

President Biden, then we will have concluded a legitimate congressional inquiry as directed by the Constitution, and we will be satisfied with that and the American people will be satisfied. Some will be frustrated whatever happens at the outcome of this, but the Constitution will have been followed and upheld. On our side, that is the most important thing here.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 117TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOYER. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today, we have once again seen the majority party unable to govern. The defense bill was scheduled today, and apparently the majority party cannot get its act together, so we are not considering the defense bill today. Unfortunately, the Republicans seem to be frozen by their own dysfunction.

It is interesting that we have scheduled today to show the work that the 117th Congress did that is making such a positive effect today in America. Today, we ought to reflect on what Democrats accomplished by standing together last Congress, with some bipartisan support.

The 117th Congress was one of the most productive in American history because Democrats united behind a common cause: investing in America, making us stronger, safer, healthier, and more competitive in the 21st century.

Now, the historic investments we made to create jobs, lower costs, and build the economy from the bottom and middle out are coming to fruition. Conveying the scale of these laws' positive impact on our country is no easy task, especially in a single hour, and we do not expect to do it in this hour alone.

We can look at the past 32 months of consecutive job growth in America. We can point to the 13.5 million new jobs, including 800,000 new manufacturing jobs in the last 2½ years, added to our economy under the Biden-Harris administration.

□ 1830

The previous administration, by comparison, Mr. Speaker, added 500,000 manufacturing jobs to the economy in the first 3 years before the pandemic. Indeed, we created more jobs in 2 years than any prior administration has added in a single 4-year term.

We pushed the unemployment rate to a generational low, with more Americans working today than at any point in our Nation's history.

Rather than stalling out into a recession, our economy continues to boom because Democrats put people over politics to invest in America.

Goldman Sachs just put out a report estimating that we will see another 200,000 manufacturing jobs in the next 2 years alone. That makes a million new manufacturing jobs incorporated into what will then be a 15 million new jobs accomplishment.

With inflation threatening to eat into more take-home pay for working Americans last Congress, Democrats stepped up to pass policies to reduce costs, raise wages, and create jobs.

The results are now in: It worked, and it is still working. Wages continue to go up; inflation continues to go down; and our economy continues to grow at a steady pace.

There are many factors at play, Mr. Speaker, in the global economy, but we owe these strong economic trends in no small part to the laws we enacted in the last Congress.

Economic strength alone, however, doesn't capture all that these laws are accomplishing for the American people.

The best way to understand how these laws are transforming our Nation for all Americans is to meet Americans where they are to hear firsthand how these policies are making a difference in their lives and the lives of their families.

This year, Mr. Speaker, members of the Regional Leadership Council appointed by minority Democratic Leader JEFFRIES have had those conversations with countless Americans at schools, hospitals, union halls, small businesses, VA clinics, farms, and factories across the country.

We have also sought to identify further funding opportunities, implement these policies, and inform the public about how they can access these programs and opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, tonight we want to show Americans how their tax dollars are building a better future for their families and communities.

We are working with Democrats to ensure that those investments reach every community in every corner of the country, and we look forward to working with Republicans to do the same. It doesn't seem to be their focus right now, but maybe it will be.

All Americans deserve to feel the impact of these policies, whether they live on the quietest country road or the loudest city street, because investing in America, Mr. Speaker, means investing in all of America.

Over the next hour, the members of the Regional Leadership Council will detail our implementation progress and show how investing in America's agenda is changing lives.

Mr. Speaker, I will now turn to my colleagues, and I yield first to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO).

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for this great opportunity.

Last Congress was the most productive in over 50 years. With the leadership of President Biden and Democrats in the House and Senate, and with the help of some moderate Republicans, we were able to pass landmark legislation, the core of which in our economic agenda was the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which had a bipartisan vote; the CHIPS Act, also a bipartisan vote; and the Inflation Reduction Act.

I am honored to serve on the Regional Leadership Council as we talk about investing in America. This is about progress, and I am honored to represent on that council both my home State of Florida and Georgia.

In Florida, we are slated for up to \$50 billion in infrastructure improvements. It means roads and bridges in places like I-4 in central Florida, which has been mired in traffic for years because of our great growth. It means a new airport tower in Tampa that Representative CASTRO worked on for their growing city. Across the State, we literally quadrupled the budget for ports in Florida because of these efforts.

I got to visit Cape Canaveral and see the work they are doing there in the top cruise line destination port in the world, the expansions there.

In south Florida, water projects to help with clean water as well as ports have also been huge, and we see these types of expansions at our airports, like Orlando International Airport with a new Terminal C and expansions there.

We have seen hundreds of thousands of jobs created in Florida because of these infrastructure projects. We are seeing local ironworkers, electrical workers, and local operating engineers working on these major projects as central Floridians are gathering together as well as Floridians from across the State.

A surprising fact: Florida had more lead pipes than any other State. That was a big surprise. Now, we have funding coming in to help out everything from schoolkids to seniors who live in mobile home developments.

