing of some of the internal parts in the jet engines. It substantially strengthens them.

That is just one example of the way that research can flow into the manufacturing sector, enhancing the job opportunities for the middle class, and once again, it is made in America and is giving the middle class a jump start.

□ 2015

These things all come together, so this manufacturing group yesterday dealt on everything you talked about. They were talking about export. They talked about tax policy. They talked about research into the private sector.

Another example, the University of California, which I have the honor of representing, has a very large engineering school. It is one of the largest in the Nation, and they are producing—I

think they have 8,000 students in their engineering program.

A couple of the graduates, a few years back, developed a new way of programming machine tools—computer-assisted machine tools. They were so advanced that a Japanese machine tool company, one of the largest in the world, began to look at this and said: we need that technology.

They incorporated it into their program, and then they decided they needed to be near the researchers. So they have now located in Davis, California, a major manufacturing program to make these very advanced machine tools, using the research that comes from the university, a marvelous example of what we need to do in our public policies.

Mr. TONKO. It is interesting, as you highlighted the discussion, the dialogue with your advisers. The business of representing congressional districts, of representing any district in the halls of government, the key factor is listening, opening up to discussion, ideas, constructive criticism of what needs to be done out there, what is being done and what can be done better, what is not being done that needs to be done.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Can I give you another example? It was exciting—it was a really exciting day, Mr. TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. Go for it, Representative.

Mr. GARAMENDI. One of the small businesses—of several of them, actually, after listening to the heads of these extraordinary laboratories said: yeah, but I am just a small company, I don't have any money to go and work with you guys on products that we want to develop.

The fellow from the SBA, the Small Business Administration, raised his hand—you know, I kind of see him wanting to jump into the conversation—so I called on him and he said: we can help.

I am going: You are from the government, and you can help? He said: we can help, we can help, we have a voucher program.

I didn't know this existed in the Small Business Administration, but they have a voucher program that a small business that wants to connect to one of the national laboratories or one of the universities can get a voucher that is worth a certain amount of money, take it down to the laboratory, and begin to work with the laboratory on transferring technology to that business.

Wow, I mean, do businesses know that such a thing exists? Are we promoting that? Are we supporting the Small Business Administration, so that they can help these small businesses in really what I think is a unique and wonderful way?

I interrupted you. My apologies, Mr. TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. No, no. It is fine because you are just speaking to the point of listening and responding, learning from our constituents, learning from the

front line of the business community and the worker community. Basically, when we travel this route, if we gather the information and then act accordingly, great things can happen. Prosperity blooms and blossoms.

I believe that when the business community is speaking—from small to medium to large industry—when they are telling us we need workforce development investment, we ought to listen. When they are telling us they need immigration reform, we ought to listen. When they are talking about reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, we ought to listen.

When they talk about incentives that modernize and transfer and transition traditional manufacturing into advanced manufacturing, we ought to listen. The list goes on and on.

Just recently, I toured a manufacturing center, a factory in my district. My grandparents called the district I represent home. Ironically, a set of them worked in that factory. I am a product of immigrants—grandparent immigrants, who were dairy farmers and factory workers.

Those factory workers worked on that same floor that we were visiting, those grandparents—my grandparents. One couldn't help but wonder the equipment changes that have come in those decades that have passed. While they wove carpets—they were weavers in that carpet industry—today, they are weaving fiber strands for defense contracts, for huge equipment out there.

The owner implies and states to me that: I can't compete, I have to offer my product at a 1985 price level.

Why? One would ask why? He responded rather quickly and theoretically: a, our foreign competitors are subsidized by their government—they oftentimes own the factory, the government owns the factory. In this case, China manipulates the currency.

He said: you take away any of those factors, any one, and I can compete; you take all of them away, and I am a winner, hands down.

When our communities speak to us—in this case, workers, businesses, management—when they speak, we ought to respond accordingly. I don't understand the lack of action on an Export-Import Bank reauthorization. I don't understand the dumbing down of research opportunity. I don't understand the lack of resources to provide for a Make It In America agenda fostered by the Democratic leadership of this House, understanding full well that we are at our best when we invest in our tomorrow.

