

the St. Clair County site would be 20 percent more expensive, but they haven't even completed studies of the north St. Louis site. St. Clair County is shovel-ready now. North St. Louis is not.

Every year that we delay this, it adds \$40 million to the cost to this budget. St. Clair County has been proactive and transparent with the environmental studies. North St. Louis hasn't even conducted its full analysis. The north St. Louis site has significant unknowns, including reports of hazardous waste and potential contamination from cold war era testing. How can this decision be made without answers to these very serious and health-related questions?

In terms of recruiting the next generation, Scott Air Force Base attracts the best of the best. Thousands of millennials work at Scott Air Force Base, and many already have their security clearance. Finally, St. Clair County has the roadways, railways, and infrastructure to make NGA a success. North St. Louis will need to seize land through eminent domain and then create a network we already have in place.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the NGA is making a terrible mistake that could have serious consequences. They didn't have the correct data. Before this decision is made final, the people deserve the truth. Not just the people of St. Clair County, not just the people of north St. Louis, but we, the United States citizens.

That is why I have called for a full investigation by the Inspector General's Office.

WATER AND DROUGHT IN CALIFORNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this week, we recognize infrastructure week, where we highlight infrastructure development in our country and its importance to our districts.

Now, we might think that infrastructure isn't very important, but we depend on it in all aspects of our daily lives. Developed roads and bridges help to take our children to school or to take our kids to our national parks. Our bridges, dams, and water are the infrastructure that help to produce energy and provide us with clean drinking water. Broadband infrastructure ensures that everyone has access to learning and to information.

But, unfortunately, our infrastructure is deteriorating at an alarming rate. The American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that our crumbling infrastructure is costing each of us, each family, \$3,400 a year of our disposable income. When we take into consideration the increasingly high cost of living, for example, in Orange

County, California, where I live, then we see that our families are, once again, footing a bill, and yet we are not making the investment that we need. In fact, the United States spends significantly less of its GDP than most developing countries for our national infrastructure.

Unfortunately, this lack of investment is apparent throughout our country. We saw it in Flint, Michigan. When infrastructure fails to provide clean water, our communities suffer. In my home State of California, Porter Ranch, California, a massive gas leak released 100,000 tons of methane gas into the air. These failed pipelines reach back to the 1950s.

With respect to our roads, the Department of Transportation found that nearly 68 percent of California's roads are in poor or mediocre condition, and almost 30 percent of California's bridges have been recognized as structurally deficient.

As California enters its fourth year of a drought, we are seeing just how crucial water infrastructure dollars can be during times of turmoil.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have to look no further than my home district to see the positive effects of investing in infrastructure to help our communities. Since I was elected to the Congress almost 20 years ago, the very first project that I championed was building a large factory, the largest in the world, to reclaim our water, to recycle our water, and it is the world's largest advanced reclamation project. Today, that project has recycled nearly 188 billion gallons of water, and it really continues to be the flagship of water recycling.

I have also fought to bring high-speed rail to California and led sending a letter to President Obama urging investment in the project, which will bring increased commercial and leisure travel.

With respect to transit, I recently led a letter from the California delegation asking for \$3.2 billion to fund the Capital Investment Grant Program, a program which funds projects all the way from northern to southern California. The Capital Investment Grants will help fund projects in my district, like the Orange County Streetcar, which increases transportation transit through my area so people get out of their cars, we protect the environment, and we move people more efficiently.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress needs to get its act together and invest in infrastructure.

WE NEED A PRO-GROWTH AGENDA TO RAISE WAGES

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, Wendy's, one of the world's largest fast-food chains, plans to replace human employees with automated self-service kiosks

in many of its 6,500 restaurants around the country and around the world in an effort to counteract minimum wage hikes throughout the United States. I don't blame Wendy's at all. They can either react or they can close up their doors, and then no one will be working.

The economics on the issue are pretty clear. Wendy's is doing what they have to do to survive, and others will certainly follow suit. They will adapt, or they will be gone.

When the government unnecessarily and unilaterally increases the cost of labor and imposes it on the job creators, the jobs are probably going to be replaced through automation and technological advancement. This is nothing new. This technology is not new. Wendy's could have done this a long time ago if they just wanted to maximize their profits, as every single corporation in America seems to be accused of doing these days. But these are the job creators. These are the job makers. They have chosen now because they have no other choice.

