

up for children everywhere. She also authored the Oleksander Ivanov Act of 2023, H.R. 5800, so that the children of Ukraine could be safe and protected and have access to freedom.

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary, we cannot forget the work that is still undone. There should be no child that goes to bed hungry. Unfortunately, hunger is responsible for the death of 3.1 million children a year.

I ask that we join in commemorating this anniversary and rededicate our drive to support all children as well as our own.

HELPING VETERANS REGARDLESS OF ZIP CODE

(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, during a Veterans Service Officer Roundtable held in my district earlier this year, a constituent expressed concern about the difficulty he and his fellow veterans had traveling to access healthcare. In response, we took action and introduced the Rural Veterans Transportation to Care Act, which expands the Department of Veterans Affairs' Highly Rural Transportation Grants program and helps veterans in remote areas travel to the VA or VA-authorized healthcare facilities for their appointments.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Congress to pass this essential legislation. We must help our veterans, regardless of their ZIP Code or crossroads.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS PREPARE FOR 119TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KEAN of New Jersey). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, 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 topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, it is great to be back in Washington, D.C., this week as the House Republicans set the stage for the 119th Congress with a unified front to tackle the most pressing issues that the American people face.

Americans from coast to coast are grappling with the consequences of the Biden-Harris administration, including high energy costs, crippling inflation, rising crime, burdensome regulations, and government overreach in schools and other institutions.

House Republicans are working together as a conference to craft legislation that tackles inflation, implements pro-growth tax policies, cuts back on regulatory red tape, promotes family values, supports small businesses, secures our borders, and strengthens our position on the world stage.

During this lameduck period, we are hard at work advancing other key important pieces of legislation, specific pieces. This week, we put on the floor Congresswoman CLAUDIA TENNEY's Stop Terror Financing and Tax Penalty Act, which protects American citizens who are wrongfully detained or held captive abroad from late penalties from the IRS and revokes the tax-exempt status of nonprofits that provide financial or material support to terrorist groups like Hamas.

We have to listen to the American people when it comes to energy independence, a topic that we have spent the last 4 years trying to debate.

□ 1745

I think the people have spoken, and House Republicans are listening. They are advocating for policies that cut red tape and unleash our Nation's energy potential.

That is why we passed, earlier this week, Congressman RUSS FULCHER's, who was just in the Chamber, Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act, the CLEAN Act, which requires the Interior Department to increase the frequency of geothermal lease sales from every 2 years to every year, hold a replacement sale if necessary, and create decision deadlines for geothermal drilling permit applications, therefore enhancing our geothermal energy output and domestic energy supply.

If you say that you want clean energy, if you say that you want other alternatives but continue to withhold the permitting and hold hostage the permitting process, then you truly do not want to create a solution.

We are done with this. Permitting reform is something that has to take place in our Nation. We have done a little bit of it in a bipartisan way, but if we can't look at something like this and say that this, to reduce the burden on permitting, is the most common-sense thing for geothermal potential, then nobody is being actually serious back here.

Let's get these things done.

I am grateful for my colleagues who are going to join us this evening to discuss this and many other measures that are pertinent to their districts. I am grateful for their commitment to delivering for the American people as we continue to look forward to next Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the Commonwealth of Virginia (Mr. CLINE).

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah for holding this Special Order this evening.

This week, House Republicans are taking a decisive stand to support our

fellow Americans who are wrongfully held hostage abroad.

The Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act will change the way the IRS will treat American citizens who are held hostage or wrongfully detained abroad. With over 40 Americans currently detained, it is simply unacceptable for them to return home only to face tax penalties imposed by their own government.

Our current tax code provides just 1 year of relief before late fees begin to accumulate, and this is unacceptable.

The IRS imposing late fees and penalties on hostages for missing tax returns highlights the agency's failure to help the American people. We must ensure these Americans can focus on reuniting with their families and not be burdened by financial penalties and bureaucratic red tape.

Additionally, a crucial part of this legislation is that it sends a powerful message to those who finance terrorism that we will revoke the tax-exempt status of U.S. nonprofits that support groups like Hamas.

