

government—specifically, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir for their role in the rise of settler violence, settlement expansion, and general destabilization of the West Bank.

I represent one of the largest Palestinian populations in the United States. I have had constituents who have lost loved ones, have had family land seized, and even, as American citizens, have been detained in Israeli prisons simply for the crime of visiting their families.

I am also a staunch supporter of Israel and categorically support their right to defend themselves and recover hostages taken during the horrific acts of October 7.

Let us be very clear: There is no conflict between supporting the Nation of Israel and the dignity of the Palestinian people so long as you are committed to a permanent and durable regional peace in this lifetime. That peace will never be realized until people on both sides of the green line have equal property rights, security, and opportunity.

That is not possible as long as Israeli hostages are being detained or as rockets continue to fly into Israel from Hezbollah, Hamas, and Iran, but it is also not possible as long as Palestinians on the West Bank are having their property confiscated, livestock killed, and their communities bulldozed.

Violent settlers in the West Bank have carried out almost 1,300 known attacks against Palestinians since October 7. At least 25 new outposts have been established. Seventy illegal outposts were recognized and are eligible for funding by the Israeli Government. All of these actions are illegal under international law.

Earlier this year, President Biden issued Executive Order No. 14115 that authorized the imposition of sanctions on anyone determined “to be responsible for or complicit in, or to have directly or indirectly engaged or attempted to engage in . . . actions . . . that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the West Bank.”

To date, President Biden has used this order to sanction Palestinian militant groups, organizations involved in violent extremist activity, instigators from the settler movement, and the outposts from which violent attacks are launched.

Just as it is appropriate for Israel to target Hamas leadership in their response to October 7, it is necessary for the United States to target financial sanctions on the leaders of the extremist settler movement.

This brings us to Ministers Smotrich and Ben-Gvir. They have distributed rifles to extremists. They have allowed those extremists to attack humanitarian aid convoys. They have prevented the Palestinian Authority from accessing the international banking network. These ministers’ stated goal is the annexation of the West Bank,

and they have acted in ways that violate both the spirit and letter of the President’s executive order.

Frederick Douglass famously said that “the best friend of a nation is he who most faithfully rebukes her for her sins—and he her worst enemy who, under the specious . . . garb of patriotism, seeks to excuse, palliate, and defend” those sins.

It is out of love for the Palestinian people and a deep, abiding friendship with Israel that we must now rebuke Ministers Smotrich and Ben-Gvir for their sins.

Mr. Speaker, I urge President Biden to heed the calls of over 80 Members of Congress and use his executive order to issue these sanctions and to help put a stop to settler violence in the West Bank.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Apprenticeship Week.

Each year, industry, labor, workforce, education, and government leaders come together to showcase the successes of apprenticeship programs.

This week is a time to highlight apprenticeship programs, which offer earn-and-learn opportunities that are proven to build careers. It is a time to celebrate the power of learning through hands-on experience and the vital role that apprenticeships play in strengthening our Nation’s workforce and economy.

Apprenticeships are more than just a job training program. They represent opportunity. They are pathways that open doors for individuals from all walks of life, allowing them to earn while they learn and develop the skills they need to thrive in their chosen careers.

Whether it is in manufacturing, healthcare, technology, or the skilled trades, apprenticeships bridge the gap between education and employment in ways that benefit workers, employers, and communities alike.

For individuals, apprenticeships provide a foundation for success. They are not just about acquiring technical skills. They are about gaining confidence, building networks, and setting a course for long-term career growth.

In today’s rapidly changing economy, having a trade or skill you can rely on is invaluable. For many, the apprenticeship model, where learning happens in a real-world environment, is far more impactful than sitting in a traditional classroom.

For employers, apprenticeships are a game changer. They offer a direct pipeline to a highly skilled workforce tailored specifically to the needs of their industry.

By investing in apprentices, companies aren’t just filling jobs. They are

building their future. They are fostering loyalty, reducing turnover, and ensuring their teams are equipped to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

As co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus and a senior member on the House Education and the Workforce Committee, I will continue to support policies that promote work-based learning and equip Americans of all ages with the skills necessary to climb the next rung on the ladder of opportunity.

As we celebrate National Apprenticeship Week, let’s also look ahead. Our challenge is to expand access to these programs and ensure that they are as inclusive and diverse as the workforce that we envision for our Nation’s future.

We must break down barriers, from lack of awareness to outdated perceptions, and create opportunities for everyone, from young people exploring their first career options to midcareer workers seeking to re-skill and adapt.

Mr. Speaker, often students graduate high school unaware of their educational options and potential career paths. By highlighting skills-based education and recognizing apprenticeship programs, we are putting our students in a position of success.

These programs put our workforce back in the driver’s seat of careers. By participating in apprenticeship programs and other skills-based training, our workforce develops knowledge and skills for long-term, family-sustaining jobs.

□ 1215

CO₂’s ROLE IN CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I want to point out the continued deception that keeps being fostered by government and by those who would tax us, by those environmental groups that want to corral us into their idea of where we should live and what their utopia is.

That keeps coming back to the carbon dioxide in our atmosphere that some believe actually is the greatest existential threat to the U.S. and to mankind. I have to continue to point out to folks that hear this and are scared into it, that the government does a good job and the media does a good job of scaring people into things like a good percentage of the COVID situation and then climate.