That pioneer spirit comes fully alive when we do that. Let's move forward with progress by committing to that order of agenda.

Mr. GARAMENDI. There are so many pieces to this puzzle. At the top of our Make It In America is trade policy. Thank you for bringing that issue back onto the floor. It is something we constantly need to deal with.

We have not talked this last year—actually, since Republicans took control of Congress, we have not talked about the manipulation of currency by China. I know when the Democrats controlled the House, we were putting forth legislation multiple times to address the currency manipulation issue, but there are many, many pieces to this trade policy that are relevant to us.

As you were talking about the manufacturing, I put up one of my favorite photos, a Make It In America photo. You have seen my photo here, I am sure, of a locomotive. The American Recovery Act, a stimulus bill which really did work—trash it politically, but it actually worked—there was money for Amtrak to buy locomotives.

In that particular section of the Recovery Act, Congress wrote—and you voted for it—I wasn't here at the time, I wish I was because I would love to take credit for this—wrote a little paragraph that said this money must be spent on locomotives that are 100 percent made in America—100 percent made in America—a couple hundred million dollars to build these locomotives.

Companies looked at it. A German company said: that is a lot of money, we can build locomotives. Siemens, a large international industrial manufacturing company—located in Sacramento, building light rail cars—said: we can build American-made locomotives.

They started a new manufacturing plant. They have over 600 workers there today. They are producing 100 percent American-made locomotives because of public policy. Your tax dollars are spent on American-made locomotives.

That supply chain is all across this Nation—not made in Germany, made in America—the wheels, the trains, the tracks, the electronics, all of that, American-made. It is a matter of public policy. The Export-Import Bank, tax policy, how you are going to spend American taxpayer dollars—these are the things we wanted to do to jumpstart the middle class—Make It In America.

Mr. TONKO, we have got about 7 or 8 minutes left, so let's roll on.

Mr. TONKO. Okay. Well, some of those trends that saw decline in some of the manufacturing sectors in our economy over the decades are now beginning to close on that gaping bit of disparity.

Labor rates, for instance—as countries had very, very cheap labor rates, they witnessed that their labor population began to demand more, which is a sign of civilization. When you are investing your skill set, your brain power, into the development of products and working on that assembly line, you will begin to understand that remuneration for what you do is important.

An order of social fairness, social justice, comes into play, economic justice,

so the discrepancy between the labor rates has narrowed.

We have earlier talked about the energy supplies and energy costs. Many now are citing us as the millennium of Mideast here, with the supply of natural gas and energy issues that are being addressed significantly through innovation and alternative supplies and through natural gas supplies.

So the energy quotient in that formula for manufacturing has been very much flipping, cycling favor for the U.S. economy.

As these major factors begin to steady our way, there is a brighter bit of hope out there that is launched. If we accompany that with the appropriate policies and attached resources, if we can adopt, if you would, the Democratic agenda for Make It In America, great things can happen.

It takes a vision, and it takes leadership, and it takes planning so as to get to that point where we are investing in that pioneer spirit of America. I earlier talked about my grandparents and the fact that they claimed the 20th Congressional District in New York as their home.

They tethered their American Dream there. They went to work in those factories, on those farms, and made certain they could climb that ladder for economic opportunity. They shared that with their children and their grandchildren. They wanted to make certain that this American Dream was there for their family and then share it with others. That is us at our best.

Why not invest in that American Dream, so that as families go forward, as they dream their dreams, as they tether those dreams, as they become all they can be, as they submit to an American agenda that has always been about opportunity, about taking your natural skills, talents, and abilities and investing them for your own growth, but certainly for the growth of community and the American culture—that has been us, that is our history. Let it speak to us.

As we hear others who speak to us about the needs to grow the economy, let us respond. Let us do that with a keen sense of awareness, of empathy, of attachment to an American agenda for jobs.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO, it is always a great pleasure to be on the floor with you. You are so clear. Your vision and your purpose is so very, very clear.

