

platform for emergency management purposes.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we recognize the importance of this platform for emergency management. I would be remiss not to remind our colleagues of the need to authorize the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, also known as IPAWS.

As the committee of primary jurisdiction over IPAWS, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee unanimously approved the Barletta-Carson IPAWS authorization bill back in April and ordered the bill reported. It is past time for this bill to be considered in the House.

Despite the Senate's inadvertent omission of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I support this bill, Mr. Speaker, and I urge our colleagues to do the same to approve this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), the sponsor of this bill.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 623, the DHS Social Media Improvement Act of 2015.

I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his management of the bill and, also, my good friend and colleague from the State of Indiana, Congressman CARSON. Both of us have served in public safety in the past, and so it is especially gratifying that he is managing the bill as well this evening.

Social media, as we have heard, is transforming the way the Nation is communicating before, during, and after terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and other emergencies. There are countless examples from recent events of how citizens are turning to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and even Snapchat for public safety information, to comfort survivors, tell loved ones they are safe, and request assistance.

As has already been mentioned, citizens of South Carolina used social media to communicate with first responders, friends, and families after heavy rainfall caused destructive flash flooding across the State.

Additionally, a quarter of Americans—let me repeat, a quarter of Americans—got information about the devastating terrorist attack at the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing from Facebook and Twitter.

Citizens are not the only ones using social media during and after an emergency. First responders are proactively using social media as a force multiplier to get vital information out. For example, immediately following the terrorist attack and during the manhunt, the Boston PD utilized social media as a way to communicate with and solicit information from citizens and visitors.

These are just a few of the hundreds of examples that demonstrate the prevalence of social media use before, during, and after an emergency.

In the 113th Congress, I served as the chair of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications. The subcommittee held two hearings that focused on this new phenomenon, and I learned at that time that while the Nation is making great strides in this area, gaps and challenges remain.

One of the key takeaways, however, was that during and after a terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other emergency, there is still a need for better communication between the public and the private sectors, specifically, with how to utilize social media as a communication tool.

So last year, I was proud to work with the ranking member, Congressman PAYNE, to find ways to better utilize social media during disasters by leveraging both public and private resources and experiences.

The bill passed with overwhelming support last Congress and, after reintroduction this Congress, I am pleased to say, in February, the House again resoundingly agreed to its passage.

H.R. 623, while authorizing and enhancing the Department of Homeland Security's existing social media group, essentially what it does is it ensures that best practices and lessons learned on the use of social media during terrorist attacks or disasters are being discussed and shared with Federal, State, and local first responders, nongovernmental organizations, academia, and the private sector.

Currently, the Virtual Social Media Working Group is made up primarily of State and local officials, and they are doing great work and developing guidance. However, this bill will increase the group's stakeholder participation, particularly among the private sector and the Federal response agencies.

So by including private sector groups like Google and Twitter and Facebook, we know it will improve coordination and relief efforts. Also, as we have already heard, it will require the group to submit an annual report to Congress highlighting best practices, lessons learned, and any recommendations. Finally, this bill will require the group to meet, in person or virtually, at least twice a year, and will not be a financial burden on the Department.

I appreciate the swift action of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. I especially want to thank Chairman JOHNSON for his leadership on this issue. Their thoughtful additions have served to further improve the bill.

I also want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and Chairman BARLETTA of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for working with me to get this bill to the floor, and also my successor at EPRC, Ms. MCSALLY, for continuing to make this issue a priority.

Finally, I want to thank the staff, because we know that this bill and the improvements with technology will

save lives, and it will make our first responders and those in danger safer.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 623.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NORTHERN BORDER SECURITY REVIEW ACT

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 455) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a northern border threat analysis, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 455

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Northern Border Security Review Act".

