

The thinning that is done along the highways and around the towns is what has made it possible for the firefighters in a very difficult situation—on the just seen Dixie fire, on my map there—to have a chance to stop this fire finally. It has ravaged so much, and they have done an amazing job of protecting communities and homes in those areas.

But it has turned from a fire where a tree hit a power line—we are still waiting for the forensic report on that—from a small, half-acre fire and just a couple weeks later 200,000 acres and all this endangerment.

So work that had been done previously by Collins Pine is going to probably save the day for the town of Chester and others up in that direction.

So if we dramatically increase the fuel treatments across all these landscapes, then it gives us a fighting chance. We need to thin the forest and return low-intensity fire to these landscapes in the form also of a prescribed fire at a time of year when we can control them. The Native Americans used to use this method, and we can learn from them.

This map of fuels treatment projects around the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, overlaid with the satellite image of the 2018 Carr fire burn scar, shows that where the fuels were managed the fire was less intense. The green area has been highlighted to show a better contrast. The areas that had been thinned did not burn nearly as intensely. Instead, the big trees survived, the fire goes through the area at the bottom of the forest much more slowly, and it is much more manageable. The upper areas are the ones that burned to a crisp.

So this map shows that forest management works and that thinning works. We need to increase the pace and scale of this type of project so when fires come, the landscape is ready, and it doesn't endanger our firefighters and our communities unnecessarily.

Fire will happen. It is going to happen whether it is a manmade accident or nature with lightning strikes and the things that happen there. It is going to happen.

But what are we going to do to address that?

If we want to talk about change of temperatures and the drought situation we are facing in the West, we have to do even more to address overgrown forests and the amount of inventory per acre a forest can handle. Basically, all these trees in an overloaded forest are called ladder fuels. The fires will be lower intensity if we do the right work. They are easier to put out and much less devastating. Indeed, it is the natural landscape we used to have over 100 years ago when fire was actually constructive.

TWENTY YEARS OF THE CLINTON FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS IN HARLEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 20-year anniversary of the Clinton Foundation opening its headquarters in Harlem, USA. For the past two decades, the Clinton Foundation has been at the heart of the Harlem community, empowering local businesses and working to improve the neighborhood. This is, as you know, Mr. Speaker, an iconic neighborhood in the United States, and it is the center of the African diaspora in the United States, if not the world.

Throughout their time in Harlem, the Clinton Foundation has helped facilitate the microfinancing of 136,000 low-income women entrepreneurs. It has created sustainable models to help foster entrepreneurship, and it has undertaken critical projects to address inequalities in this community.

From 2002 to 2013, the foundation operated the Clinton Economic Opportunity Initiative, offering technical and managerial support to local entrepreneurs. However, the work did not stop at the boundaries of Harlem. In fact, in 2013, the foundation expanded their mission of unlocking opportunity and addressing inequality across our country and the world.

Due to the extraordinary work of the foundation, 430 million people in more than 180 countries have benefited from the Clinton Global Initiative. Twenty-one million people now have access to lifesaving HIV/AIDS medications, 1.2 million children's books have been distributed to under-resourced communities across the world, and 71 megawatts of clean energy projects have been facilitated in small island nations.

In the face of the pandemic, the Clinton Global Initiative also launched Action Network which brings together leaders from business, government, and philanthropic sectors to take action and address inequalities facing historically excluded groups.

Now, as we look to the challenges of the next 20 years, we know that the Clinton Foundation will continue to sharpen their focus on partnership building, expanding upon new horizons, and empowering more and more communities.

I want to commend the Clinton Foundation on their prodigious work of the past 20 years and their strong presence in the village of Harlem and thank former President Clinton and former Secretary Clinton for their continued dedication to furthering humanity and prioritizing historically excluded and underserved communities.

FREE CUBA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk to you about why it is important to me and why it should be important to the American people that we support those in Cuba who are fighting right now for their future, for their freedom, for democracy, for human rights, and for dignity.

