

border, not to secure it. In reality, these open border policies have created one of the worst border crises in history.

According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, this August alone, 208,887 people were apprehended trying to illegally enter our country through the southern border, which is a 317 percent increase from last August. It is really a big problem, Madam Speaker.

Since February of 2021, the agency says more than 1.2 million people have been apprehended illegally crossing the border. That staggering statistic represents more than the entire Pasco or Pinellas Counties, which are in my congressional district. I represent them.

When I was at the border a few months ago, Madam Speaker, the CBP agents I spoke with made it clear that they weren't even making a dent when it came to capturing the historic number of people who are illegally entering our country or with seizing the extraordinary volume of drugs that are flowing across the border.

That is truly unfathomable when you consider that CBP has seized 724 pounds of fentanyl and 595 pounds of heroin so far in fiscal year 2021.

These deadly drugs don't just stay in communities along the border. They are spread throughout the country into communities like mine in the Tampa Bay area. These drugs are ruining and claiming countless lives, Madam Speaker. In fact, Florida currently ranks second in the Nation for overdose deaths.

These are our neighbors and members of our family who are dying. We have to take action now.

In addition to drugs, weapons and humans are being trafficked through the border. Human traffickers are making an estimated \$15 million a day. I am concerned for these victims, many of whom are children.

The root causes of this crisis are clear. President Biden's disastrous immigration policies are to blame. His administration stopped building the wall, brought back catch-and-release, and tried to get rid of the remain in Mexico policy.

The President himself has actually articulated a new openness toward migrants; something the leaders of Central America point to as a root cause of the crisis they are seeing.

The situation at the border is a dangerous, unmitigated disaster, Madam Speaker.

Especially now, as our enemies feel emboldened by what recently transpired in Afghanistan, we have to secure our border as a matter of national security.

HISTORIC INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the work Congress

is undertaking to make historic investments in our Nation's infrastructure and create millions of good-paying jobs in communities across our country, coast to coast, communities just like mine.

Cities like Toledo, Sandusky, Lorain, Lakewood, Cleveland, Parma, for too long have received far fewer resources than are needed to keep pace with life in this 21st century.

As we look around our country right now, we bear witness to historic water shortages in Lake Mead. On the other hand, in my region of the country, we have historic high water levels in the Great Lakes. Meanwhile, we have raging wildfires in California. We have watched power blackouts in Texas; torrential rains and flooding in New York City, in Dearborn, Michigan, and rural farmlands outside Nashville; as well as hurricanes that have been ravaging States throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

Truly, in this new century, we must set a firmer course to sustain life in our country and, yes, sustain life on Mother Earth herself.

As a Representative from the Great Lakes, I can say without a shadow of a doubt that Lake Erie and the economies and people who truly rely on it face growing environmental challenges unlike any we have seen before.

The Great Lakes are the largest source of freshwater on Earth, and surely on this continent. They are responsible for transporting our Nation's heavy manufacturing materials from ports to factories, support our commercial and defense capabilities, and serve as the lifeblood for our industrial heartland.

But the changing climate is impacting these majestic waters, requiring sizable investments to correct and overcome.

Recently, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee included \$350 million for a new state-of-the-art—get ready—Great Lakes heavy icebreaker for our region. Some Members of Congress said, "Oh, you have ice?" Let me tell you, in the winter, yes, we do. This investment will ensure that for decades to come the thousands of miles of shipping lanes of the Great Lakes and the Saint Lawrence Seaway, our Nation's longest coastline, are navigable, and that the materials that make our country run are able to be delivered and that our freshwater bounty is preserved for the future.

I want to especially thank Chairman PETER DEFAZIO of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for taking up this request from our bipartisan House Great Lakes Task Force.

As co-chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water, our members delivered the funding bill necessary to turbocharge investments in coastal resiliency across our country; in home weatherization programs, as climate changes from coast to coast; to modernize the Soo Locks, essential for industry as well as the defense of this Nation; and to focus on next-gen-

eration energy, solar energy technology, and technologies we are inventing. In hydrogen, in various types of thermal water technologies there is so much where America will lead the world in inventions for the future.

To succeed, we have to make sure these investments make it through this Congress and that infrastructure investment makes it to President Biden's desk. Old infrastructure is crumbling, as our climate is changing, and we are running out of time.

We know that a functioning Soo Locks system between Lake Superior and the rest of the Great Lakes, for example, supports more than 11 million jobs. That is a "wow" by any measure.

And we know that clean energy technologies, like solar and wind, are vital to powering our Nation and producing clean and affordable energy, and building our future right here, right now at home.

In northern Ohio, we have brilliant workers at innovative companies like Toledo Solar and First Solar that are developing the revolutionary solar panels that will power homes, businesses, and factories in every corner of our Nation.

We are literally building the change forward right now, providing for our domestic energy security and independence.

But companies like these need workers, and workers need training, and that is what the infrastructure and jobs bill will allow us to do, build back better for America's tomorrow, as President Biden knows we must.

We are talking about good-paying, middle-class jobs. We are talking about investing in climate resilience and environmental conservation that restores communities, puts people to work, and ensures our families have wages that meet their needs and allow them to buy the vitals they need for life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my former Congressman, Sherwood Boehlert, affectionately known by everyone as Sherry.

Sherry was a devout public servant who passed away last week at the age of 84. After serving in the United States Army, his love for his community and State led him to begin his career in public service. He was elected as the Oneida County Executive in 1979. He was then elected to represent our community in the House of Representatives in 1983 and served for 24 years, until 2006.

Throughout his time in Congress, Sherry was committed to representing our region to the best of his ability. He returned home whenever he could. In 2001, he was elected chair of the House Committee on Science, a coveted position that built on his love of nature

and our environment. He actually led the charge to tackle the issue of acid rain and had tremendous success.

