

world around him at an early age. His intellect and incredible work ethic led him to excel in school and eventually to win a full scholarship to Duke University. It was there, at Duke, where his passion for service took root.

After graduating, he traveled to Haiti, where he worked in public health clinics before pursuing his medical degree and doctorate in anthropology from Harvard University.

In 1987, Dr. Farmer cofounded what would become his legacy, Partners In Health, whose mission is to bring modern medical science and high-quality care to those most in need and serve as an antidote to despair. Its banner has always been “pragmatic solidarity” in the fight for health and social justice.

Dr. Farmer also used his gifts to shape young minds and the next generation of providers. He served as chief of the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and chair of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

It was there, at Harvard Medical School, where our paths crossed in what proved to be one of the biggest blessings in my life. As my mentor and professor, Dr. Farmer embraced me, trained me, taught me, and encouraged me in all that I did.

In short, I blossomed under his guidance. I was empowered under his wings. He taught me to channel that very same passion that I had as a student-activist into fighting for social justice with my medical training.

I remember one day in the class when he told us all: All of you are now part of the elite. The mere fact that you are sitting here at Harvard Medical School will make you an elite.

As someone who grew up in a trailer park and was the first generation of my family to graduate from high school, I immediately resisted that. No way. No way. Not me. How dare he say that?

Now, I won't say what I was thinking in that moment, but ever the mind reader, Dr. Farmer looked me in the eyes and said: “Yes, you, too, Raul.”

His point was that now that we are at Harvard Medical School, we need to own that. We need to use our Harvard medical training and research skills for the poor and give them the best care always. It was then that I understood the opportunity that I had to make a difference and serve those suffering from inequities with the care I would provide as a doctor.

I spent many years under his wing, learning from him and training with him to provide humanitarian aid and care. It was in the classroom at Harvard, in the rainforests of Chiapas, Mexico, and in the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti that I learned from Paul the powerful act of accompaniment. I admired his humility with the people; his fierce advocacy with the powerful; his selflessness; and the enormous respect that he showed to all he cared for, regardless of income or edu-

cation. He treated everyone as equals and worked to earn their respect.

It is because of him that I stand before you all today, both as a physician and as a representative of the people.

Dr. Farmer was a great man, a humble servant, and a fierce warrior for health and justice. I miss him, and I know the world will, too.

In his memory, and in honor of all that he has done and achieved, I ask for all present to join me in a moment of silence.

FARM BILL IMPACT SERIES: BIOFUELS

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

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, in preparation for reauthorizing the farm bill in 2023, I rise today to deliver the next installment of my farm bill impact series, where I am highlighting various aspects of the farm bill that deserve Congress' awareness and support.

If America is going to thrive, then the people who feed, fuel, and clothe America must thrive, and the farm bill contains certain programs that have been critical to the success of agricultural producers in my district and the energy independence of our country.

Every committee in this Congress should work to develop a sound, 21st century energy policy, one that embraces American energy independence, one that employs an all-of-the-above strategy embracing both fossil fuels and biofuels, and one that is not a mandated approach from the government.

For example, the House Energy and Commerce Committee should continue to pressure the Biden administration to reapprove the Keystone XL pipeline while it also considers the Year-Round Fuel Choice Act, and the House Agriculture Committee should weigh in on the enforcement of the renewable fuel standard while it also includes strong biofuels language in the next farm bill.

Energy policy has an impact on every American and cannot be crafted in a vacuum. When it comes to the farm bill, we know that we can strengthen our access to reliable, affordable, and efficient energy, like biofuels.

The Rural Energy For America Program provides financial assistance to promote energy independence and efficiency and renewable energy development for agricultural producers and rural small businesses.

Kansas Ethanol LLC, based in Lyons, Kansas, has utilized the REAP program twice. The first time they used it, they were able to expand their facility and went from producing 65 million gallons of ethanol to 80 million gallons of ethanol per year. The second time, the program helped them put in the infrastructure to produce their own electricity. They now produce their own heat and power through a gas turbine for their facility and export some power to the grid.