So what are we talking about here?

Here is my handy chart. When I ask people, what percent of the atmosphere is CO₂—you hear all this hype—I even ask it in committee hearings where we have expert panelists coming in to tell us about how they think we should shift our vehicles, even trucks and trains, to all electric, things like that—experts. They already know the number.

It makes me wonder: What is the baseline we are working from?

What are the goals going to be?

If you don't even know what the baseline is, how the heck do you set a goal?

Here in yellow—again, when I ask people, they think, wow, it must be somewhere between 20, 50, 70 percent, right? No. No.

It is here on the chart. We show that the yellow portion is nitrogen in the atmosphere, 78 percent. That is nitrogen gas.

Number two, oxygen, is 21 percent. Well, that is 99 percent right there.

Okay. Third place is argon gas, right there in that skinny sliver of green; that is 0.93 percent. Then you finally come in amongst trace gases here and here, the remaining portion of 0.07 percent. CO₂ is contained in that. The number is 0.04 percent of the atmosphere is CO₂.

It is not this existential threat as pronounced by those who want to regulate you and control you; control where you go, how you drive, even so far as to what you eat.

They are banning cattle, banning beef. There are actually less beef and dairy cattle in North America than there were buffalo before the European intervention happened 300 or 400 years ago. There are a lot of misnomers that are put out, just flat out lies and deceit about this in order for the government to control things.

So given the small fraction, they are trying to attribute major climate shifts to CO₂ which is really disproportionate and deceptive. Beyond current levels, additional CO₂ has a negligible impact on global temperatures.

Water vapor is the primary so-called greenhouse gas accounting for most of whatever greenhouse effect we do have. Its immediate and powerful feedback effects overshadow CO₂'s influence on whatever level of warming we may be having.

Earth's history shows significantly higher CO₂ levels back then, even going as far back as the Jurassic period without catastrophic warming. Ecosystems flourished with abundant plant and animal life. Climate models often over-emphasize CO₂'s role while ignoring key natural drivers like solar activity, ocean currents, and other factors.

The medieval warm period occurred without significant human CO₂ emissions from the Industrial Age that everybody seems to criticize from that side of the aisle, which highlights a natural variability in our climate.

CO₂ is vital for photosynthesis, which is the process of plants growing and producing, the process through which plants convert sunlight into energy, releasing oxygen as a byproduct. This process also occurs when growing the food that we consume. Without CO₂, without carbon—we are all carbon-based—without it, life on Earth would actually not exist.

Let's say we are really too good at reducing the number, that level of car-

bon dioxide from 0.04 percent to somewhere around 0.02 percent, then plant life starts dying off. Now, I don't think we could be that good at reducing CO₂ and getting it down to that level and maybe the sanity would prevail, we would stop producing it at that point, but that is what we are talking about.

Plant growth is actually boosted by CO₂. You have seen hothouses, greenhouses, et cetera. They introduce extra CO₂ and will speed plant growth so we can get more crops or better, stronger plants.

Satellite imagery shows that the increased CO₂ has contributed to a greening of the planet, with vegetation cover expanding in many regions.

We all like green, right? Forests and grasslands, which rely on CO₂, play a crucial role in supporting biodiversity and absorbing other environmental pollutants that may occur.

Elevated CO₂ levels in controlled environments, such as greenhouses, as I mentioned, are intentionally increased in those greenhouses to enhance our productivity. Yet, it seems CARB in California and the EPA want to take away our vehicles, take away our lawnmowers, take away our leaf blowers, and make us all fit in some narrative.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARL) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Creator God, to whom the Earth belongs and everything in it, in Your time, You founded it on the seas and established it on the waters, and so we ask that You take this day and our lives into Your keeping.

Direct our energies to seek Your will. Instruct our minds to understand Your precepts. Sustain our will and motivation that we would prove faithful in our service to You.

Make this day a day of obedience to You and not to our own desires. May it be a day of spiritual joy as we yield to Your design for peace. Make this day's work contribute to the work of Your kingdom, that at the day's end, You would be glorified.

In Your sovereign name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNIZING LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lions Clubs International for its historic year of service.

Lions Clubs International is the largest service club organization in the world. More than 1.4 million members and over 48,000 clubs serve in 200 countries and geographic areas worldwide.

Since 1917, Lions have strengthened local communities through hands-on service and humanitarian projects. They focus on supporting vision, the environment, childhood cancer, hunger, diabetes, and other pressing humanitarian needs to help address some of humanity's biggest challenges.

From July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, Lions helped more than 420 million people worldwide. Over the past year, Lions engaged in more than 1.6 million service projects, a 4 percent increase over the year prior; inducted nearly 150,000 new members, an 8 percent increase from the previous year; and awarded more than 1,500 grants totaling \$46.4 million, helping millions of people in need globally.

As co-chair of the Congressional Service Organization Caucus, I applaud Lions Clubs International's commitment to making our communities better and brighter.

DISASTER RELIEF

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart as we have witnessed the devastating impact of Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

These storms have wreaked havoc with homes lost, businesses destroyed,