

lands. Members on both sides of the aisle should take umbrage at President Obama's lameduck machinations to withdraw from the multiple-use framework more than 230,000 acres of public lands in Minnesota—with the mere stroke of a pen. By treating public lands regulation as a means to build a Presidential legacy through midnight regulation, the previous administration flouted the spirit of participatory and inclusive lands-use statutes as designed by Congress. Lawmakers should correct the course by passing the excellent H.R. 3905."

Finally, the Associated General Contractors of Minnesota:

H.R. 3905 changes no environmental review processes, relaxes no environmental standards, and specifically restates Congress' prohibition on any mining activity in the Boundary Waters and surrounding protective buffer areas. H.R. 3905 would reaffirm longstanding congressional intent that actually espouses that this area be designated for mining and timber sales.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everybody to vote against this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GALLAGHER). Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended, and on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 3905 is postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1892. An act to amend title 4, United States Code, to provide for the flying of the flag at half-staff in the event of the death of a first responder in the line of duty.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 100-458, section 114(b)(2)(c), the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the John C. Stennis for Public Service Training and Development for a six-year term:

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The message also announced that pursuant to the provision of section 1151 of title 2, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, reappoints the following individual to the Board of Trustees of the Open World Leadership Center:

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 115-77, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, appoints the following individuals to the Frederick Douglas Bicentennial Commission:

The Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN).

Dr. David Anderson of New York.

CONGRATULATING LATOYA CANTRELL, THE MAYOR-ELECT OF NEW ORLEANS

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

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with extreme joy and excitement. My hometown, which is New Orleans, a part of my congressional district, next year, will celebrate our 300th anniversary. Over the years, we were under French control, we were under Spanish control, we were back under French control, and then we had the Louisiana Purchase. But as we walk into our 300th year, we have an elected—and we will be under the control of—female mayor for the first time in New Orleans history. That female is LaToya Cantrell.

She is a community activist and she is very focused on the future. I just want to congratulate LaToya on being elected to be the mayor of the city of New Orleans, and just to assure the people of New Orleans that we are going to go forward in our 300th year together and continue to improve the greatest city in the world, and that is New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mr. Speaker, I, once again, congratulate LaToya Cantrell on her election to be mayor of the city of New Orleans.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TROOPER DAMON ALLEN

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as Americans gathered around their Thanksgiving tables, joined hands with their families, and gave thanks for their blessings, a Texas Highway Patrol trooper was murdered.

While returning to his patrol car during a routine traffic stop, Trooper Damon Allen was shot in the back by a dastardly criminal, the driver of that vehicle. Trooper Allen was working alone, as most troopers in Texas do. The multiple shots killed Trooper Allen.

The crook had illegally procured a weapon in Trooper Allen's homicide. The criminal, like most do, quickly fled the scene, leading Texas Rangers and other law enforcement on a chase across Texas, but he was finally apprehended.

Mr. Speaker, this wasn't the first time that the criminal had targeted our men and women in uniform. A slew of previous convictions are on his rap sheet, including drug possession, evading arrest, and violence toward law enforcement. The killer is now where he belongs: in the jailhouse. The bandit will face Texas justice.

Texas Department of Public Safety Officer Allen was a devoted husband, a father of three, and a 15-year member of Texas law enforcement. He served with courage, placing the badge—the star—over his heart and reporting for duty every day.

We pray for Trooper Allen and his family. Trooper Allen, like all peace officers, placed his life between us and the lawless. We should remember him and thank God that such men have lived.

And that is just the way it is.

THE TAX REFORM BILL

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be here for a Special Order. The issues of the day in Washington, D.C., are many. Tonight I would like to choose to talk about what is happening with the tax reform bill that is coming before the United States Senate. We are hearing rumors that it will be here this week, maybe a possible vote on Friday.

It is important for us, as we look at the first tax reform bill in 31 years, to understand that we do need changes to our Tax Code, that the Tax Code has become too complicated and too complex. It needs to be simplified. The Tax Code has become burdensome to small and medium-sized businesses. It is not always the most cooperative Tax Code for entrepreneurship or innovation. It lacks incentives for helping us in certain sectors of the economy to help us grow.