SEC. 2. NORTHERN BORDER THREAT ANALYSIS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a Northern Border threat analysis that includes—

(1) current and potential terrorism and criminal threats posed by individuals and organized groups seeking to—

(A) enter the United States through the Northern Border; or

(B) exploit border vulnerabilities along the Northern Border;

(2) improvements needed at and between ports of entry along the Northern Border to—

(A) prevent terrorists and instruments of terror from entering the United States; and

(B) reduce criminal activity, as measured by the total flow of illegal goods, illicit drugs, and smuggled and trafficked persons moved in either direction across the Northern Border;

(3) gaps in law, policy, cooperation between State, local, and tribal law enforcement, international agreements, or tribal agreements that hinder effective and efficient border security, counter-terrorism, anti-human smuggling and trafficking efforts, and the flow of legitimate trade along the Northern Border; and

(4) an analysis of whether additional U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance and pre-inspection operations at ports of entry along the Northern Border could help prevent terrorists and instruments of terror from entering the United States.

(b) ANALYSIS REQUIREMENTS.—For the threat analysis required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider and examine—

(1) technology needs and challenges;

(2) personnel needs and challenges;

(3) the role of State, local, and tribal law enforcement in general border security activities;

(4) the need for cooperation among Federal, State, local, tribal, and Canadian law enforcement entities relating to border security; and

(5) the terrain, population density, and climate along the Northern Border.

(c) CLASSIFIED THREAT ANALYSIS.—To the extent possible, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit the threat analysis required under subsection (a) in unclassified form. The Secretary may submit a portion of the threat analysis in classified form if the Secretary determines such is appropriate.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) NORTHERN BORDER.—The term “Northern Border” means the land and maritime borders between the United States and Canada.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 455, the Northern Border Security Review Act, and urge its passage. This legislation would require the Department of Homeland Security to conduct a much-needed threat analysis of current and potential threats along our Nation's vast northern border.

As a former Federal prosecutor on both the northern border in New York and the southern border in El Paso, Texas, not to mention my time as a Federal prosecutor on the island of Puerto Rico, I have seen firsthand the challenges our Nation faces to counter violent drug trafficking organizations, organized crime syndicates, and human trafficking that transit across our Nation's border.

While great attention is justifiably given to the challenges of securing our southern border, ensuring the safety of our vast northern border is also critical to our Nation's security. It has been well documented that several major terrorist plots have been discovered and disrupted along the northern border in recent years.

□ 1800

Ahmed Ressay, the so-called millennium bomber, was entering Washington

State from Canada with a concealed bomb intended to detonate at LAX Airport when he was arrested by alert Customs agents in 1999.

In 2013, with the help of our Canadian allies, the FBI and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police thwarted an attempt to derail and kill passengers on a train between New York and Toronto, which became known as the VIA rail plot.

As chairman of the Homeland Security Committee's bipartisan Foreign Fighters Task Force, I recently examined other vulnerabilities at our border associated with foreign fighter travel. Unfortunately, neither the United States nor Canada is immune to the threat of foreign fighters who may be inspired by groups like ISIS or otherwise radicalized online from others abroad.

Among the findings of the bipartisan Task Force was the identification of security weaknesses that are putting the U.S. homeland in danger by making it easier for foreign fighters to migrate to terrorist hotspots and for jihadists to return to the West. One such vulnerability stems from our vast northern border that we share with Canada. Along this border, we face a number of unique challenges both geographically and jurisdictionally.

Complicating the current understanding of the security needs along our northern border is the administration's decision to stop providing metrics to Congress in 2010 that identified the number of miles under operational control.

In that year, the Government Accountability Office reported that only 69 miles, or about 2 percent of the northern border's 4,000 miles, were under operational control. Let me repeat that. Only 2 percent of our northern border is under operational control.

To address this lack of information with regard to the state of northern border security, this legislation requires that an assessment be conducted to analyze a variety of issues facing the northern border. These include potential terrorist threats, potential improvements, gaps in law or policy, and illegal border activity.

This analysis is intended to better inform any resources that are needed along the border to increase operational control and legislation that can result therefrom.

I recently had the opportunity to spend time with CBP officers and agents at the Port of Oswego in my district. I am continually impressed with their ability to carry out their duties in incredibly difficult situations.

