

year, the Bureau of Land Management finalized its methane rule, which will reduce harmful emissions by curbing the wasteful venting, flaring, and leaking of natural gas.

Not only is methane a potent greenhouse gas, but every cubic foot of gas that is wasted cheats New Mexican taxpayers out of precious royalty and tax payments which go toward public education, infrastructure, and community development programs. Considering that the Governor of New Mexico has proposed cutting money from school districts to close an estimated \$70 million deficit, we simply cannot afford to let money disappear into thin air.

Unfortunately, the House of Representatives is considering legislation that will not only rescind BLM's methane rule, but also prohibit the consideration of any similar rule to curb methane emissions and protect taxpayer interests ever again.

I strongly support efforts to work with all stakeholders, especially small, independent producers who may, in fact, have difficulties implementing BLM's new standards, but taking a sledgehammer to our Nation's energy policy is irresponsible and counterproductive.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation and instead work to make this rule work for both producers and taxpayers alike.

NEW MEMBERS WORKING TOWARD A COMMON GOAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is good to be back on the floor. We have had a productive week so far. Things are moving along. We are doing exactly what we promised the American people, and that is removing regulatory burden, that is beginning to move toward an economy that looks after the needs of our communities—our moms, dads, aunts, uncles, and grandkids. They come together to know we are working toward a common goal, and that is looking ahead and making sure that what we do is in the best interests of our neighbors and our communities.

Today, I want to continue in what we started, Mr. Speaker, just a week or so ago. We are introducing the folks that the country has sent from our side to be Members here, to join myself and others, to take this fight from the majority not only from their streets in the campaigns, but now onto the floor of the House.

So this afternoon, we are going to start off with one of our new Members from New York's 19th Congressional District, JOHN FASO. I found out as I was looking through his background that JOHN comes from the same hometown as President Martin Van Buren

and also our former colleague Chris Gibson, who was here for a while.

I think if there is anything that sums up what I have heard from JOHN's heart, it is the economic condition that we are in and the fact that our debts cannot continue to be sustained, and we have to put in good practices that not only take into account his district—which is a wonderful part of New York State—and the growing application there, but how we can take that all over the country.

So with great pride, it is my privilege to introduce the newest Congressman from New York's 19th Congressional District, JOHN FASO, to tell us a little bit about why he is here and his vision for what we have.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. FASO).

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that, and I appreciate the gentleman from Georgia's hospitality in yielding the floor to me at this time.

Mr. Speaker, indeed, I am privileged to represent the 19th Congressional District of New York State. This encompasses a wide area of the mid-Hudson Valley and the Catskill region. The district touches Vermont in the northeast corner and Pennsylvania in the southeast corner. We go out to Cooperstown, and we have great local locations like Woodstock. Many people are familiar with Woodstock, where the concert was supposed to be back in the late 1960s, but also where the concert occurred in Bethel, New York, in Sullivan County. The district encompasses all or part of 11 counties.

The gentleman from Georgia referenced the fact that I have resided for the last 30, almost 34, years in Kinderhook, New York, the hometown of Martin Van Buren, our eighth President. Our district also has within it the town of Hyde Park in Dutchess County, which is the home of a President who was extraordinarily well-known and recognized for his great contributions to our country, Franklin D. Roosevelt. I encourage people to come visit Hyde Park and the Roosevelt home and mansion, and also Kinderhook.

I would be remiss if I did not also mention that the 19th District has the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, where I know a number of Members will be coming up later this year to play a game of baseball in a charitable fundraising event.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. COLLINS had made reference to the economic condition. The economic condition in upstate New York is extremely difficult. Of the 11 counties in my district, for instance, all 11 have lost population in the last 5 years. What has happened is that people are leaving because of high local taxes and burdensome rules. These come not just from Albany, but also from Washington. This is one of the things that I think the people sent me here to Congress to work on.

I ran on a platform of economic growth. We must get our economy moving, and we must get it moving

fast and growing at rates that are not in the anemic 1.5 to 1.8 percent level, but up to 3, 3.5, and 4 percent if we are going to produce enough wealth and opportunity for our children and grandchildren. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, we cannot allow this generation to leave to the next generation a country that is immeasurably poorer and less well off than the country that we were given by our parents and grandparents.