□ 1645

But the most staggering problem in the Tax Code today is that it has direct and substantial benefits for the wealthiest people in the country.

I am of the mindset that we need to have a Tax Code, an economy, and public policies that are going to allow the free enterprise system to work efficiently, that will allow for growth, especially in communities that have been distressed for many decades and are looking for the private sector to come in and hire our workers. It is very important.

Like most issues in the United States, like most issues that we face here in Congress, we have to look at these issues in the context of what is happening in the free market and what is happening in the rest of the economy.

So it is important for us to know that over the last 30 years, since the last time we have done tax reform, we have had a lot of growth in the country. Globalization and automation has led to enormous amounts of wealth being created, and that wealth has gotten concentrated. It has gotten concentrated into a small group of people in the country and it has gotten concentrated in certain areas of the country.

Over the last 30 years, we have seen 96 percent of income growth in the United States has gone to the top 10 percent of the people in the country, the wealthiest 10 percent of the people. That is a fact. Ninety-six percent of income growth has gone to the top 10 percent.

For the majority of Americans, we have seen wages that are stagnant. We have seen pensions that have collapsed. We have people who go from making \$30 or \$40 an hour down to \$15, \$10, or \$12 an hour.

So the great middle class of the United States has seen its wealth go up to the top 10 percent of the wealthiest families in the country. That is a fact. We have seen now that the top 1 percent of the people in the country own 90 percent of the wealth in the United States. The ultimate statistic shows where most Americans are. It is the one that tells us that 63 percent of Americans families could not withstand a \$500 emergency.

Now, think about that. Sixty-three percent of American families can't withstand a \$500 emergency. We have had this huge wealth creation over the last 30 years that has gone primarily to the top 10 percent. Now we come back to the idea that we are going to reform the Tax Code.

We look at charts like this. This is corporate profits after tax, going back to 1950. We see that, as globalization took hold and we started moving in that direction in the seventies and into the eighties and up into the nineties and then into the 2000s, corporate profits go up.

In 2001 and 2003, we implemented a new round of supply-side economics, per George W. Bush. He cut taxes for the wealthy. They will take that money and reinvest it back into the United States, drive up wages, hire people, and we will get growth. That was the philosophy.

Well, what we saw happen is a huge increase in corporate profits from that moment on until the collapse of the economy in 2009-2010. So the philosophy was: We are going to cut taxes for the wealthy and milk the corporations, and the wealthiest families will put that money back into the economy, wages will go up, and we will get growth.

We saw huge increases in corporate profits and the slowest decade of growth in our country since the Great Depression.

You don't have to be a Philadelphia lawyer to figure out that what our friends on the other side of the aisle were telling us back then about what the big tax cut to the wealthy was going to do didn't work.

This is what happened. Funny. If you cut taxes for the wealthiest and you help corporations, their profits go up significantly. But growth for average families has been stagnant to the point where, today, 63 percent of families can't afford a \$500 emergency.

That is what the Republican Party is now talking about doing again. It was

already proven not to work, but let's not let that stop us. Let's keep going.

So we are now going to see a tax cut that will make permanent a lower corporate tax rate. Any benefit at all that may go to the lower classes of people will not be permanent. That will go away.

Not only that, but here is the kicker: in order to do this big tax cut, the United States is going to have to borrow the money because we can't afford it. We are going to give this huge tax cut to people who are primarily the wealthiest people in the country. We can't afford it, so we are going to go to China and borrow the money from them and bring it back to the United States and give it to the wealthiest people in our country.

Then we are going to pay China back, with interest, the money we borrowed to give to the wealthiest people in the United States, all under the premise that it is going to get the economy going and it is going to lift up wages, when we already tried that and we know it doesn't work.

So what are we doing?

Not to mention the fact that the Chinese are aggressively plotting slowly the erosion of the United States of America. They are going to take our money that we have already borrowed from them and we are going to borrow more and pay interest on it and they are going to take that money.

They are building islands in the South China Sea. They are building islands. Yes, islands, in the South China Sea. They are building airports and military bases on the island so they can continue to project out force in the South China Sea. We just borrowed a bunch of money and we are going to pay interest on it so they can go and build more islands.