Many people say that this is an artificial wage and that it actually discourages employment and distorts the market. Well, here is the proof. This is exactly what is happening. And don't blame Wendy's. They are trying to survive in a 2 percent economy.

Mr. Speaker, let's not lock out millions of people from their entry-level employment. I am a person who worked for less than minimum wage. One time I asked my boss at the time, I said: "Do I make minimum wage?" And he said: "No, you are not worth it." I was just barely in high school. I didn't have much to offer, except a strong back and showing up on time with a good attitude, and he paid me for that, and I worked my way up.

The squeeze on the middle class is real. It is painful for tens of millions of anxiety-ridden Americans who don't know whether they are going to have a job, even though it might be their entry-level job. It might be the job that they could get in a 2 percent economy.

Some people say that we are just transferring the jobs to those who will build kiosks or robots. Well, I have got to tell you, folks, I suspect that those jobs are not minimum wage jobs, so that is not going to be of much help. And, oh, by the way, I suspect they won't be in your hometown where your Wendy's is. So if you have got a job there and it is going to be displaced or replaced with one building a kiosk, unless you are planning to move to where they are building that, that is not going to be of much solace or help to your family.

What this country needs is a pro-growth agenda to help raise everyone's wages to provide the opportunity for everyone to get started somewhere and then move up, just like I did, without hurting the people already struggling to get by. What we don't need is more liberal, wrong-headed, unilateral, ideological-driven government regulation that destroys our jobs and livelihoods.

GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, since 1970, more Americans have died from domestic gun violence than in every war since the American Revolution. If all of the victims of gun violence since 1970 were put on a wall, like the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, it would contain 1.5 million names and stretch 2½ miles. That is 25 times as long as the actual Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Congress is quick to offer moments of silence for some mass shootings, ignore most of them, and then proceed to do nothing else, except remain silent.

Each month that we are in session, I will read the names of every person killed in a mass shooting during the previous month. I have also created my own memorial wall in the hallway outside of my office.

Here are the stories of the victims killed in the 41 mass shootings in April of this year. There have been so many people this month affected by mass shootings that I don't have time to list the injured, just those who were killed. Here are those who were killed:

Anpha Nguyen, 31, and Jerry Nguyen, 24, were killed inside a restaurant owned by their uncle on April 1 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Jaime Wilson, 24, and Keiwuan Murray, 18, were killed on April 5 in St. Augustine, Florida. Jamie was holding her 2-month-old baby at the time.

Davon Jones, 17, was killed on April 14 in Orange, New Jersey.

Gino Nicolas, 24, and Tanya Monique Skeen, 46, were killed outside a house on April 16 in Orlando, Florida. Gino was the leader of the Orlando chapter of My Brother's Keeper, where he mentored at-risk youth.

An unidentified 27-year-old man was killed on a sidewalk on April 16 in Detroit, Michigan.

Edwin Laboy, 46, an unidentified man, and an unidentified woman, were killed on April 17 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Jaxmany Jazan Montes, 29, was killed inside a nightclub on April 17 in Edinburg, Texas. He is survived by his wife and two children.

Delhaun Jackson, 19, was killed in broad daylight on April 18 in Long Beach, California. Delhaun had a 1-year-old child, shown in this picture, and he was looking forward to his very first Father's Day.

Damond Dawson, 23, was killed while filming a music video in a park on April 19 in Chicago, Illinois.

Natalie Srinivasan, 35, and her children, Siena, 5, and MJ, 2, were killed by their husband and father on April 19 in Katy, Texas.

Jason Napoles, 18, was killed in a parked car with his friends on April 19 in Chicago, Illinois.

Eight family members were killed on April 22 in Piketon, Ohio. They were Christopher Rhoden, 40; his ex-wife Dana Rhoden, 37; their three children,

Clarence Rhoden, 20; Hanna Rhoden, 19; and Chris Rhoden, Jr., 16. Also killed were Chris Sr.'s brother, Kenneth Rhoden, 44; their cousin, Gary Rhoden, 38; and Clarence's fiancée, Hannah Gilley, 20.