We are also seeing a huge amount of work around the Inflation Reduction Act. Georgia is cleaning up right now in making electric vehicles, electric batteries, and even recycling EV batteries, with both Hyundai and Rivian joining in those areas.

In fact, when we were in our Energy and Commerce Committee, we had gentlemen from Georgia who had to change their tune on the very bill attacking EVs that was being discussed

because there are so many jobs coming into Georgia to help out.

Of course, the Chips and Science Act coupled with these other bills are doubling the amount of manufacturing, construction, and investment in our Nation. We are the envy of the world right now in the manufacturing that we have going on.

In our own State, we focus on aerospace chips, chips to help out with satellites and rockets and with the harsh conditions of space and aerospace. In central Florida, we were just named a finalist for the biggest CHIPS Act project in the State. We are going to continue to work with them and also with Green Garden Village, the biggest Inflation Reduction Act project making EV batteries.

I thank the gentleman, my leader—he always will be my leader—STENY HOYER, for bringing us together to talk about progress, to talk about jobs, to talk about manufacturing and clean energy as we continue to invest in America and move our Nation forward.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments, and I now yield to the gentleman from northern California (Mr. HUFFMAN).

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for doing such a great job steering this Regional Leadership Council through our work so that we can highlight how Democrats are investing in America and putting people over politics.

Others have mentioned the legislative packages that we were able to put on President Biden's desk in the last Congress, all the transformative, historic bills—the American Rescue Plan, the bipartisan infrastructure law, the Inflation Reduction Act, and much more.

We are bringing down inflation. We are growing the economy. We are rebuilding this country for the 21st century, lowering prescription drug costs, and a lot more.

During that incredibly productive 2-year period when President Biden had a Democratic House and a Democratic Senate, we also showed you can govern in Congress and do big things that matter to people, contrary to what we are seeing with this “Keystone Cops” episode and the Republican majority in this Congress.

Now, as the representative for Region 2, which is northern California, Alaska, and Hawaii, I have had a laser focus on bringing these investments home for some of the most consequential issues that we are up against. Today, I want to highlight two of those big priorities: Investments for Tribes and solutions to manage our increasingly difficult water challenges in the West.

I proudly represent a region rich with indigenous diversity. Throughout my time in Congress, I have worked with Tribes to address the various issues affecting these communities, from critical infrastructure to revising ecosystems on the brink of collapse.

One element of critical infrastructure that has been neglected for way

too long is broadband expansion. In today's digital age, access to affordable high-speed internet is not a luxury but a necessity. Yet, there is still a staggering digital divide, especially in Indian Country.

Under the Biden-Harris administration, we are beginning to change that. We have been building out broadband infrastructure to connect Tribes with internet access that is essential to economic development, education, public safety, and quality of life.

A lot of the grants are flowing to our communities, thanks to the \$3 billion Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program that we created last Congress.

Just last month, I got to tour a local project in Covelo with the Round Valley Tribe, a very remote part of my district. They are working with this grant funding to expand broadband and connect 726 Tribal households, 3 Tribal businesses, and 7 Tribal community anchor institutions, including a health clinic. This is game-changing stuff.

The infrastructure law is also helping with a project that is incredibly important to Tribes in my region, restoring the Klamath River Basin. The Karuk, Hoopa, and Yurok Tribes' way of life has revolved around the Klamath River since time immemorial. Four dilapidated dams on that river have decimated it. With the help from the bipartisan infrastructure law, those dams are finally coming down. They don't impact anyone's water supply, but they are going to help bring this river back to life, thanks to the work that we have done.

On top of all that, the Interior Department just announced \$150 million from the IRA to electrify homes in Tribal communities.

These are real results happening for populations that have been underserved and left to the wayside for far too long.

Now, let's switch quickly to talk about the looming crisis with water infrastructure and resiliency in the West.

Every community in our region, rural or urban, has to deal with the impacts of crippling droughts year after year. The climate crisis is driving severe conditions and historically low water allocations. We have our work cut out for us.

We need to prioritize equitable green and proven-to-work solutions that help communities adapt, like large-scale water recycling, and that is exactly what we are doing.

We included the largest investment in Western water infrastructure in decades in our work in the last Congress. To date, we have invested \$310 million from the bipartisan infrastructure law for projects that advance water recycling and reuse. In fact, in the North Bay, where I represent a reuse authority program, we just received \$6.9 million for these types of projects.

There are a lot of groundbreaking initiatives underway right now to combat drought in the West because of the work that we did. Under the IRA, we

made a \$25 million investment to fund a pilot project that just makes so much sense. In California, we have all of these aqueducts and canals that have evaporative water loss and could have solar panels covering them to reduce that loss and generate clean, renewable energy. We now have a pilot project to enable that kind of innovation, a win-win solution because of the work we did.

All of this is happening on the ground in our communities, and it is proof that investing in America pays off. We should all take note.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, investing in America, making a difference for people, that is what we are doing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER).

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the leader, for organizing this Special Order hour and especially for his steadfast leadership of the Regional Leadership Council.

What I love about STENY is that his whole focus on this is about implementation, but it is also about informing people about all the things that have been done to support the American people.