He is remembered by his colleagues as a remarkable individual and never lost sight of the reason he was elected: to fight for all of us in upstate New York.

Sherry was born in 1936. He spent his childhood in my hometown of New Hartford, New York. Prior to elected office, Sherry Boehlert graduated from Utica College, a local favorite. He went on to serve as chief of staff to former Congressman Alexander Pirnie and then also served under former Congressman Donald Mitchell before he actually served as county executive and later as Congressman. He married his lovely wife, Marianne, and was immensely proud as a father to his four children.

I just wanted to share a few reflections on Sherry. I obviously had the honor of working with him while I was a staffer for the Assembly. I do live in our former Congressman's home, Alexander Pirnie, and while Sherry was his chief of staff, he often commented to me about what I have done with the house. Where I was, what I have done with it, how much time he spent there and how he knew every corner of it, working with our former Congressman.

I also have a funny story about our family business. Our newspaper, the Mid-York Weekly, and also the Pennysaver were located in the district, and I had the occasion to invite Congressman Boehlert to visit us and to see our operations. It was quite a fun day.

We got to the back—in the newspaper business, as many know, we have an inserting operation where we put our flyers in the back of the newspaper, and it tended to be filled with a lot of retired farmers and a lot of people from our community, particularly a lot of very energetic senior citizens—and Sherry got back there and was really excited to meet them all.

One of them put him to the challenge to see if he could actually do the job. And so Sherry, without hesitation, took off his business coat, rolled up his sleeves, sat down and started inserting newspapers in our business. They loved him for that. It was really a fun moment, and I think he had a really great time with our seniors and with a lot of our staff.

We are always grateful for him for coming to our newspaper. And also for his annual support of a publication, a special publication we put out each February honoring our Presidents, our Vice-Presidents, our First Ladies, and of course our First Dogs, and Sherry was always so supportive of us for that.

We are just so glad that we are able to honor him this week with so many great reflections and so many people reaching out to me in Congress. Over the last week, it was really heartwarming to get those messages from Members of Congress, and I might add on both sides of the aisle. I have seen

many tributes, even on the Senate side. He will always be fondly remembered by all of our colleagues, Republicans and Democrats.

Earlier this week, I had the distinct honor of participating in his funeral service alongside previous elected officials from our region, also other Congress Members. It was a solemn occasion honoring his life, but also a joyous one to celebrate all that he achieved for our community.

Today, my thoughts and my prayers are with Sherry's family, especially his wife, Marianne, who is also a devoted public servant.

I ask that you please join me now in remembering Sherry with a moment of silence in this great Chamber where he served so many years. Thank you, all.

□ 1045

TIME IS NOW TO INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, the time is now to make historic investments in families, workers, and communities across the country.

Everyone, no matter who they are or where they live, deserves access to modern, dependable infrastructure to maintain the quality of life for Americans in the 21st century. That is why we must pass the President's bipartisan infrastructure package tomorrow.

We are living off the investments our grandparents and parents made generations ago. In many communities, that is no longer sustainable.

In my home State of California, we are suffering from the devastating effects of climate change, historical fires, and droughts.

Farmers in the San Joaquin Valley, which I represent, also need an infrastructure that reflects their ability to put food on America's dinner table every night. The devastating dry conditions and the lack of water have led many of them to fallow their fields, hundreds and thousands of acres of productive farmland.

It is as simple as this: Without food from our farmers, Americans don't eat. It is a national security issue. Therefore, we must fix our broken water infrastructure system.

The only way to ensure farmers have the water they need to feed our Nation is to build and improve more conveyance and storage facilities.

This infrastructure package will help that, as well as efforts that we are pursuing under the reconciliation package. We need to capture and improve and store water for times such as now.

In addition to that, we need to make other critical investments in rural and underserved areas by expanding broadband. Broadband access today is just like rural electrification was in the 1930s. No American should be without broadband.

We also learned from the COVID-19 crisis that access to quality healthcare is critical. It is critical that we have ample physicians and nurses. We can make more protective equipment, but we can't make more doctors and nurses. Therefore, we have a serious shortage of healthcare professionals, and that is why a part of this effort to build back America better is to provide medical schools and underserved areas improved access to our broadband. That is critical. We must do that.

In addition, investing in public transportation for our economy is just as essential. The United States is trailing other nations when it comes to investments in modern infrastructure and transportation like high-speed rail. It is time that we bring our system into the 21st century.

Finishing California's high-speed rail efforts, along with four other corridors in the country, will help our climate, improve traffic gridlock, and reduce emissions that pollute the air.

Climate change is an important part of this essential package of investing in our infrastructure. We know, with the results of droughts, fires, floods, and hurricanes, that the climate is changing, and we need to provide tools to address that.

Without critical investments in this infrastructure package that we will vote on tomorrow, our Nation will suffer. Making life better for our constituents is my top priority and should be the priority of Congresspeople throughout the country. It requires us to focus on the health and development of our communities, and the economy needs us to support this effort.

Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, as we talk about building back better, let me also note that we must pass a continuing resolution to ensure that government stays operating.

Shutting down the government is not an option, and we should act upon this in the next 24 hours to whatever extended date is agreed as well as lifting the debt ceiling.

In the 17 years I have been here, I have never, under Republican and Democratic administrations alike, voted to shut down government. That is irresponsible, and therefore, we must also lift the debt ceiling. This is, in fact, to pay bills that Congress in the previous administration has already created, and we don't want to be deadbeats.

The impacts on our economy would be devastating in terms of even contemplating shutting down government or not lifting the debt ceiling.

HONORING SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I was saddened to learn of our colleague Congressman Sherry Boehlert's passing. I served with him during his last term, as he was chair of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.