This bill will help them better secure our Nation's borders, as it will give our agents and officers the tools and information needed to better do their jobs.

Previous analyses of the northern border have largely focused on drug trafficking and lack a holistic security approach to the issues that are unique along the northern border.

The analysis required in this bill will provide Customs and Border Protection

with the foundation needed to address all threats at and between ports of entry along the northern border. It will also provide Congress with the information necessary to conduct proper oversight.

In my 10 months in office, I have worked vigorously to address known challenges that the Department of Homeland Security faces. Since January, I, along with both my Republican and Democratic colleagues, have introduced seven pieces of legislation that address transportation and border security issues and hope that this will be the third bipartisan bill that we send to the President's desk.

This final product embodies the essence of bipartisanship, and I am proud to say that all Americans will benefit from the work my colleagues and I have done to secure our northern border.

My colleagues and I understand we have a lot more work to do, and I promise we will continue to provide diligent oversight of the Department of Homeland Security. When we see a problem at this agency, we work swiftly together in a bipartisan manner with our Democratic brothers and sisters to address it.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

I would like to thank Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security Chairman CANDICE MILLER for her support, along with my fellow northern border colleagues who have joined as cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 455, the Northern Border Security Review Act, introduced by my friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO).

The bill before us would direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a northern border threat analysis. There has long been an intent focus on the southern border and the many challenges faced there. While this is undoubtedly justified, the northern border has often been neglected in this process.

The Northern Border Security Review Act takes steps to correct this disparity by requiring an analysis of terror threats posed by individuals entering through the northern border as well as improvements needed at and between ports to prevent their entry.

I was pleased that two of my amendments were adopted in committee. The first required an analysis of whether the implementation of preclearance and preinspection at additional ports of entry would enhance our security and prevent terrorists from entering the United States.

A preinspection pilot at the Peace Bridge in Buffalo was conducted in early 2014 and was deemed a success. It demonstrated the potential to efficiently process cargo while also enabling Customs and Border Protection

to conduct inspections and interdict threats before they reach the United States.

The historic preclearance agreement reached between the United States and Canada earlier this year paved the way for implementation of permanent preinspection and preclearance at the Peace Bridge and other locations.

The second amendment would require an analysis of the number of additional Customs and Border Protection officers and agents needed to properly staff the northern border. Persistent staffing shortages have resulted in wait times that discourage economic activity while also leaving us vulnerable to a number of threats.

That is why I was disappointed that this language was weakened during negotiations with the Senate. Having accurate information on the number of personnel required to detect illicit activity while facilitating legitimate trade and travel is vital. It is my hope that analysis on staffing requirements is included in forthcoming legislation.

H.R. 455 will help ensure that we better understand the threats facing the northern border so we can understand how best to address them. With that in mind, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from New York has no further speakers, I am prepared to close once the gentleman does.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) for their great leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the good news is that we on the Committee on Homeland Security work together very well on many of these issues.

I rise to support the Northern Border Security Review Act, H.R. 455. My colleague from Texas (Mr. VELA) is the ranking member. I am delighted to be able to support a bill that captures all of what we have been speaking of over the years.

As a member of Homeland Security, there are two borders. There is the southern border, for which I certainly have concern, as a Representative from Texas, but there is also the northern border. I am glad to say I have been to the northern border, walked along the northern border.

Let me say thank you for the aspects of this bill. H.R. 455 directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a classified northern border threat analysis on terrorism threats posed by individuals seeking to enter the United States, improvements needed at ports of entry, gaps in law, policy, international agreements, illegal cross-border activity, and the scope of the border security challenges.

This is a complete picture of the Nation's border, including whether addi-

tional preclearance and preinspection by CBP at ports of entry along the northern border could help prevent terrorists and their instruments from entering the United States.

Canada has been a longstanding friend. I believe anytime that we can enhance both the relationship and the security of the U.S.-Canadian border, the northern border, it is a very positive step forward for the Nation's security.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 455, the Northern Border Security Review Act.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security, a former ranking member of its Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee, and a co-sponsor, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 455, the "Northern Border Security Review Act."