I am privileged to serve on three committees here in Congress: the Budget Committee; the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where I am honored to serve as the vice chairman of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials; and also the Committee on Agriculture. All three of these committees are going to be vitally significant in terms of my tenure here in these 2 years of Congress, but also for the people of our district.

Agriculture, we have a robust and growing agricultural economy. It is dairy, where a lot of dairy farmers are struggling with the low price of milk, but also fruits and vegetables. We have got a remarkable number of new producers—yogurt producers, cheese producers, and beef and pork producers—because we live only 125 to 150 miles away from the city of New York and the tremendous metropolitan area and the tremendous market that that entails.

On the Agriculture Committee, I will be fighting hard to protect the interests of our dairy community and small farmers and to make sure that we encourage our young people to go into agriculture. I am pleased to soon support a measure which will encourage young people to go into agriculture.

On the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I mentioned the Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee. Our district is blessed to have the beautiful Hudson Valley. The Hudson Valley—the Empire State corridor of Amtrak—is one of the busiest in the Nation. It is also one of the profit centers for Amtrak. Many, many people ride the train between Albany and New York City on a daily basis, in fact. It is vitally important to our commerce and to our business interests in our district.

We also have a number of freight rail facilities. I will be working closely with folks out in Otsego County and Oneonta for the project that they are looking at for their rail facility in that community.

Lastly, as I mentioned, I serve on the Budget Committee. Just today, we heard a report from the Congressional Budget Office. The chief of the CBO came before us. He indicated that today we have almost \$20 trillion of national debt.

□ 1630

That is just the on-the-books government national debt. He also said to us that within 10 years we are going to be facing another \$10 trillion on top of

that. And \$30 trillion, my colleagues, is not sustainable. It is, in essence, generational theft. It is saying we would spend today our children's and grandchildren's inheritance and that we are forcing, by borrowing way beyond our means, our children and grandchildren in the future to pay for our spending today.

So this, indeed, is a crisis point. It is a crisis point for our country. It is a crisis point for every man, woman, and child in our Nation.

In fact, if you look at the data, right now our national debt is the equivalent of about \$60,000 for every man, woman, and child in America. We have to get this under control. The way to get it under control is we have to deal with growth. We have got to get economic growth. Smart tax and regulatory changes can help us spur the private sector economy to grow this economy, to create more opportunity, to create more wealth and jobs for our families all across the Nation, but particularly, from my vantage point, in upstate New York.

But we also need to take a hard look at reforming entitlement programs. There is precedent for doing this. President Ronald Reagan, Tip O'Neill, the great former Senator from New York State Daniel Patrick Moynihan, and others came together in the early eighties and fixed the Social Security financing problem for over 40 years. Well, the timeline for fixing that problem is running out.

I encourage people at home and citizens all across this country, pull out your Social Security earnings statement. Pull out that statement that the Social Security Administration sends to you each year. If you look at it closely, it will say that, in 2034, just a mere 17 or 18 years from now, Social Security can only pay approximately 75 or 76 percent of the promised benefits.

We have it in our capacity to fix this problem to assure that all the seniors are taken care of and that those close and near retirement will not be affected. But we also have to reform the system so that our children and grandchildren have the prospect of something there for them in the future. We cannot, again, be the generation to leave our kids and our grandchildren holding the bag with a country less wealthy, with less opportunity than the country that our parents and grandparents gave to us.

So I am really pleased to have this opportunity to come before the House today. I am very happy that Mr. COLLINS has, with his wisdom and experience here in the House, afforded us this opportunity to come here and describe what is going on in our district, why we came here, what we want to do, and what we hope to accomplish over the next 2 years.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons we do this—and I think Congressman FASO actually mentioned this—is what we forget so many

times is we come in here, and we are grouped together as 435, but, the reality is, we all come from our individual districts.

Listening to the gentleman's story, listening to why he came, that is what keeps us grounded. This is the wonderful hallowed halls for us to remember all the history that has been here, but, when we come here, you bring that personal story. And that is what the voters elected you to do.

Again, it is a pretty amazing district. I am learning about a lot of districts. When you have the area of Woodstock and Cooperstown in the same district, that is pretty cool.

I appreciate the gentleman being here, and I am looking forward to his service.

Mr. FASO. Well, I look forward to working with the gentleman from Georgia, and I look forward to working with all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to try to fix what is wrong with our country today, to improve on what we already have, and to create a sustainable future for all Americans. This is why I ran, and that is why I am here.

