

or fraudulent payments—tens of billions. This has to stop. It is not an issue of not making sure that people pay their taxes.

I am all for making sure that things are applied fairly and equitably, but we have an obligation of responsibility to make sure that money is spent appropriately and efficiently or safeguarded. It is not our money.

I just wanted, today, to take the opportunity to recognize the hard-working moms and dads, individuals across this country who have written their check to Uncle Sam, and they expect us to be good stewards of their hard-earned dollars.

There are a few bills we are working on this week I urge this body to pass. Whether it is balancing the budget or making sure that we eliminate the death tax, we will have our opportunity to make sure that we are holding the Federal Government accountable.

□ 1230

WATER WEEK

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about our most precious natural resource: water.

It is Water Week here in D.C.; but in the San Joaquin Valley, in California, it is always Water Week.

At first glance at this picture, you might think this was taken in an underdeveloped country thousands of miles away. It is not. These are the squalid living conditions in California's San Joaquin Valley. They are a direct result of the extreme lack of water in California.

While, in part, the drought is to blame, our inability to move the limited water is exacerbating the crisis. While conditions like these are unacceptable, I think to all of us in the richest country in the world, we must do something about it.

It takes water to grow food, period. California grows half the Nation's fruits and vegetables and more, but this year, some estimates say that 1 million acres out of 6 million acres usually in production will be fallowed.

In the short term, we need to act on operational flexibility to deal with this crisis. In the long term, it is time that we fix this broken water system not just for California, but for the West and for the entire world to whom we provide a large part of the food supply. This is the challenge of the 21st century.

TACKLING THE TAX CODE

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

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that has ham-

pered the growth and prosperity for both individuals and businesses.

Our economy continues to struggle. Our Tax Code shouldn't be working against us. Each year, hard-working Americans have to navigate the Internal Revenue Code, which stands at tens of thousands of pages. Moreover, the agency charged with collecting taxes from Americans has been scrutinizing and delaying critical paperwork for conservative groups.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to advance the conversation surrounding the comprehensive tax reform. From the individual Code to the corporate tax system, reform needs to result in a fairer, flatter system that works for Americans and their businesses, not against them.

As we labor through another tax day, it is a reminder, Mr. Speaker, that we haven't addressed the Code in close to 30 years. We have the ability to tackle the Tax Code only if we are willing to make hard decisions.

ADOPT A LONG-TERM HIGHWAY FUNDING BILL

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

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, in 45 days, the highway trust fund runs out of money. That means that 90 percent of the road projects in this country will grind to a halt. That is a national tragedy, particularly when there are numerous bipartisan proposals in this Congress to deal with the situation.

Rather than just focusing on the macro statistics, we decided to reach out to my constituents and find out what they think about America's infrastructure. We received hundreds and hundreds of responses detailing all the problems my constituents have with long commute times, concrete falling down from bridges and hitting their windshields, and water interruptions.

We cannot let this happen in the United States of America in the year 2015. I encourage this Congress to adopt a long-term highway funding bill and stop with short-term measures that just delay the inevitable.

Let's invest in America's future; let's invest in our infrastructure, and let's stop Americans from having the problems that they have to deal with day in and day out with an underinvested, aging, decrepit infrastructure.

BOKO HARAM

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I stand today with my colleagues to focus the attention of the world on the 276 young women who were kidnapped by Boko Haram—219 whose whereabouts remain unknown—in Chibok, Nigeria, just a year ago in April.

This kidnapping, this act of terrorism, was an attack on the basic human rights of women and girls to participate in the civil society, in this instance by attending school to develop their individual talents and God-given potential.

These young women were violently abducted for the explicit purpose of preventing their full participation in the civil society of Nigeria.

Now, a year after their kidnapping, these young women are still missing, and Boko Haram continues to terrorize the people of west Africa, forcing millions of people to flee their home and undermining the foundations of democracy.

We must continue in our efforts to find these girls and bring their abductors to justice. The destabilization of Nigeria, Cameroon, and Chad has implications for the entire continent of Africa and, indeed, the world.