I am the daughter of a Cuban refugee. My mother came to this great country in 1959 to escape the oppression of the Castro regime. Sadly, my family had been split apart, and my grandfather had remained in Cuba to stay with his small businesses. He had two gas stations there, and the regime had come in and taken his businesses and his home. Unfortunately, my family never really reconnected.

As we look at what is happening right now in this island that is just 90 miles from our shore, it is incredibly important to note the role that Cuba has played in spreading communism and socialism throughout the Western Hemisphere. They have aligned themselves with the most dangerous nations—our adversaries—across the world from Iran to China to Venezuela to Russia and to North Korea. Mr. Speaker, you see them all right now at this moment propping up this Communist regime.

□ 1030

We, the leader of the free world, must stand with the Cuban people at this moment. We have a moment in history that is very similar to what Ronald Reagan faced in 1987 with the Iron Curtain. This is our Berlin Wall moment. The people in Cuba, my family included, have suffered for six decades under a brutal murderous regime.

Tens of thousands of people have died at the hands of the Castro brothers. Many, many more have been jailed and beaten simply for peacefully protesting communism and wanting to live in freedom.

This regime has also played a very important role, unfortunately, in spreading communism in the Western Hemisphere, as I mentioned. We saw Venezuela, one of the richest nations in South America, be destroyed by Hugo Chavez, Nicolas Maduro, propped up by the Castro regime. We see it going into Nicaragua, Bolivia, and even here in the United States of America.

And I can tell you, firsthand, in New York City, how painful it was to me to see the communist symbol, the hammer and sickle, painted on our government buildings last summer. If we end communism in Cuba, we end its spread in the Western Hemisphere. And that is what we as the American people, freedom-loving Americans, should be doing at this moment in time.

And there is a reason why the Cuban people are marching in the streets right now holding the American flag. It is because we are that symbol of freedom, that beacon of hope and opportunity, and we must rise to the occasion, garner support from our allies,

democracies from all around the world, to put pressure on this illegitimate regime to exit.

One last thing I want to address is the issue of what some of my colleagues say is the embargo. It is unconscionable to me that we would have Members of Congress that would actually blame America for what is occurring in Cuba.

What people need to understand is they do business with nearly every country around the world, yet, nothing has changed in six decades. That is because everything that comes into this island, whether it is food, whether it is medicine, money, the regime takes it, and they use it to weaponize against their people. You either go along with their communist revolution or you get nothing, you starve. And that is the reality. So lifting the embargo will only further prop up this regime.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President, I urge my colleagues, and there are Democrats and Republicans who do support Cuba at this moment, and especially those of us who are of Cuban descent. Let's have a Berlin moment here. Let's make history together. We need to just do it by encouraging democracies from around the world to join us, and we need our leadership to be extremely strong at this moment.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Live free Cuba. We are with you. We hope to see liberty in Cuba soon.

Viva Cuba libre. Estamos contigo. Espero que vemos libertad pronto.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York will provide a translation of her remarks to the Clerk.

The Chair will remind all Members to maintain proper decorum in the Chamber.

RACIAL EQUITY IN AMERICA JOBS AND FAMILY PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, while the American Rescue Plan is changing the course of the pandemic and delivering relief for working families, this is no time to build back the way things were. We, in the Virgin Islands, can tell you that after suffering not one, but two Category 5 hurricanes in 2017. This is our moment to reimagine and rebuild a new economy.

Let it be known, the American Jobs Plan is an investment in America, that it will create millions of good jobs, rebuild our country's infrastructure, and position the United States to outcompete China and others.

Public domestic investment, as a share of the economy, has fallen by more than 40 percent since the 1960s. The American Jobs Plan will invest in America in a way we have not invested since we built the interstate highways or won the Space Race.

