

in line with a disturbing trend of Federal agency abuses of private property rights, whether it is the Forest Service's repeated attempts to leverage special use permits to forcibly acquire private water rights, or the EPA's determination to classify every ditch and puddle as a "water of the United States" to further insert itself into the everyday lives of ordinary, hard-working Americans.

Property rights and the integrity of contracts are at the very foundation of our economic system, yet too often Federal agencies casually cast these important considerations aside.

If the BLM is confident that it is making the right decision and is willing to defend it, then they should have no problem providing additional time for the public and other interested stakeholders to be able to comment on the proposed actions in the White River National Forest.

DO NOT LIFT SANCTIONS ON IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call on this administration to keep intact all existing sanctions on the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, Iran. Sanctions must remain, and closer scrutiny and more accountability by this administration on Iran's continuing illicit activity must occur. It is imperative for peace, security, and stability in the Middle East and across the globe that we do this.

Iran's conduct over the past few months and the lack of clear and exact leadership by this administration in response is cause for serious alarm. Iran has not changed its tone and conduct since the signing of the deal. In fact, they have doubled down on their unwillingness not to comply with international agreements, and they have created more danger and instability in the process.

Here is the central point why I am speaking on the House floor here today: Once we lift sanctions, we have even less leverage.

So let's look at how Iran has honored their commitments in the past few months and ask ourselves: Do we anticipate Iran will conduct itself in the months and years to come better or worse?

On October 10, Iran carried out a precision-guided ballistic missile test. This violates U.N. Security Council Resolution 1929 and 2231. Now that Iran is prohibited from such testing under the deal, what do they do? They send weapons to Bashar al-Assad on Russian cargo planes. This violates U.N. Resolution 1747. They did that in October.

On November 21, they carried out a medium-range ballistic missile test with capabilities to carry a nuclear warhead. They can't do that either.

Last month, they fired several unguided rockets 1,500 yards from two U.S. vessels.

Just a few days ago, they unveiled a new underground missile depot showing precision-guided missiles that have the capability to hold a nuclear warhead.

What has been the response of this administration? They notify us they will respond with sanctions against Iranian individuals and businesses linked to Iran's ballistic missile program.

What happened since they notified us of that? Nothing. They have walked it back.

Here is my fear, Mr. Speaker. We are forecasting to Iran that they have carte blanche to do as they wish. And once we lift the sanctions, we can expect more of that. Iran is not honoring its commitments, so nor should we.

We know the State Department classifies the deal not as a treaty, not as an executive agreement. It is not even a signed document. It is merely a political commitment. And it is clear Iran is not acting in good faith to our political commitment.

I signed correspondence to the administration requesting that the President "immediately void the deal and restore and/or continue all relevant sanctions on Iran that have been or will be relaxed under the JCPOA."

Let's not concern ourselves if Iran voices outrage or condemnation that we voided a political commitment on the basis that they feel they have somehow honored the deal because, number one, they violated U.N. resolutions since the deal was signed, the Iranian Parliament refuses to ratify the deal, and the Ayatollah forbids further negotiations with the U.S.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is that Iran's U.N. violations clearly violate the spirit of our political commitment to them. Their conduct threatens our national security, it threatens the security of our allies, and it further erodes an already precarious and unstable environment in the Middle East.

Iran isn't honoring its commitments, so nor should we. Let's keep the sanctions in place. Do not lift them.

OBAMA'S EXECUTIVE ACTION ON GUNS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to start my time by quoting directly the Second Amendment of our Constitution: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

Aren't those beautiful and resounding words? As a man who likes to keep it simple, I appreciate the Founding Fathers not only for their foresight to protect the right to bear arms, but also how plain and simple they made it.

The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed upon.

Unfortunately, I think our Founding Fathers spoke too plainly for certain people and certain Presidents to understand. That President may always remind us that he taught constitutional law. Sadly, I have yet to encounter someone in that position who disregards the Constitution so regularly.

Not only does that President trample on the Second Amendment, but he would also trample on Article I, which, as you know, is the Congress and going through them to make laws. That President should have known that regulations regarding buying guns must come from legislation, not by an oral decree.

That President tried to legislate in the Senate several times, but his colleagues refused to do it, even though there was a majority. Now that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are not in the majority in Congress, I am assuming that this administration is deciding to create their own regulations—the Constitution be damned—because, sadly, there are no checks and balances anymore.

We know even if Congress passes a bill to repeal any type of order that any President makes, it would still have to go to that individual for the bill to be signed. So what are the chances of putting together a bill that some Congress may have seen as an inappropriate action and then send it to the person that created that inappropriate action and expect him to sign it?