I would like to thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON of the Homeland Security Committee and Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member VELA of the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee for their work on this vital legislation.

Their leadership, coupled with input from members of the Homeland Security Committee and the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee, have helped make this common sense legislation a reality.

I very much appreciate the bipartisan spirit Chairman MILLER has displayed as we worked together on many border security initiatives over the past several years.

The security of the Northern Border is an important area of concern in the effort to secure our homeland and keep it safe from those who would do us harm.

BILL OVERVIEW

H.R. 455 directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a classified northern border threat analysis, which shall include analyses of:

1. terrorism threats posed by individuals seeking to enter the United States through the northern border;
2. improvements needed at ports of entry along the northern border to prevent terrorists and instruments of terror from entering the United States;
3. gaps in law, policy, international agreements, or tribal agreements that hinder the border security and counterterrorism efforts along the northern border;
4. illegal cross border activity between ports of entry, including the maritime borders of the Great Lakes;
5. the scope of border security challenges that shall include the terrain, population density, and climate along the northern border; and
6. whether additional preclearance and preinspection by the CBP at ports of entry along the northern border could help prevent terrorists and their instruments from entering the United States.

CANADA-U.S. BORDER

Mr. Speaker, at 5,524 miles, the border separating Canada and United States is the longest contiguous international border in the world.

In contrast, the border separating the United States and Mexico is only Mexico border is only 1,951 miles long.

The border with Canada is significantly easier to cross, due to less Border Patrol personnel.

The United States has approximately 1,000 Border Patrol agents assigned to the northern border but more than 11,000 patrolling its southern border with Mexico.

TRAVEL BETWEEN CANADA AND U.S.

In 2009, there were 39,254,000 trips by Canadians to the United States.

In 2010, 20,213,500 Americans traveled to Canada from the United States.

Over 15,700,000 people flew on commercial flights between Canada and the U.S. in 2010.

CANADIAN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN U.S.

Current estimates show there to be around 600,000 undocumented Canadian immigrants working in the United States.

Canadian citizens are not required to obtain visas; instead as Canadian citizens they are eligible for visa waivers which do not expire for six months.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, the security of homeland requires that we have increased situational awareness and resources to respond to threats on the nation's northern, as well as southern border.

H.R. 455 makes a positive contribution in this effort and I urge all Members to join me in voting for its passage.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I briefly just want to thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) for their comments. They echo the sentiments that I believe firmly, that the Homeland Security Subcommittee is probably the most bipartisan committee in Congress. It is an honor to be a part of it. It is an honor to serve with my colleagues I just mentioned and the others.

Every single bill we have has bipartisan support. Every single bill seems to be like we are all on the same page, and that is really important when we have national security issues at hand.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, too often in Congress our debate on border security is long on political rhetoric and short on substance. Development of a substantive and thorough analysis of border security threats is essential to decision-making at all levels about how best to respond. This bill will help us do just that.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 455, the Northern Border Security Review Act, to help us understand and ultimately address any threats along our border with Canada.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 455. This bill is going to form the foundation for properly securing the northern border once and for all.

While our Canadian brothers and sisters are indeed our friends, the fact remains that bad people in Canada are intent on coming to the United States and vice versa and are intent on doing

harm here. We must secure our borders.

Having a 98 percent open border with Canada is absolutely unacceptable. This bill is the first step in moving towards securing that border in a proper manner by making sure that we do a proper analysis once and for all, which I am not sure has ever been done in this manner.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 455, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BIPARTISANSHIP IN CONGRESS

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

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, this week Congress voted on the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. Moments ago we just cleared a bipartisan budget, which now makes its way to the Senate. Through this budget, we lift our debt ceiling and increase our defense and nondefense spending equally for 2 years and we avoid a government shutdown.

I agree with many of my colleagues that we must reduce our Nation's growing debt, but we need to make sure that we do not do so at the expense of our country's future and our ability to compete in a changing global economy.