They are making huge investments in cyber. They are making huge investments in submarines, in their navy, and in their military apparatus, financed primarily by money they lend out to us.

So not only do we borrow money and have to pay it back, our bank, China, is going to use the interest that we are paying to fund their war machine. They already moved into Africa, where they are digging out a lot of the minerals and natural resources that they are using to feed their industrial machine, putting a base in Djibouti, projecting force into Africa. They are going to continue to do that, and the United States is going to go into an extra \$2 trillion in debt and continue the concentration of wealth here.

China is putting a ton of money into wind and solar. They just announced a few weeks ago that they are going to move to battery-powered cars, renewable energy. They are putting billions of dollars into things like additive manufacturing.

This is our competitor. We are getting everything wrong. Everything.

At this point, this tax bill is not going to be good for the middle class. It

is not going to grow the economy. It is going to put us \$2.3 trillion in debt and it is going to feed the beast that is China, which is trying to come after the United States in every which way.

Then we see on the news today that North Korea is firing another missile.

Who do we have to get to talk to North Korea?

We have got to get China to talk to North Korea. President Trump has said China has got to help us with this. China is not going to help us with anything. We owe them. That is the problem. That is the problem you get into when you borrow so much money.

When corporate profits are at the highest they have ever been, we can't ask these folks to help us.

Do you know how much one-fifth of the Fortune 500 corporations paid in corporate tax?

One-fifth pay zero in corporate tax.

The corporate tax is a mess, too. But this is where the wealth is concentrated: the owners of these businesses, the shareholders of these businesses.

We have a situation where capital and capital gains has been given preference over labor. If you make money off of money, you are good, you pay a lower tax rate. Warren Buffett said it a million times that he pays a lower rate than his secretary pays. That doesn't seem fair.

We stack the burden on top of labor. This is a huge concentration of wealth, and then we have a huge concentration of opportunity, too, in the United States. A lot of it is through geography, where Silicon Valley is doing really well and Wall Street is doing really well. We have little tech pockets here or there in Austin, Texas, and up in Massachusetts, to the point where venture capital, which is the money that makes that engine go for growth, is concentrated in three States. Eighty percent of venture capital goes to California, New York, and Massachusetts; ninety percent of it goes to men; and only 1 percent goes to African-American people in this country. Opportunity is being concentrated.

We need a new energy grid. We need broadband in the United States to reach to every corner of our country to plug these communities back in that have been unplugged from the global economy and globalization. They need plugged back in. They need investment. They need technology. They need business incubators. They need research at their universities. Their kids need access to broadband at their schools and in rural communities across the United States, where kids literally have to go to McDonald's to plug into the WiFi to download their homework and do it.

Is that where we are in the United States? Is this what we are settling for? Are we okay with this?

I am not. This stinks and we have got to do something about it.

□ 1700

I want to make just one or two last points. You think about who is going

to benefit from this tax cut, and one of the prime beneficiaries is going to be the President of the United States and his family members, one of the prime beneficiaries.

One of the provisions is to get rid of the alternative minimum tax, which means that, if you have got enough lawyers and you have got enough accountants and you can find every loophole, at the very least, you'll pay the alternative minimum tax. And if the bill were passed—we are talking about passing here—passes and was applied to the only tax returns we have for the President, he would save \$30 million just on the alternative minimum tax repeal.

The Donald Trumps of the world are going to get a huge tax break, and wages are stagnant for middle class families. And if you talk about the Donald Trumps of the world passing on their wealth, his family will save \$1 billion—\$1 billion under this provision will benefit the Trumps.

Now, look, I am not mad at anybody for being rich. I don't care. I am happy for you. God bless. But my goodness gracious, in a time of such great income inequality, at a time of stagnant wages for 30 years, and 60 percent of families in the United States can't afford a \$500 emergency, can't blow a couple of tires on your car or have your car break down, and your world unravels. Somebody gets sick, your world unravels, and we are going to give the Donald Trump family a \$1 billion tax cut?