I thank Mr. HOYER and Leader HAKEEM JEFFRIES for creating and organizing our group, and I am honored to represent my colleagues of Region 9, which includes the States of New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and my home State of Delaware.

Our region, like the entire Regional Leadership Council, has been focused on the implementation of the historic legislation passed in the 117th Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden and Vice President KAMALA HARRIS when Democrats put people over politics and delivered transformational change.

Leaders like Representative JENNIFER MCCLELLAN in Virginia's Fourth Congressional District have delivered results for her constituents, funding to reconnect Richmond's historic Jackson Ward neighborhood that was split in half during the construction of the interstate highway system. This funding was delivered through the bipartisan infrastructure law and is reconnecting communities.

Chairman BOBBY SCOTT was able to secure over \$400 million for the city of Norfolk in Virginia's Third Congressional District to help create more climate-resilient infrastructure in the face of increased flooding.

Representatives KWEISI MFUME, JOHN SARBANES, and DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER also celebrated the launch of a new workforce hub in Baltimore that came as a direct result of the Chips and Science Act. The hub will help train workers to step into good-paying jobs and build the region's skilled workforce all while catalyzing investments in clean energy.

□ 1845

These stories are just some of the stories all around Region 9, including in Delaware. After decades of effort, with families waiting and struggling when nobody believed them, our veterans in this country started a movement for better healthcare. We, under Democratic leadership, not only believed them but fought for them and were able to turn that into action with the passage of the PACT Act.

Before you here is the result of a resource fair that we did in Delaware. My office did a constituent resource fair where we had hundreds of Delawareans come out to learn about resources from dozens of Federal, State, and nonprofit agencies. On the spot, 30 veterans were able to sign up and be screened for the PACT Act. Those were benefits that now those families will be able to have.

I am going to tell a story that is personal and goes back over 20 years of a small town in Delaware called Ellendale, a rural community reliant on well water. Residents of Ellendale had been forced to bathe, cook with, and drink dirty water. They had fought for decades to secure a local connection to clean and reliable drinking water.

Here they are holding the water in their hands.

With the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the historic investments made through the Inflation Reduction Act, small, rural towns like Ellendale will finally be able to open their taps and know that clean, drinkable water will be flowing from them, meaning that they will be healthier and able to thrive. I am so proud of the work that we have been able to do.

Lastly, I would just say this: All of our work has expanded drinking water across this country. Drinking Water State Revolving Funds have gotten \$14 billion, provided over \$500 million directly to small and disadvantaged communities and over \$500 million to remediate lead contamination. Included was a provision that I authored for the first-of-its-kind, low-income water bill assistance program.

I will end with this: We came out of a pandemic as a country. Don't forget where we came from. The 117th Congress, with President Joe Biden, passed historic legislation that will provide for the American people clean drinking water, clean air, access to the internet, cheaper healthcare, newer roads and bridges, and more jobs.

The bottom line is, we put politics to the side, and we supported the people. We didn't just do it with words. We did it with action. We delivered for Delaware, and we delivered for the American people.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for talking about how the impact of the Investing in America agenda has worked for America and Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG).

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HOYER for his leadership and for orga-

nizing this Special Order hour for the Regional Leadership Council. And I thank our Democratic leader, HAKEEM JEFFRIES, for giving me the opportunity to represent our New York region.

When Democrats held the majority in the 117th Congress, we did not waste a moment making President Biden's Investing in America agenda a reality.

I am proud to report our bold agenda is delivering unprecedented Federal investments to the State of New York. I see every day how these investments are creating well-paying jobs, improving my State's infrastructure, increasing green energy production, lowering energy costs for families, and bringing 21st century industries to our State.

In just 2 years, New York has received over \$12 billion in public infrastructure and clean energy funding and is slated to receive billions more in the coming years.

Beyond the numbers, what do these investments look like in New York? It looks like this:

Micron investing \$20 billion within this decade in semiconductor manufacturing in Clay, New York;

\$254 million to make more train and subway stations accessible to people with disabilities;

\$175 million for infrastructure improvements for our airports, including \$111 million for JFK and \$56 million for LaGuardia, but also for our dozens of smaller regional airports that so many communities rely on, like \$14 million for Long Island MacArthur;

\$18.3 million for the purchase of over 50 electric schoolbuses for our public school students;

\$664 million for providing fiber optic infrastructure to cities and towns without internet service.

These investments are transforming New York right before our eyes.

The next time you see a lane closed on the highway for construction or a neighbor installing solar panels, or an EV charging station open on your way to work, or a decrepit bridge being replaced, there is a good chance that the Investing in America agenda helped make that possible.

I will also take time today to talk about the Investing in America agenda's climate resilient infrastructure investments, the largest of its kind in American history. The impacts of climate change are here, and millions of Americans are suffering the consequences.

Storms, flooding, heat waves, and wildfires are occurring with greater intensity and frequency. It is causing unprecedented damage, tragically taking lives and even entire communities. In my own Queens district, lives were lost to stormwater flooding 2 years ago during Hurricane Ida.

However, the Investing in America agenda is making our communities safer and our infrastructure more resilient to these impacts.