I think, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that has so disappointed the American people is the inability to have their Representatives voice their complaints and do their legislative responsibility with an out-of-control government. So each week, as the administration or a group is intent on disregarding the Constitution, people become numb. The American people become numb to these illegal actions.

I think it is time that we brought attention to some of these illegal actions that some Presidents in the past and some Presidents in the future may create. I think it is time that we bring these actions to the attention of the American people and let them know what our Founding Fathers had the intention to do originally, what they intended the Constitution to mean, and how it was interpreted by those very first legislators: President Washington, the Supreme Court, and others.

They took this document as a simple document. It was very plainly written and read. But, unfortunately, we have had Supreme Courts, Presidents, and legislative bodies that have tried to take these simple, basic words and turn them into something that they could use for their benefit, to try to change the way that this world works and how the laws they make are applied to our citizens.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are going to try to do as much as we can in the near future to try to bring this to the attention of the American people and the world, because I think our Constitution

has been a great cornerstone for this world and for any country that wants to have a republic, a democracy, and a people-driven form of government and to really feel that coat of liberty wrapped around them. I think our Constitution is that.

So I think it is time for us not only to make the citizens aware, but to make this whole world aware of what has been going on and what we are going to do to stop it.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 11 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of mercy, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the energy and tensions of the second session gather, may there be peace among the Members of the people's House. Grant that all might be confident in the mission they have been given and buoyed by the spirit of our ancestors who built our Republic through many trials and contentious debates. May all strive with noble sincerity for the betterment of our Nation.

Many centuries ago, You blessed Abraham for his welcome to strangers by the oaks of Mamre. Bless this Chamber this day with the same spirit of hospitality so that all Americans might know that, in the people's House, all voices are respected, even those with whom there is disagreement.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SPYING ON CONGRESS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week The Wall Street Journal reported that the National Security Agency, the NSA, is actively spying on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, one of our Nation's closest allies. This revelation comes just 2 years after the President's announcement that the United States would cease spying on our allies.

The Journal wrote: "Officials said Obama insisted that keeping tabs on Netanyahu served a 'compelling national security purpose.'"

Specifically, the President sought to learn about President Netanyahu's opposition to the dangerous Iranian nuclear deal. In so doing, the NSA also intercepted personal, direct communication between Members of Congress, the Prime Minister, and his staff.

An editorial by The Post and Courier—republished in The Hill this week—raised important questions about the legality of the NSA's sharing private conversations with the White House and not discarding or getting judicial permission. Regrettably, this is another example of the President's disregard for our Constitution by spying on Congress, corrupting the NSA.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Our sympathy to the family of Staff Sergeant Matthew McClintock, an American hero.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Members are reminded not to engage in personalities toward the President.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DOUGLAS WILSON WALKER

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

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of my friend, Doug Walker, who passed away on December 31 on Granite Mountain, near Snoqualmie Pass.

It is this wild, rugged landscape that lured Doug to Washington State and that stoked his creativity, energy, and passions for more than four decades.

A gifted mathematician with an insatiable fondness for climbing, he estab-

lished strong roots in the community. The impact he, along with his wife, Maggie, had on our community and on the many charitable causes to which he gave his time and wisdom is unparalleled.

A true champion for conservation, he cared deeply about protecting the North Cascades' most treasured lands, but his greatest passion was in broadening the constituency for conservation. He worked tirelessly to ensure that all people, especially youth and those in underserved communities, could access the outdoors.

For his incredible spirit and generosity, Doug will be remembered and missed by so many whose lives he touched. His legacy of inspiring others to experience and protect the outdoors lives on.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S EXECUTIVE ACTION ON GUN CONTROL

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak out against the proposed executive assault—I mean action—on our Second Amendment rights. The President has yet again overstepped, has fired off another round, and has taken dead aim at the Second Amendment. It is time Congress takes dead aim at his lawlessness.

We have three branches of government for a reason, and one branch cannot continue to unilaterally act. It is tyrannical, and it erodes the foundation of this great Nation: our Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, it is very curious to me that the President, who doesn't want his background checked into—his birth certificate, his school records, or his college grades—wants an anti-Second Amendment intrusion into actual Americans' backgrounds.

When is this administration going to realize that denying Americans their constitutional right to carry won't prevent bad people from doing bad things? It simply ensures criminals a safe path to crime.

That is how I see it. Lord help us last over these next 12 months.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Once again, Members are reminded not to engage in personalities toward the President.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO IMPORT HIGHLY ENRICHED LIQUID NUCLEAR WASTE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, in 2014, the Department of Energy announced plans to import highly enriched liquid nuclear waste into the country via the busiest northern border crossing and through a major metropolitan area.

This route was approved 20 years ago, pursuant to a pre-9/11 analysis, and for