We have communities that are dying from the inside. There are dilapidated homes all over communities that need to come down, no broadband, no nice roads, no nice schools, no new schools, teachers who haven't seen a pay raise for 10 years, erosion of the tax base. We need investment, public investment, to stimulate private investment into these communities.

And we are going to borrow money from China not to rebuild our own country, not to say: We are going to borrow \$2.3 billion from China; we are going to do roads, bridges, airports; put everybody back to work; drive up wages; broadband in every community; new energy grid; jobs that are in the ground that can't be outsourced to China. That is not what we are borrowing money for. We are going to borrow the money, and we are going to give it to families like this.

I just don't think this is the direction we need to be going in. The benefits for the middle class sunset and the benefits for the major corporations are made permanent. There is even a provision, in the House bill for sure, that allows companies to write off an expense shipping their jobs overseas.

Now, can you imagine? Who is writing this stuff to where we are going to give the company and a big corporation the ability to expense moving equipment and people and all kinds of other things from the United States to China, to Vietnam, to Mexico, to somewhere else?

This is some dark stuff what is happening here. I will tell you that if somebody could prove to me that borrowing \$2.3 trillion from China was going to create jobs in Youngstown; in Akron, Ohio; Warren, Ohio; Niles, Ohio; Gary, Indiana; Buffalo, I would be the first one to say: We have got to do something. We have got to do something. Let's talk about that.

Maybe it is worth it for us to borrow that money and make an investment like you would borrow for your kid's education or you would borrow for your house or you would borrow for your business to reinvest, maybe it would make some sense for us to do that, but there is no evidence that that is the case.

So I say, let's start over. Come talk to the Democrats. There is no reason why this has to be done by the end of the year. What is the rush? What is the hurry? We haven't done this in 31 years. Let's do it right. Congressman RO KHANNA and I and several others have offered a trillion-dollar tax cut for working class families. People who make \$75,000, \$80,000 a year and have two or three kids would get thousands of dollars back. Let's approach that.

How do we expand the affordable housing credits? How do we expand the wind credits for the renewable industry and wind and solar industries that are growing at 20 or 25 percent a year and then target those investments to distressed areas? Let's sit down and talk about that.

Let's sit down and talk about how we can get all these government jobs out of Washington, D.C., and spread them around the country. There is 300,000 here. Let's get a good chunk of them and move them out. Everyone doesn't need to be in Washington, D.C. These jobs could be done: 1,000 jobs in Youngstown, 1,000 in Akron, 1,000 in Biloxi, and 1,000 in Tallahassee. Stabilize these communities and then rebuild. Let's sit down. There is a way out if we come together.

This is going to get rammed through. No Democrats are even at the table. President Trump said he invited our leadership over, come down to talk. And he tweeted before that: I am not going to accept any of the Democratic provisions, but come on over. I am happy to talk.

I don't think the coffee is that good at the White House if we are not going to have a serious conversation. This is a wrong move for our country. You know, you start to think—not to be doom and gloom, but we are already trillions of dollars in debt. We already have the highest level of income inequality we have had since the Great Depression.

We have Republican control of the House and Senate and the White House, and they are going to pass a tax bill that borrows another \$2.3 trillion from China, feeds that beast, feeds the Chinese beast all over the world in Africa, in the South China Sea, while here in the United States we have communities that are collapsing.

How much longer can we go? Because I know in communities like mine, we have been dealing with this for 40 years, and it is time both parties step up with a grand solution or series of strategies to fix it. And I will tell you one of those strategies is not to give a huge tax cut to Donald Trump and his family, to the wealthiest corporations who have the highest corporate profits in the history of our country. That is not the solution.

We need to come together, sit down, make this right, start over. Both parties need to be a part of this grand solution, this grand strategy.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1714

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GALLAGHER) at 5 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4182, ENSURING A QUALIFIED CIVIL SERVICE ACT OF 2017, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1699, PRESERVING ACCESS TO MANUFACTURED HOUSING ACT OF 2017

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-430) on the resolution (H. Res. 635) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4182) to amend title 5, United States Code, to modify probationary periods with respect to positions within the competitive service and the Senior Executive Service, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1699) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage, to amend the Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 to modify the definition of a loan originator, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, November 30, 2017, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.