We are investing \$8.7 billion to ensure roadways can withstand natural

hazards and that communities have safe evacuation routes;

\$8.2 billion across programs designed to reduce the risk of and detect and fight wildfires;

\$3.5 billion for the flood mitigation program to help flood-prone communities reduce the risk of flood damage to homes and businesses; and so much more.

These investments from Democrats and President Biden and Vice President HARRIS, in addition to the massive investments we are making in fighting the climate change crisis, will help protect communities and save lives.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for bringing to the American people's attention the consequences of the investments we have made in America and how it has impacted our families and our friends all over this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN).

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is a delight to be here with Mr. HOYER and my colleagues tonight.

Last Congress was the most productive Congress since 1964. Democrats in the House and Senate, alongside the Biden administration, invested in America and in our communities.

The scope of the three bills—the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the CHIPS and Science Act—is immense for everyone everywhere. Whether your district is red, blue, or purple, these monumental laws will reach you and help transform where you live, where you work, and where you play into something greener and safer.

With the largest investment in our planet in our lifetime, we are reimagining the fight against the climate crisis. That means building more resilient roads and stronger bridges to withstand a changing climate. It means expanding our EV infrastructure. It means manufacturing. In Region 10, which I represent, these dollars will guide us from the Rust Belt to revitalization.

We are seeing this work already. In western Pennsylvania, in Representative CHRIS DELUZZIO's district, we have invested \$3.5 million to connect Moon Township to a new economic hub that will create 1,900 construction jobs and generate \$14 million annually for the community.

In SUSAN WILD's district in the northeast, we are investing more than \$36 million to upgrade roads, highways, and bridges, like Cementon bridge, to better connect the Lehigh Valley.

In the entire southeastern region of Pennsylvania where I am from, we are investing more than \$200 million to improve roadways, I-95, 676, the Boulevard, and Route 1. Our Commonwealth is becoming better connected.

The same can be said for West Virginia: \$1.6 billion for its roads, bridges, public transit, and so much more, including I-64, connecting West Virginia's two largest cities, Charleston

and Huntington, making an hour commute safer and more efficient, making a huge difference for residents, commercial vehicles, and tourists who love West Virginia's wild and wonderful scenery.

The Federal Government is helping to fund an upgrade to I-64 that is long overdue; and because of our work, more than \$26 million has already been dedicated to upgrade I-64, U.S. 35, and more to come.

Whether it is U.S. 35 or I-75, Ohio is using this Federal funding to upgrade their roads, as well. Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR's district celebrated the reopening of DiSalle bridge, a newly built section of I-75 in Toledo with the help of more than \$12 million from the infrastructure law.

In northeast Ohio, my colleague Congresswoman EMILIA SYKES' district has seen more than \$25 million to upgrade highways, interchanges, and off-ramps.

In Congressman GREG LANDSMAN's district, we are investing \$1.6 billion into the Brent Spence bridge, ensuring safety. In a State like Ohio, upgrading roads and bridges means better connections that will grow its economy, ensure safety, and better prepare us for climate change, not just for communities in Ohio but for its neighbors, like Kentucky.

Speaking of Kentucky, it is the number one producer of cars, light trucks, and SUVs in our Nation. It is one of our Nation's leaders in electric vehicle battery parks. Look at that, a so-called red State is leading us in being green. Recently, EV battery plants in Kentucky, alongside neighboring Tennessee, received the largest Federal investment ever made to the auto industry.

Across Kentucky, like in my colleague Congressman MORGAN MCGARVEY's district, officials are committed to smartly serving the growing hybrid and electric vehicle market. It is not just where we are driving, it is what we are driving. It is not only good for our planet, but it is good for jobs. EV manufacturing will provide more than 10,000 jobs for Kentuckians.

Whether a red State or a blue State, we are all in this moment together, a moment where we can once again transform our Nation into a powerhouse of manufacturing. That is what government is about. It is not about bickering or faux impeachment inquiries or shutting the government down. No. What we are doing with this impressive list of investments is showing that government can work and must work for the people, for our planet, and for our children.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments, making it clear that we invested. We didn't just spend money, we invested to make America better and American lives better.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG).

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the Regional

Leadership Council. My colleagues and I just got back to D.C. after an extended work period in our districts. It was a busy, busy time in the south metro of Minnesota but also across the Midwest.

To me, being busy is a really good thing. Busy means things are happening, small businesses are opening roundtable discussions, ribbon cuttings, shovels in dirt, townhalls, and, yes, a whole lot of harvesting is about to be happening across the Midwest, including corn and soybeans across my congressional district.

However, this work period was busy for a very particular reason. We passed the 1-year anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act, and we were able to celebrate the benefits that this legislation has already brought home, and, in particular, to rural communities.

I am going to take a minute and put this legislation into perspective about what it has already done and what it will continue to do for Midwest communities. Let me start with the Inflation Reduction Act's historic investment in homegrown biofuels infrastructure, the largest this Nation has ever made. E-15 and biofuel production are key for our ag communities and environments. They expand markets for family farmers and support economic growth in rural communities. They are a solution that we have available today to help us address climate change.