I thank the gentleman from Georgia for the opportunity to come before the House to speak with him today.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. We are very glad to have the gentleman here.

Mr. Speaker, as we go along, you have seen one great new Member from New York's 19th District, but then there is also a new Member who comes from the Big First out in Kansas. He is a doctor. He has been married for 32 years and has four children.

I think the coolest thing about this is we talk about a culture of life. For me, it is not just a life issue of getting up every day. I believe that you take every day as a gift that has been given to you, and you grasp and you take that joy. But life has to start. For a doctor who delivers 5,000 babies, it is pretty cool to see that life, as a husband who has been there.

He has talked about his greatest role as a husband and father. That is mine and, I think, Mr. Speaker, as most, as we look at this. Seeing my kids come in was a special time. To know what that means in the life of a family, Dr. Marshall brings that personal touch to the House. He brings that personal touch from the Midwest.

Mr. Speaker, you do know I am in the Air Force Reserve. Mr. Speaker understands that very well. Also, I will say that he served as well in our once-parent operation, the Army Reserve. It is good to have him here. That military background also gives us a new perspective because our world is not a safe place, and we need to understand what we are going through.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Big First, the First District of Kansas, Dr. ROGER MARSHALL.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for Georgia for yielding.

I am so proud to be here today. Before I talk about my district, I just

want to say thanks to my fellow freshman class. I am so grateful to be part of the freshman class of the 115th Congress—a freshman class that includes 10 Members with military experience, a sheriff's officer, an FBI agent, two physicians, a dentist, and the rest of the class being mostly businessmen and businesswomen full of real-life experiences, which helps us solve problems with some little common sense.

As my family and I traveled our district of Kansas this last 2 years, traveling 30,000 miles, they constantly identified the three common problems. They were concerned about the economy, national security, and health care.

The first 2 years of those travels, I listened a lot. The last 6 months, I focused on solutions. I thought I would share today some of the common solutions that my classmates and I have talked about, as well as my constituents back home.

First of all, as far as the economy goes, the number one problem with the economy is government overregulation. Overregulation creates uncertainty and consolidation. When there is uncertainty, businesses don't grow; they don't invest.

The overregulation creates consolidations. So instead of having three or four community banks in town, consolidation forces there to be only one bank. Oftentimes, those single banks no longer even make bank loans to people from their own community. Consolidation has occurred in hospitals and with physician practices as well, all too often.

I am so proud to stand up here today and hear that the Senate also approved one of the laws we have passed repealing regulations. We think, as we go down this path, repealing regulation will be a continued path for small businesses to grow. That is where 80 percent of our future job growth is going to come from: small businesses.

It is hard to believe, when I talk about national security, that men and women who live 1,300 miles inland from the nearest ocean, separated by mountains and rivers, are concerned about their own safety.

It is hard to imagine that before there was the Paris massacre or San Bernardino or Orlando that my constituents in Kansas were concerned about national security. I stand beside our President in making our border secure and working through immigration and refugee issues to make our Nation more secure. We think that is vitally important, and that is one of the reasons we elected this President and many, many people from my class as well.

Lastly, I want to talk about health care, something very near and dear to my heart.

For the past 6 years, I have lived the nightmare of ObamaCare. It has caused many, many physicians I know to quit, to give it up. ObamaCare has reduced us to data entry positions rather than

physicians who can listen and develop their clinical skills as we try to work with patients to solve their healthcare problems.

ObamaCare has led to consolidation of physician practices. It has led to high prices as well for insurance products. It has led to \$12,000 deductibles for most families. It is no longer affordable. It is like having no insurance at all.

Eighty percent of Americans are not happy with the Affordable Care Act, but I want to assure the American public and my constituents that, for every 5 seconds I have spent thinking about repeal, I have spent 5 days thinking about replace.

Though quite often the press wants to talk about this as two separate books, this is one book in my life—a book of repealing and replacing as quickly and efficiently as possible.

I want to assure all my constituents back home that, if you are on an ObamaCare product right now, we are not pushing you off any cliff. We are going to give you a period of transition where you can have a truly affordable healthcare product that works for you without a \$6,000 or \$12,000 deductible.

We are a party of solutions. If you will look at Dr. PRICE's bills he submitted the last 6 years, you will see great alternatives and solutions that the party has presented. We do think there are good solutions out there.