The United States of America is the wealthiest country in the world, yet we rank 13th when it comes to overall quality of our infrastructure. After decades of disinvestment, our roads, bridges, water systems are crumbling. Our electric grid is vulnerable to catastrophic outages. Too many lack affordable, high speed internet, and quality housing.

The past year has led to job losses and threaten economic security, eroding more than 30 years of progress in women's labor force participation. It has unmasked the fragility of our caregiving infrastructure. And our Nation has fallen behind its biggest competitors on research and development, manufacturing, and training.

It has never been more important for us to invest in strengthening our infrastructure and competitiveness, and in creating the good-paying union jobs of the future.

Like great projects of the past, the President's plan will unify and mobilize our country to meet the great challenges of our time: the climate crisis and ambitions of an autocratic China. It will invest in Americans and deliver jobs and opportunities we all deserve.

But unlike past major investments, the plan also prioritizes addressing longstanding and persistent racial injustice. The plan targets 40 percent of the benefits of climate and clean infrastructure investment to disadvantaged communities. The American Jobs and Family Plan assists in creating equity and wealth creation in communities of color, which helps all Americans.

The American Jobs and Family Plan will transform transportation infrastructure, addressing historic inequities, and increasing resilience. It will bring broadband coverage to 100 percent while reducing costs, create jobs in renewable energy, revitalize our schools, veterans' hospitals, and support our essential home care workers.

The bill will strengthen financial security of working families through an increase in funding for key nutrition initiatives: SNAP, WIC, child nutrition, rural development, including broadband, rental, and other housing initiatives, and access to healthcare.

This will ensure a clean, affordable, and secure energy future by investing over \$14 billion in clean energy and science, which will create tens of thousands of good paying jobs. We will also make sure K-12 educational institutions have the resources they need, with robust investment in Title I and special education, Pell Grants, and other financial assistance so students' success is not limited by their income or their ZIP Code.

We will provide strong funding for minority-serving institutions, like HBCUs, like in my own district, the University of the Virgin Islands, along with Hispanic-serving institutions, and Tribally-controlled colleges and universities.

The American Jobs and Family Plan will honor our responsibility to our

veterans by supporting them with investments in veterans' healthcare, including women's healthcare and mental health, combating veterans' homelessness, creating economic opportunities, and rebuilding military infrastructure.

House Democrats are supporting the Jobs and Family Plan, which will advance justice and opportunity, secure opportunities for underserved businesses, low-income communities, communities of color, rural communities, and others too often left behind.

Democrats believe that we should invest in what we value as a Nation. We are investing in the American people, American economy, and our American values of opportunity, prosperity, and justice for all.

RETAIN THE HYDE AMENDMENT

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of retaining the Hyde amendment, and the bipartisan spirit that has allowed this commonsense provision to remain in law every year since 1976.

This past January 22 marked the 48th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, which struck down any laws protecting unborn children from abortion in every State in the Union. The Roe v. Wade decision has now resulted in the tragic deaths of over 62.5 million unborn children, and currently it is estimated that as many as 2,500 unborn American lives are ended every day through abortion.

When this body first enacted the Hyde amendment in 1976 through funding for what was then the Health, Education, and Welfare agency, the vote was an overwhelming bipartisan 312-93. And even prior to that final enactment, nearly half of Democrats in the House voted for the amendment when it was first considered.

This began a 40-year agreement on both sides of the aisle that Americans opposed to abortion should not be forced to violate their conscience and religious liberty, by subsidizing abortions through their tax dollars.

The principle that no citizen should be forced to pay for these services that contravene their strongly held beliefs has stood the test of time, and it is one that this body should protect and highly regard.

But most importantly, this simple budget rider has saved more human lives from abortion than any other policy at the Federal level. Today, it is estimated that over 2.5 million lives have been saved by the Hyde amendment since it was first enacted.

To this day, this prohibition on taxpayer funding of abortion enjoys strong support with the American people. A Marist poll earlier this year found that almost 60 percent of the Americans opposed the use of taxpayer-funded abortions.