□ 1900

Across Region 3, these credits are providing family farmers and producers with the support and resources that they need to sustain and grow their operations, enabling them to continue feeding and fueling our country.

Earlier this summer, the Department of Agriculture awarded their first awardees for the IRA's Higher Blend Fuels Infrastructure Program. Half of the awards went to States in Region 3 alone.

The signing of the Inflation Reduction Act also signaled a historic investment in our Nation's infrastructure. Infrastructure investments are a win-win for America's workers, businesses, and communities. They just make sense.

Here in Minnesota, we have received \$3.8 billion in infrastructure and clean energy investments, including Federal dollars to make our roads, our bridges, public transits, and airports safer, deploy clean water projects, and provide broadband funding to make sure our rural communities can access the high-speed internet they deserve. These are investments we are building on right here in Region 3.

We have about \$1 billion heading to Wisconsin. If you know anything about Minnesota, we are very competitive with Wisconsin, but as a Region 3 representative, I am so proud to say that those dollars are going to the Midwest through the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program to provide high-speed internet to 253,000 homes

and small businesses; \$73 million heading to Michigan through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Bridge Investment Program to replace the 85-year-old Lafayette Avenue Bridge, which serves as a critical passage point in the State's economy, and the list, of course, goes on.

Each of these infrastructure projects will play a critical role in building a safer, stronger America. I personally cannot wait to see every single one of them come to life.

Mr. Speaker, I will end with a personal privilege.

I spent about 20 years working in the medtech industry, and since entering Congress, working to lower healthcare costs have been one of my highest priorities.

Given that, I thought I would just end my remarks by sharing a story of a constituent of mine, a man named Bob Miller.

Bob relies on Medicare, and for years, about a decade, he has relied on a prescription drug to treat his debilitating MS flare-ups. For over a decade, Bob has seen the price of his drug skyrocket and was ultimately forced to stop taking the drug that he relies on because even with insurance, the price of that drug was just too expensive.

Bob's story is heartbreaking but unsurprising. We all know people across America who have to make those same critical decisions each and every day. Because here in the richest country in the world, people like Bob have been forced to make the decision to forego life-sustaining medications because it is just too expensive.

When we passed the Inflation Reduction Act, we allowed Medicare the power to start negotiating drug prices across our country; good old-fashioned competition to help lower drug costs for our seniors.

I don't understand for the life of me how my colleagues cannot be in favor of good old-fashioned competition.

Many American seniors are now and will be able to live happier, healthier lives as a result of this legislation.

That, Mr. Speaker, deserves to be celebrated. I look forward to continuing to see the benefits of all of these important pieces of legislation, and I thank the gentleman from Maryland for convening us.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her contribution to showing how investing in America has made a difference in rural America and made a healthier America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. KILMER).

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, in my region, you will find the Investing in America agenda in full swing.

Since Congress delivered the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to President Biden's desk, infrastructure investments totaling nearly \$6 billion have been announced in my State of Washington alone: roads and bridges and

ports and water systems, and even some investments that haven't been leading on cable news.

Just last month in my district, we celebrated nearly \$20 million to support healthy salmon populations which are vital to our culture and to our way of life and to jobs, for hatcheries, for habitat, and for culverts.

When the founders of my State built our roads, they often did so over rivers and streams. We have culverts intended for fish passage that, simply put, don't work.

You don't hear a lot about that piece of the infrastructure law, but it is a big deal. Whether you are a sportsman or a citizen of one of the 12 Tribes that I represent, or just someone who appreciates nature, these investments matter.

To the north of my district, the Representative from Washington's Second District, RICK LARSEN, who is the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, recently hosted a bipartisan forum focusing on showcasing the benefits the Infrastructure Law is bringing to ports. As Leader HOYER has said time and again: "Let's make it in America." These investments in ports make sure that the things we make in America can get sold all over the world.

In my own district, the Port of Grays Harbor has been awarded a \$25.5 million grant for an export terminal. To be clear, that will help export American products all over the Pacific Rim.

In downtown Seattle, our colleague from Washington's Seventh District, PRAMILA JAYAPAL, organized an event at the Salmon Bay Bridge. This bridge is on track to receive \$25 million for the rehabilitation of its movable span, ensuring it can accommodate shipping boats efficiently.

Washington isn't the only State whose residents are benefiting from these investments. In Colorado, DIANA DEGETTE, our colleague from the First District of Colorado, celebrated the noteworthy replacement of the 112-year-old Alameda bridge in Denver. Spanning Interstate 25 and the South Platte River, that bridge holds the distinction of being the oldest highway bridge in the State.

Mr. Speaker, it is no exaggeration that we are seeing historic investments made possible through President Biden's agenda working with our caucus.

At its core, it is about critical infrastructure investments happening throughout our Nation every day. Why? Because infrastructure is fundamental for a thriving economy and community.

I have seen it firsthand. I worked in economic development before I got to Congress. These investments are not just about the roads under our feet, the bridges we cross, it is not just about pipelines for clean water to our homes or trains delivering us to our hometowns, it is about technology, too.