As Kansas produces nearly 500 million gallons of ethanol each year, programs like the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program and the Biomass Crop Assistance Program are important for Kansas and for the rest of this country. The Biodiesel Fuel Education Program awards competitive grants to nonprofit organizations and institutes of higher education that educate the public, as well as government and private entities, about the benefits of biodiesel fuel use.

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The Biomass Crop Assistance Program supports the establishment and production of eligible crops for conversion to bioenergy and assists agricultural landowners and operators with the collection, harvest, storage, and transportation of eligible material for use in a biomass conversion facility.

These programs, and many more, are investments in the future of our country, and they must remain strong in the 2023 farm bill if America is going to be energy independent. That is why the farm bill is so important. It is not just about food and farming. It is about ensuring the security and self-determination of our country. We must support not only the efforts of farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers who aim to keep us food-secure, but also the efforts of the renewable energy pioneers in our country, like Kansas corn growers and Kansas sorghum growers who aim to keep us energy independent.

I will be back on the floor soon to deliver another installment of my farm bill impact series and highlight more programs and titles within the bill that I believe Congress must understand and support to ensure that agriculture thrives in America.

CELEBRATING THE EDITH FARNSWORTH HOUSE

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

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, as we mark the beginning of Women's History Month and International Women's Day, I rise today to celebrate the recent renaming of the iconic Farnsworth House to the Edith Farnsworth House.

Located in Plano, Illinois, the home designed by Mies van der Rohe was commissioned by Dr. Edith Farnsworth in 1945 and today is a National Historical Landmark and considered a masterpiece of modern architecture.

I am proud that this piece of architectural history is located in the 14th District of Illinois and that the National Trust for Historic Preservation is elevating the role of women throughout history by renaming and rededicating the house for the woman who commissioned it.

Too often, women's roles in history are overlooked and forgotten. That is why the National Trust's efforts through the Where Women Make History project to recognize places across

the country where women have changed their communities is so important, not only to elevate more of our history and celebrate women's contributions to it, but to inspire the next generation of artists and change-makers.

The Edith Farnsworth House is a cultural gem of the 14th District of Illinois that would not have been possible without the vision and commitment of Dr. Edith Farnsworth. I am proud to see this landmark rededicated in her name so that her legacy can be appreciated for generations to come.

WE NEED TO RETURN TO ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. McCARTHY. Madam Speaker, what would you do with \$1,300? Would you go on vacation? Save for your kids' college? Maybe buy some new appliances?

Well, under the Democrats' new America last energy policies, most Americans have little choice but to spend \$1,300 extra on gas to fill up their cars over the course of the next year. Today, the price of gas hit an all-time high.

Democrats want to blame surging prices on Russia. But the truth is, their out-of-touch policies are why we are here in the first place.

Remember what happened on day 1 with one-party rule? The President canceled the Keystone Pipeline, and then he stopped new oil and gas leases on Federal lands and waters. Then he gave the green light to Putin's pipeline. These knee-jerk decisions had damaging effects up and down the supply chain.

Now, Democrats are creating a fake choice between sanctioning Russia and lowering gas prices. In their twisted thinking, Americans must feel the pain at the pump in order to punish Putin. It doesn't have to be this way.

When Democrats' one-party rule started last year, they inherited an energy independent America. Average prices at the pump were \$2.53 a gallon. Oh, do we wish we had those days again.

It is still possible to get back to that, which is why Republicans offered a bill last week that would approve the Keystone Pipeline, fast track oil and gas production on Federal lands and waters and remove all hurdles to exporting American natural gas.

Do the American people wonder what happened when we offered that? Two hundred twenty Democrats voted against it.