We, as Congress, need to come together to find long-term, bipartisan, commonsense solutions rather than play politics with our national security, economy, and the well-being of its people.

Tomorrow the House of Representatives votes for a new Speaker. I hope that, under this new leadership, we see a change in how we govern. I hope Congress will no longer shy away from addressing the tough issues. I hope we can come together, both Republicans and Democrats, to get the people's work done.

HEAD START

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students, parents, staff, alumni, and supporters of Head Start as they celebrate Head Start Awareness Month and 50 years of service to our Nation's most vulnerable children.

On May 18, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson launched Project Head Start as an 8-week summer demonstration project to teach low-income students

essential skills to prepare them for kindergarten.

Since that date, Head Start has served 32 million children and families across the country, providing them with the tools they need to build successful futures, helping to ensure a quality education and access to health care and social services. Head Start is a critical investment in the education of our Nation's youngest children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that, as a body, we reaffirm our investment in the children who are the future of this country. I urge my colleagues to support bipartisan efforts to give all of America's children a head start in life and an open door to opportunity.

□ 1815

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S CLEAN POWER PLAN

(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, I rise in support of President Obama's Clean Power Plan, and I would like to applaud the 10,000 men and women, African American faith leaders, who are engaged, involved, and committed to clean air. These faith leaders represent 13 million African American churchgoers who remain steadfast and unmovable in their cause to combat the negative impact of climate change.

Mr. Speaker, members of the Congressional Black Caucus tomorrow will receive the signatures and public statements of those demanding that this body fully support President Obama's Clean Power Plan. Nearly 40 percent of the 6 million Americans living close to coal-fired power plants are people of color and disproportionately African Americans.

Pollution and damaging toxins from these plants are responsible for thousands of premature deaths, higher risk of asthma attacks, respiratory disease, and hundreds of thousands missed workdays.

I believe this Congress can hear the Black church and work together. The Black church and their fearless leaders for generations have stood united on critical social, economic, and moral imperatives that are meant to strengthen the communities they represent. They have been in the forefront, like Dr. Martin Luther King, who walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge with our colleague, JOHN LEWIS, for voting rights.

Climate change and their support for the Clean Power Plan is no different. They are in the forefront. As they state in their letter to us, "The Bible speaks passionately about the importance of stewardship for God's creation," and they believe that Obama's Power Plan calls them to action.

Mr. Speaker, I join with these ladies and gentlemen in their dedication to saving lives.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of President Obama's "Clean Power Plan."

I would like to applaud the more than 10,000 men and women African American faith leaders.

These faith leaders represent 13 million African American churchgoers who remain steadfast and unmovable in their cause to combat the negative impact of climate change.

Tomorrow, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus to receive the signatures and public statements of those demanding that this body fully support President Obama's Clean Power Plan.

Nearly 40 percent of the six million Americans living close to coal-fired power plants are people of color and disproportionately African American.

Pollution and damaging toxins from these plants are responsible for thousands of premature deaths, higher risks of asthma attacks, respiratory disease, and hundreds of thousands of missed workdays.

The Black Church and their fearless leaders, for generations, have stood united on critical social and economic moral imperatives that are meant to strengthen the communities they represent.

Climate change and their support for the Clean Power Plan are no different.

As they state in their letter to us: "The Bible speaks passionately about the importance of stewardship for God's creation. And President Obama's Clean Power Plan echoes God's call."

Once again, I salute these dedicated men and women of God and for the vital work they are doing on this important issue.

FOCUSING ON WORKING FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, about 1 year ago, Speaker BOEHNER and Senate Majority Leader MCCONNELL described a vision for the 114th Congress. It included "focusing first on jobs and the economy." They looked forward to helping middle class Americans "frustrated by an increasing lack of opportunity, the stagnation of wages, and a government that seems incapable of performing even basic tasks."

In the time since, they have done nothing but protect big businesses enjoy record profits, attack immigrants, and help polluters continue the destruction of our environment.

This body has voted four times in support of the Confederate battle flag, but we have taken no votes on legislation that will level the playing field for