A while back, I visited a Tribe in my district on the coast of Washington. It

is as rural as people in this Chamber could possibly imagine.

We stopped at their library. I asked, is this where your students study?

They said, we don't have internet in this library.

That is just unacceptable.

And the fact is the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is going to connect people to broadband in a big way. So if you are an entrepreneur or a senior or a student in a rural classroom, you can get online so that you can connect your business or have a telehealth visit or take an online class.

We are seeing the benefits of this Investing in America agenda and the commitment to reenergizing and strengthening our communities, including rural communities that I represent. We are helping people make it in America. We are seeing that in the region that I come from on the West, and I couldn't be more excited about what is ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the leader for pulling us together and for his leadership.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington State who has made such a difference in this Congress, making sure that people understand that we have invested in America and their lives are better.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS).

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I start by thanking the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for yielding me time.

I rise today with an update for the American people: We are investing in America, and it is paying off.

Like every other Representative in this room, I just returned to D.C. after a district work period. Back in Southern California, I heard story after story about transformative changes in our communities that are going on. All thanks to bills and programs that President Joe Biden signed into law after we passed them right here in Congress.

I met with employees at Capstone Green Energy Corporation, one of the many successful clean energy companies that employ over 37,000 people in my district and are working to advance the carbon reduction goals.

With support from the Inflation Reduction Act, businesses like Capstone will grow and hire more employees to help us transition to a cleaner energy future.

I sat down with veterans to speak with them about what we are doing in Congress to go beyond thanking them for their service. We talked about benefits they can access through the PACT Act and support they can receive from 988's Veterans Crisis Line, initiatives championed by House Democrats and signed into law by President Biden.

Recently at a roundtable, local healthcare workers explained to me how lower drug prices for people on Medicare are making a big difference.

House Democrats and President Biden are committed to making

healthcare more affordable, and that includes lowering the prices of drugs that our seniors need. That is why we capped the price of insulin. Anyone who takes insulin every day to stay alive knows just how life-changing lower insulin prices are.

Before we brought prices down, the high cost of insulin forced many people with diabetes to make extremely risky decisions, like rationing insulin because they just couldn't afford to buy more.

I know how devastating diabetes can be, especially when you can't afford to manage it. My dad, Andres Cárdenas, died at the age of 67, and I can tell you from personal experience how painful it is to watch someone you love choose between providing for his family and getting lifesaving medicine.

No one in America should ever have to do that. No family should suffer through that.

That is why Congressional Democrats and the Biden administration are working so hard to lower drug prices for Americans so that no one has to watch a loved one suffer from an illness that they just cannot afford to treat.

Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, the Biden administration has successfully capped out-of-pocket insulin prices for those on Medicare at \$35 a month.

It was momentum behind these policy ideas that moved insulin manufacturers to lower costs across the board on insulin products. This will allow people to live longer, healthier lives.

We know mental health is just as important as our physical health. This summer, America celebrated 1 year since the launch of 988, the number for the new Suicide and Crisis Lifeline that anybody in America can call 24 hours a day. The 988 system is saving lives.

Back home, Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services, the lead crisis center for the Lifeline in California, released data showing that California centers answered over 280,000 calls, chats, and texts, with 98 percent of these contacts getting resolved.

Communities across America are thriving because of the investments that Congressional Democrats and President Biden has made in our futures. We are rebuilding crumbling infrastructure and designing new transportation, ensuring that all Americans have access to high-speed internet, lowering drug prices, providing mental health resources, giving our veterans the resources they need, and kick-starting job creation around the country.

I am so proud of what we have been able to accomplish, and I look forward to all that we will accomplish with President Biden. I invite our Republican colleagues to join us.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for his observations with respect to investing in America, making a healthier America, healthier families, both from a

physical health standpoint and a mental health standpoint.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HOYER very much for this great opportunity and thank him for his incredible leadership in leading this Regional Leadership Council.

A special thank you to our leader, Leader JEFFRIES, for this very significant appointment to serve on this committee with so many outstanding Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be the representative of Region 7 on the House Democrats' Regional Leadership Council representing Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

In Louisiana, the month of August is known for its hurricanes. To see what climate change looks like, I invite you to visit us. Storms, floods, sea-level rise: our lives, our homes, our cultures are literally on the line.

I was honored to have my friend Senior Advisor Mitch Landrieu back home during the district work period to talk about critical funding Democrats secured during the 117th Congress through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help combat the crisis in our climate.

We announced new climate resilience funding through two competitive grant programs, marking a pivotal moment in safeguarding our communities and building a more resilient Nation.

Democrats are dedicating more money to FEMA to empower communities nationwide to proactively reduce the vulnerability to floods, hurricanes, droughts, wildfires, extreme heat, and other climate-induced hazards. These are real.

As it was said earlier, what a shame that some would suggest it isn't real, that it is a hoax. Ask the people throughout America if they believe it is a hoax.