The Make It In America agenda has many pieces: trade policy, tax policy, energy, labor, education, research, and infrastructure. All of it is designed for one purpose, and that is to give American working families an opportunity.

It has become part of our jump-start for the middle class. This is our policy. These are the things that we want to do as Democrats. We want to see the working families of America make it. We want it made in America, and we want American families to be making it, so the Make It In America is one part of this agenda.

When women succeed, America succeeds. This is the fact that a majority of the workforce in America is now women. The reality is they make 70 cents on the dollar for every man that makes a dollar, so we need to address that. We need to make sure that they have the opportunities.

Right now, there is an increasing concern about on-demand labor, which is mostly women. You can imagine the destruction to family life when a woman that is working at a retail store gets a phone call and has to immediately report to work for 3, 4, or 5 hours.

This is craziness, but there is a whole series of family-friendly policies for women that are involved in this issue, including the minimum wage.

Finally, the issue of education, which we have talked about. These are the jump-start the middle class policies that we are pushing forward.

Make It In America is the agenda that you and I have talked about so many times here on the floor—little progress is being made—but I am telling you, if we had the majority in this House, these pieces of legislation that we have talked about today would be sitting over in the Senate and they would be on the President's desk very, very quickly—critical policies for the future of this Nation, critical policies for the working men and women and the families of America.

We intend to do it. We intend to see this agenda, the agenda for the working men and women advance.

Mr. TONKO, do you want to have another 30 seconds before we are told to wrap?

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. Just underscoring your statement that when women succeed, America succeeds—when women succeed, that lifts all families, whether it is a single female head of family, whether it is a male-female household, two women in the household, whatever it is, across the board, that is a win situation.

□ 2030

So families prosper, families succeed, and then, of course, America succeeds. Again, a multifaceted agenda that speaks to core needs. It speaks to social and economic justice. It speaks to the fact that pay equity and equal pay for equal work is a cornerstone to our women succeed, America succeeds agenda, the minimum wage being lifted, and certainly quality child care, affordable child care. That is what sustains the agenda, so that when women succeed, families succeed, America succeeds. We move forward with a vibrancy that began with its underpinnings of support here on the Hill in Washington, with Congress working toward the needs of workers and the business community and making certain that we respond to the present-day needs that exist out there that only build upon the richness of history and allow America to truly succeed.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO and Ms. KAPTUR, thank you so very much for joining us tonight.

America will make it when we Make It In America.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ENERGY ACTION TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as part of the House Energy Action Team, it is important for us to address the hardworking American taxpayers that are concerned about their rising energy costs and who want to know what their United States Congress is going to do about the issue of energy independence, the cost of fuel, the cost of electricity, and the fact that they have got less money in their wallet after a week of driving back and forth between work and taking the kids to school and ball games and church and all the things that we, as average Americans, do. After they pay for the fuel to do all of that, to drive their vehicles to and fro, they reach in their wallet for extra cash, and there is none left. What is the United States Congress going to do about the rising cost of energy?

I came to Washington to focus on three things: jobs, energy, and our Founding Fathers.

Jobs. How about unleashing and unbridling the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of Americans that will actually turn this economy around by putting Americans to work, lessening the number of Americans on the welfare rolls, and actually having Americans earn their way? Jobs.

Energy. Energy is a segue to job creation in this country. Look at the States that have energy-driven economies like Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, and North Dakota. North Dakota has a 3 percent unemployment rate or less. In fact, McDonald's is paying a finder's fee. If you have got somebody who wants to go to work at a McDonald's in North Dakota, they will pay you a finder's fee.

Jobs and energy. Energy is a segue to job creation and putting Americans to work. We are not just talking about the men and women wearing the hard hats and the oil uniforms out on the drilling platforms or in the Bakken up in North Dakota, turning those drills and producing that, whether it is through horizontal drilling or hydraulic fracturing or shallow water or deep water offshore. Yes, those are good-paying jobs. Those are hardworking American taxpayers. But think about all the other jobs that support the offshore industry and the onshore industry.

These are Americans that are working doing pipefitting and welding. And guess what. Pipes fall on truck beds,