We have called on the community of nations to bring back our girls.

BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, what you have seen today is the powerful impact of the women of the United States Congress.

Earlier today, we joined on the steps of the United States Capitol; and in that area that we joined with the young girls who had escaped from Boko Haram, women of faith, and many other advocates, we stood there, arm-in-arm, listening to the stories of those young girls who jumped out of trucks and escaped the violence of Boko Haram and their very thuggish leader.

The Boko Haram are terrorists. A year ago, they stole the "world's girls." I led a delegation, joined by my colleagues, to Nigeria. In that effort, we saw the families who were crying and broken. We protested at the Nigerian Embassy and made a direct call to the then President to ask him to denounce Boko Haram.

Today, we have been on the floor. Working with my colleagues, we have continuously said: bring the girls back.

Mr. Speaker, in Nigeria, 15,000 have been killed because of Boko Haram. Also, 1.5 million are displaced persons, 800,000 of which are children.

I end my remarks by saying: bring the girls back. I am delighted to have been with Congresswoman MALONEY and Congresswoman WILSON. We will never give up on bringing the girls back. They are the world's girls. They are our girls.

THE GIRLS OF CHIBOK

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on the 1-

year anniversary of the kidnapping of the girls of Nigeria, there were solemn acts of remembrance in Nigeria's capital.

In the Republic of the Congo, they tied red and purple ribbons around the capital. There was a solidarity protest near the Eiffel Tower in Paris and a gathering in London to call for the girls to be returned.

In my home city of New York, as the sun was setting, the Empire State Building was lit up brightly in purple and red, purple for violence against women and red for the girls of Chibok.

It seems like the very act that ripped them from the arms of their parents has somehow tied the rest of the world together, united us in our outrage, and armed us with hope.

Feelings are not enough. It is time for action. It is time for the governments of Africa to unite and to act. Already, the Governments of Chad, Nigeria, Niger, and Cameroon are holding Boko Haram accountable.

It is time for Western countries to unite because we will never, ever forget our girls. We could not forgive our failure to act.

BOKO HARAM

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 1-year anniversary of the tragic kidnapping of 276 girls in Nigeria.

I welcome Patience and Saw to Washington, two of the girls who are with us all day. I thank all of the Members of Congress for taking part in this sad, sad anniversary. We are wearing red and purple today to note the horrible atrocity.

How much longer do we have to wait before the girls are returned to their families? How many more people must die before Boko Haram is defeated? How many more families must be separated? How many more women will be raped?

Mr. Speaker, Boko Haram must be stopped. We must do everything we can to help the Nigerian Government in bringing back our girls.

We must continue to march, continue to demonstrate, continue to protest, continue to pass legislation, and continue to tweet #bringbackourgirls and #followrepwilson until our girls are returned home.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 622, STATE AND LOCAL SALES TAX DEDUCTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2015; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1105, DEATH TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2015; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1195, BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION ADVISORY BOARDS ACT

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call

up House Resolution 200 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 200

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 622) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction of State and local general sales taxes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1105) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1195) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendment printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part D of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the re-

port, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

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

□ 1245

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule for three important bills: H.R. 622, the State and Local Tax Deduction Fairness Act of 2015; H.R. 1105, the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015; and H.R. 1195, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Advisory Boards Act.

House Resolution 200 provides for a closed rule for consideration of H.R. 622 and H.R. 1105, and a structured rule for the consideration of H.R. 1195.

The resolution provides 1 hour of debate equally divided between the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means for H.R. 622 and H.R. 1105, and 1 hour of debate equally divided between the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services for H.R. 1195.

The resolution also provides for consideration of the two amendments offered by the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) on H.R. 1195 and provides a motion to recommit for each bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the resolution and the underlying legislation. Each of these bills is important to providing fairness and certainty for our Nation's Tax Code, ensuring our Nation's small businesses and family farms are able to pass on to the next generation and ensuring our Nation's community banks, credit unions, and small businesses are able to work with Federal regulators and have their voices heard.