Louisiana received funds through both grant programs. Specifically, we had 55 projects selected totaling \$207 million statewide, and my district alone receiving \$96.5 million. These dollars reflect recognition of the growing threats posed by climate change and a commitment to addressing these issues head-on.

The benefits of these programs are happening all over Region 7 through FMA and BRIC grants.

Flood Mitigation Assistance Grants were awarded to: Alabama, \$27,500; Mississippi, \$2.4 million; North Carolina, \$7.6 million; South Carolina, \$1.2 million.

BRIC grants were awarded to: Mississippi, \$315,000; North Carolina, \$163 million; South Carolina, \$40.7 million.

These investments in Region 7 are being used for projects like: Installing standalone emergency generators to be used in power failures affecting some 30,308 folks in Mississippi; protecting

North Carolina's water supply, a Justice40 Project, and alleviating repetitive flood loss to critical lifeline utilities and emergency support services; and ensuring a South Carolina water treatment plant supply during flooding events.

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Millions of Americans bear the brunt of climate change's impact every year. Whether through drought, extreme heat, wildfires, or floods, Louisiana knows the truth better than anybody else. These projects are not just infrastructure; they are lifelines that strengthen the fabric of our community.

We know that these are real. We know that it is making a difference. Democrats have been fighting for these issues and providing not just talk but real action. The cost of war has been real, and we have seen it in every way.

The Honoring our PACT Act addresses the full scope of issues affecting toxic-exposed veterans' access to VA care and benefits while reforming VA's presumptive decisionmaking process. It will expand VA's healthcare eligibility for over 3.5 million veterans exposed to burn pits and establish a presumption of service in connection for over 23 respiratory illnesses and cancers. It would eliminate the requirement that veterans prove exposure to toxic substances, a requirement that has often prevented many from accessing the care and benefits they earned and deserve.

This comprehensive bill expands access to care and benefits to the veterans who were exposed as they selflessly served our country. It also expands benefits to their loved ones and surviving family members.

I have joined my colleagues in widely promoting the benefits of this bill and encouraging veterans to apply. One year after its passage, more than 800,000 claims and counting have already been filed.

Veterans deserve more than a hollow thank-you for their service. They deserve action. Democrats are making good on our promise to care for all veterans exposed to toxic substances.

In Region 7 alone, we have 2.6 million veterans. This includes: Louisiana, 279,000; Alabama, 359,000; Arkansas, 211,000; Mississippi, 187,000; Tennessee, 453,000; North Carolina, 703,000; Puerto Rico, 81,000; South Carolina, 393,000.

Most importantly, we thank the families of veterans who tragically lost their lives because of being exposed to toxic substances during their time of service for their sacrifices.

Tonight, we are celebrating this historic achievement of the 117th Congress. We are seeing lives changed in real time. Democrats will keep fighting to make life better for all Americans, regardless of race, background, socioeconomic status.

Again, I am proud to be the representative for Region 7 on the Regional Leadership Council. We are

working for you, and we aren't nearly done.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. FLETCHER).

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HOYER for his leadership and for his belief in and commitment to our country.

As the proud representative of Region 6, which is Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, I join my colleagues in recognizing the transformative laws that we passed in the last Congress and the efforts now to ensure that these investments in America are investments in every community, in every corner of our country.

In our region, we are already seeing the impact of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Chips and Science Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and so much more.

I was glad to work with my colleagues in the House Democratic Caucus on these bills and, of course, to vote for them and to see President Biden sign them into law because they have the purpose and the effect of ensuring that the United States remains a beacon of excellence in science and technology and engineering and innovation with the infrastructure in place to support that work, to ensure that the things that we dream up, we make right here at home.

I am so glad to report that the Invest in America agenda is mobilizing historic levels not only of Federal investments but also of private-sector investments in the United States, bringing manufacturing back to America.

Just last month, while I was home, I got to join in a ribbon cutting at a new Igloo cooler distribution facility in my region because they were producing so much—16 million coolers annually—that they needed to expand production space and create new storage and shipping space.

That is not surprising. At the end of last year, American manufacturing growth began outpacing the rest of the world.

Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in July showed that Region 6 is at the heart of that growth. In Arizona, LG Energy is quadrupling its initial planned investment to \$5.5 billion to build a new plant outside of Phoenix that will produce enough batteries to power 350,000 electric vehicles per year.

So far, companies have committed to invest more than \$58 billion in the Grand Canyon State since President Biden took office. In New Mexico, Intel is investing \$3.5 billion to expand manufacturing of advanced semiconductor technology at its Rio Rancho campus, creating an expected 700 new jobs. Companies have committed to invest more than \$6 billion in the Land of Enchantment.

In Texas, Samsung has announced plans to build a \$17 billion semiconductor fabrication plant. Just up the road, Texas Instruments is in the early stages of a \$30 billion CHIP project. So

far, six projects totaling \$61 billion in investments are expected to create 8,000 new jobs in Texas alone.

Since the Chips and Science Act was introduced, more than 50 new U.S. semiconductor projects have been announced, totaling more than \$210 billion in investments. We are just getting started.