Then we offered targeted solutions to the immediate crisis, like approving the six natural gas export permits that are being held up by the Department of Energy. Just approving those six permits could increase U.S. natural gas exports by 25 percent.

But Democrats refused to listen. They think our Nation's future is better with leaving our resources in the ground, even if that requires us to buy oil from Iran or Venezuela and batteries from China.

It is obvious which party is championing clean, affordable American energy and which party has given up on it. It is interesting that American natural gas is 41 percent cleaner than Russian natural gas. Why wouldn't you want that to go to Europe and everywhere else?

If we want to lower prices and protect the environment, we must prioritize American energy independence.

What is worse, it is not just the Biden administration; it is complete throughout the Democrats' administration, for those who are in governorships as well. Just take a look at my home State, Madam Speaker, California.

Now, the United States imports from Russia 209,000 barrels of crude per day. That is 76.3 million barrels of crude per year. Of that, California imports from Russia 50,265 barrels of crude per day. In fact, California imported twice as many barrels of oil from Russia in 2021 than from Canada. So that means this money went to Putin to pay for his war.

Just as the Biden administration chose to stop the Keystone XL pipeline, apparently Governor Newsom thinks it is better to buy oil from Russia than from Canada. California domestic production was 374,000 barrels of crude per day in 2021. That has decreased under Gavin's administration, 89,000 barrels of crude per day less than in 2018.

If you take the analysis, looking at the data, if California rolled back the Newsom/Biden regulations that are crippling oil production in California, California could more than offset its use of Russian crude and then some. The United States could offset 43 percent of its dependence on Russian crude if California produced its full capacity.

You see, we don't have to be where we are. If the Democrats would change their policies of harming America and harming the environment by buying more Russian oil and gas, we wouldn't be where we are today. The prices would be lower, there would be more Americans working, and the world would be safer.

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate President Biden and his administration following February's job report.

678,000, that is the total number of jobs created last month. But these are not just any type of jobs. These jobs

are good-paying jobs that are giving Americans the dignity of a good paycheck.

In the last 13 months, 7.4 million jobs have been created, and unemployment has been slashed from 6.4 percent to 3.8 percent. When the President took office, over 18 million people were receiving unemployment benefits. Today, only 2 million people remain.

The bottom line, Madam Speaker, is we are seeing the best economy for American workers in decades, with people getting higher wages, better benefits, and better jobs across the board.

Our national deficit has also seen improvement. Under President Biden's watch, the deficit fell by \$360 billion last year. This is the first deficit decline in more than half a decade. Better yet, our Nation is on track to cut the deficit even more this year. Biden's plan of action will make sure we continue our path to building a better America.

But building a better America requires much more than only economic success. It also requires healthy communities. I am proud to share that America has had much success on the public health front during Biden's first year.

In my home State of Texas, only 10 percent of the population was fully vaccinated this time last year. Today, 60 percent of the entire population is fully vaccinated in Texas. On top of that, 21 percent of the population have received a booster shot.

In short, Madam Speaker, our Nation is recovering, and we are powering through the challenges COVID-19 created.

As we continue to recover from COVID-19 and rebuild the economy, we also must invest in our infrastructure. Investing in roads, bridges, and public transportation is critical. Shockingly, in America, one in three U.S. bridges need repairs or replacement. Biden has a plan for that, too.

There are 4,000 infrastructure projects already planned, alongside 65,000 miles of highway and 1,500 bridges scheduled to be repaired.

But it is not only highways and bridges that need repairs and upgrades. Our ports need improvements as well. In my home area, the Port of Houston secured \$142,500,000 in new funding because of the Biden boom.

In Houston, the transit authority, METRO, also received more than \$137 million in Federal funds to strengthen local public transportation.

The best part, Madam Speaker, this is only the beginning. I am truly excited that we are really accomplishing much for the American people as we work in partnership with President Biden and his boom. We truly are building a better America for generations to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT DANIEL M. McBRIDE, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from