Rheba Mae Dent, 85; Roosevelt Burns, 75; Keila Clark, 31; Shelly Williams, 62; and Lizzy Williams, 59, were killed on April 22 in Appling, Georgia. They were killed after the shooter's wife asked for a divorce.

Recco Cobb, 43; Jadarrion Spinks, 25; and Roderick Nelms, 32, were killed at a home on April 23 in Auburn, Alabama.

Angelo Barboza, 15, was killed on April 23 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Moments before, he had texted his mother saying he loved her and would see her soon.

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Davon Barrett, 38, and Devin Hamb, 27, were killed on April 24, in Chicago. They were at a memorial service for Davon's brother, who died from gun violence in 2009.

Carolyn Ann Sanders, 59, her daughter, Marquita Hill, 32, and Kenneth Cornelious Loggins, 32, were killed by Marquita's ex on April 27 in Montgomery County, Mississippi.

Joanne Woods, 49, was killed on April 27 in Forestville, Maryland.

Leco Cole, 38, was killed in a house on April 27 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Members, these were lives taken unnecessarily. May the dead rest in peace, the wounded recover quickly and completely, and the bereaved find comfort.

I urge my colleagues to stop being silent, and let's do something to stop the rampage.

THE FALSE PROMISES OF SOCIALISM

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, people all over the country are moving from the high tax States to the low tax States. This is great for my home State of Tennessee. Almost half the people I represent have moved from someplace else; but it is not great for the country as a whole, and we will face many problems in the future if the high tax States do not start lowering their taxes and start trying to keep more of their people at home.

New York in the 1970s had 43 Members of the House. Now it has 27 Members. After the 2010 Census, each Member was supposed to represent between 705,000 and 710,000 people. While, in the 1970s, congressional districts had much lower populations than now, if New York had had the average growth of most States, it would have had about 11 million more people than it now has.

Cities and States throughout the Northeast and the Midwest have been losing populations or have been having growth lower than in most other States

for many years. Last year, a man from New Jersey told me his property taxes on a 2,800-square-foot house were \$13,000. Plus, they had State income tax on top of that. I told him the taxes on a similar-sized house in east Tennessee would probably be between \$2,000 and \$2,500, and there would be no State income tax on top.

Almost every week, when I am home in Tennessee, someone tells me a story about how high the taxes are in the States they have moved from. Of course, it will be good for the young people of Tennessee if our legislators keep taxes low and if people would keep moving there, because many new jobs will be created.

An example of the problems, though, that high taxes have created in the States can be seen in Michigan's Flint water crisis. When taxes become too high, first, upper-income residents move out, then upper-middle, then, finally, middle-income. Then cities are left with a very low tax base. The pressures are greatest to pay the teachers, the policemen, and the firefighters first. The water infrastructure underground is out of sight, out of mind, and is often neglected. Flint has lost almost half of its population since the 1970s, as have many cities, large and small, throughout the high tax States of the Northeast and the Midwest. We are going to send a boatload of money to Flint because of all the publicity it has received, but we cannot do that for every city and county in all of the high tax States.

I read a few days ago that Galesburg, Illinois, leaders are telling citizens to drink only bottled water. It is not fair to my taxpayers in Tennessee, where we have acted in fiscally responsible ways and have kept our taxes low, to have to now bail out all of the cities and counties and even States that have acted in fiscally irresponsible ways. Of course, the problems these wasteful, irresponsible, high tax areas that keep driving people out will be seen not just with infrastructure, but all across the board—in education, in law enforcement, and in other areas. Puerto Rico is in big trouble now. Many people say Illinois is next.

I urge the high tax States all over the country to start drastically lowering their taxes. While this exodus of people from these States has been very good for States like Tennessee, it will not be good for the Nation as a whole in the long run if it continues. It should also serve as a lesson or as a warning that almost every city or State in this Nation and almost every country around the world that has had liberal, leftwing, big spending, high tax leadership is in serious financial trouble.

Every young person who seems to be attracted to the false promises of socialism should look at Cuba, where despite hundreds of miles of beautiful oceanfront property and a wealth of interior natural resources, the average salary is \$24 a month. They should also