Speaking of Dr. PRICE, I can't help but just stop and say we need to approve him, confirm him as quickly as possible. Dr. PRICE is a physician, an orthopedic surgeon from Georgia, who has served Congress in multiple ways, including leading the Budget Committee.

I have not met a man I would rather have serve as the Secretary of HHS than Dr. TOM PRICE, a mentor to me—a mentor to many of us—a kind man, a Godly man, a person who cares about patients, who understands health care, but he also understands government. Before we can take many more steps with health care, we need someone in that position. I believe with all my heart that Dr. PRICE will do a great job.

I look forward to continuing my next several weeks here working with the freshmen, working with the rest of Congress. We are so optimistic. We think that great days are ahead of us.

I am going to close with a memory today that I will have forever of going to the National Prayer Breakfast. I have had the privilege of going to many, many events, but this may have been the greatest event I ever attended in my life to see men and women, leaders across the world, praying for our President, praying for our Vice President.

I am just thrilled to be a part of this. I am proud to turn this country back in a positive direction.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. It is good to have Dr. MARSHALL here and be a part of bringing that vitality of some-

one in the health field, knowing and understanding that relationship between the patient and the doctor and finding the best way so that all can have that access. I think that is what we see.

He ended with something, and I will sort of end with that: the prayer breakfast. From my background as not only an Air Force chaplain but also a pastor for over 11 years, we can have disagreements. And we are going to have disagreements. But what I have found is, when you pray for each other, you can have disagreements, but you can't be mad.

I think that is what we have got to do as a country is we have our disagreements and we move forward and we look for what is best for the individuals and not best for what is this government.

I think that is what you brought to the table today and talked about, that passion to get it back to the individual who looks to Washington, knows it is there, and doing what the Constitution said, but not overreaching into the areas of their life that take them away from the things they want to do.

So I appreciate the gentleman's service. I appreciate him being here. It is going to be great as we go forward.

Mr. Speaker, we have gotten a fast start. There are some things going on where we are doing what we promised. I had an interview just the other day, and the reporter asked me the question: Well, what do you think about X? They named off like two or three things. I said: What is surprising right now to many folks who have reported on this place for so long is the fact that things are getting done and being promised to get done, and they are happening.

Mr. Speaker, that is what we are sent here for. And as we see that through the regulatory issues we have been dealing with this week, we are going to deal with again next week, and as we look ahead to the battles of repealing and putting together access to affordable health care for all Americans and not doing the scare tactics and not doing the straw man and not trying to push anybody off a cliff but saying: let's talk about this together; let's listen and work together, as opposed to the way it was done.

Then, we look into tax reform. We look into energy development. It is a time in America to be smiling. It is a time when we can look around and the rest of the world is saying: that is the country that we know. That is the shining light that we know. That is the place that the world looks to. Because we are the freest country in the world, and we gave our spirit to others.

□ 1645

So it is exciting for me, as part of my work for the Republican Conference, to bring the freshman Members up here to let them tell about their areas. And as we do so, it just shows you, I believe, that America, in many of these dis-

tricts, saw promise. And we are looking forward to continuing with our new Members and continuing to introduce them over the next weeks.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 38. Joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Interior known as the Stream Protection Rule.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 42 and 43 of title 20, United States Code, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, reappoints the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Leahy) as a member of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the day after our new President spoke to the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, we saw a surge in Russian aggression and attacks in eastern Ukraine. Every American must realize, Russia is testing our new administration's resolve to stand up for liberty.

Since Russia invaded Crimea in February 2014, 10,000 innocent Ukrainians have been killed by Russian aggression, and this has increased over the past week. Dozens more have been displaced—17,000, in fact.

These actions violated the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances that stated: the Russian Federation would respect the independent sovereignty and existing borders of Ukraine.

Russia's new aggression is another step in its campaign to undermine the democratic order that has existed in our Transatlantic Alliance since the end of World War II and cold war.

America must stand up for the people of Ukraine and our European alliances and denounce the actions of President Putin. We have to stand up or we face—Russia will face condemnation by the world community. Russia should withdraw her heavy weapons from that region. They should stop financing separatists. They should allow repairs for critical infrastructure and fulfill all of their agreements under the Minsk accords.

What is happening is a global shame.

THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.