I look forward to continuing the work with my colleagues on the Regional Leadership Council and President Biden and his administration to continue to invest in America and to ensure that these laws benefit all Americans—not blue States, not red States, but the United States. We are putting people over politics.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN).

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and for his decision to highlight the unprecedented investment being made in regions across our country.

Over the past 2 years, every single State across New England has benefited mightily from President Biden's Invest in America agenda. We have heard already from my esteemed colleagues on the Regional Leadership Council about the lifesaving healthcare savings that families are starting to feel, the good-paying manufacturing jobs we are creating, and the tremendous strides we are making to close the digital divide.

Each of those is being felt on the ground in my home State of Massachusetts and in every State in the region. Tonight, however, I would like to focus on a singular issue that has disproportionately improved the lives of almost every family in New England—President Biden's bipartisan infrastructure law.

Mr. Speaker, New England is home to some of the oldest roads and bridges in our Nation. In fact, the bridge where the "shot heard round the world" was fired in Concord, Massachusetts, in the district I have the honor to represent, is still standing to this day. Battle Road, which connected Concord to Lexington nearly 250 years ago, is memorialized for folks across the country to come and experience for themselves.

Of course, not every single bridge or road is that old, but there are thousands of these critical pieces of infrastructure across New England that are decades or even centuries old. Due to year after year divestment from Washington, State and local governments have struggled to keep up with increasing repair costs for a long time.

Mr. Speaker, this was a problem I saw play out firsthand as a kid growing up in Lowell. The State came in and built what was supposed to be a temporary bridge, the Rourke Bridge, over the Merrimack River. The plan was to come back and replace the bridge in a few years, but that never happened. The temporary Rourke Bridge is still standing, albeit hardly, 40 years later.

Until we took up and passed the bipartisan infrastructure law, there was

no telling if and when it was ever going to be replaced, but this landmark legislation is delivering \$150 million to finally get this project done. That is the kind of impact this once-in-a-generation investment is having in communities across New England.

In Woodstock, New Hampshire, the Green Bridge on Route 175 was one of the first projects in the country to receive funding from the infrastructure law.

In New London, Connecticut, over \$320 million in Federal funding is supporting the rehab of the Gold Star Memorial Bridge on I-95, a critical corridor that supports more than 42,000 vehicles each day.

Mr. Speaker, by the time the bipartisan infrastructure law has allocated its last dollar in 2027, it will have improved the lives of every single American. It will have made thousands of roads and bridges safer for parents to get their children to school on time. It will shorten commutes, giving workers back precious time from each evening to spend with their loved ones. It will have reduced car maintenance costs caused by crater-sized potholes that are the bane of every family's existence.

This is the kind of progress Presidents of both parties have promised for decades but failed to deliver. However, President Biden and the Democrats in Congress got it done. Bridges large and small, from the iconic Golden Gate to the Basiliere Bridge in Haverhill, Massachusetts, are finally going to be completed because of it.

I am proud of the work we did with President Biden to pass his Invest in America agenda, and I look forward to work ahead as a member of the Regional Leadership Council under Chairman HOYER's tremendous leadership to make sure the bipartisan infrastructure law is successfully implemented.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY), a member of the Regional Leadership Council.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman HOYER for his leadership, and I am a very proud member of the Regional Leadership Council, Region 4.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge one of the largest public health threats facing our Nation. Our Nation's children are returning to school and all they should be worried about is acing their next test. Instead, too many children live in fear of the constant threat of gun violence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

#### TRUTH WITH MATH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, as a courtesy and also the fact that the gen-

tleman did a kindness to me a while back—so what goes around comes around—I am going to give Mr. HOYER a couple more minutes to finish his speech.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for that, and I am glad a good deed is returned. I will return it again.

Would the gentleman yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) so she may finish her comments?

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) so that she may complete her comments.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Gun violence does not need to occur inside a school to harm our children. The stress from living in a community impacted by gun violence has been proven to lower test scores and increase mental health conditions like anxiety and PTSD.

Just last week, I was in a place called Danville in the central Illinois part of my district with 25 young people. The stories I heard were devastating. One young man talked about how two brothers and his father were killed because of gun violence.

Just last week alone, there were 42 shootings in Chicago—a 15-year-old was shot in a park, a 14-year-old was shot while he was riding in a car, and an 8-year-old—think about that, 8 years old—was shot just walking on a sidewalk.

I am so happy that Congress has begun to make progress to combat this public health crisis. We got the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act done, the first time in 30 years that Congress took meaningful action on gun violence.

On August 31, Attorney General Merrick Garland directed the ATF to comply with the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act's licensing requirements for gun sellers. We have made progress, but there is so much more to do.

Democrats are prepared to take these next steps. The American people, young people, are asking us to deliver. We put people over politics when we passed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. We can and must do more. We cannot afford to wait.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for his courtesy.

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Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, Mr. HOYER has been kind to me. There was a while back when we were beating each other up on the floor, I think he gave me more time to finish. Sometimes you remember those things.

Mr. Speaker, I am well caffeinated, and I am angry, so let's actually have some fun on the truth with math. I am terrified what is going on around here because we are making crap up. So let's actually do math.