American taxpayers should never be forced to subsidize those who seek to undermine our safety and security. We must stand united with these Americans and make it clear: Our government will not tolerate any support for terrorism. We will continue to fight for justice, and we will continue to fight to protect our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the gentleman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for sponsoring this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important bill.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks. We appreciate his followthrough in highlighting this key, important legislation.

There are, I think, 46 Americans who are wrongfully detained. They should not be going through these types of tax penalties. This is something that makes absolute sense.

I appreciate my next colleague who will address the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank our vice chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, for the last several weeks, I listened to countless concerns from literally hundreds of Tennesseans whom I have the honor to represent here in Congress. I heard from families still struggling to make ends meet because of rampant inflation. They are paying more for housing, groceries, energy, and just about everything else you can think of because of Bidenomics.

I listened to constituents who are worried about crime, fentanyl, and, yes, the overrun U.S.-Mexico border.

Small business owners expressed the heavy burden of government regulations. Parents told me the many ways government overreach in schools keeps them up at night.

It is not hyperbole to say that the results of this election were an answered

prayer for those Tennesseans and millions more across this country.

Throughout the 118th Congress, House Republicans fulfilled our Commitment to America. We passed bills to secure our borders, lower energy costs, curb Federal regulations, and restore fiscal sanity to our government, but unlike what we have seen for the last 2 years, the bills we pass in the 119th Congress will no longer be dead on arrival in the do-nothing Senate.

The next Congress will also have a Commander in Chief who values family, common sense, and strength on the world stage. We will have a partner in the White House who is willing to roll back red tape rather than layer on more. We will have a President willing to sign legislation into law that will keep American workers and their families working, safe, and prosperous.

But we are not waiting for January to deliver results, Mr. Speaker. This week, House Republicans will bring two commonsense pieces of legislation to the floor.

The first prohibits the IRS from charging penalties and late fees to Americans who happen to be late on filing their taxes due to being wrongfully detained abroad. American families of hostages held by Hamas terrorists shouldn't incur tax penalties. I proudly voted for this bill when it came up under suspension and plan to do so again.

The second bill aims to support our national security and energy independence by streamlining the permitting process for geothermal energy development. It requires the Interior Department to increase the frequency of geothermal lease sales to every year rather than every 2 years. It also calls on the Department to hold a replacement sale, if needed, and creates deadlines for geothermal permit applicants.

Geothermal energy is a clean, dependable, renewable energy source that supports my commitment to an all-of-the-above energy approach needed for the 21st century.

After month after month of record-breaking price increases and illegal border crossings, the American people are anxious to see their country made great again.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his remarks. I always appreciate his involvement.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for our next address.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, my district is suffering, our Nation is suffering, and Congress has the duty to alleviate it.

This year, record-breaking storms have wreaked havoc on homes, businesses, families, farms, and more.

Right now, the West Coast is battling a catastrophic bomb cyclone, dumping as much as 1 foot of rain on impacted communities. On the East Coast, this year's hurricane season was especially

destructive. Hurricanes Debby, Helene, Milton, and Beryl, just to name a few, brought destruction to the Southeast, the likes of which I have never seen in my more than 60 years living in the great State of Georgia.

We aren't talking about temporary inconveniences. Communities, particularly ag communities, are experiencing generational damage.

Our fellow Americans have lost loved ones and property at an alarming rate. Among those casualties is Blackshear Assistant Fire Chief Leon Davis from Pierce County, who was killed during Hurricane Helene while selflessly clearing debris in an attempt to keep his community members safe.

My thoughts and prayers continue to be with the Davis family as they mourn this immense loss.

There is nothing we can do to bring our loved ones back, but we can make life better for those who still are with us.

We need disaster relief, and we need it yesterday. The number one responsibility of the Federal Government is to protect our citizens from foreign and domestic threats. It brings me no joy to say this, but we are failing in that mission.

FEMA and SBA's disaster relief coffers are as empty as the hope many people feel about getting the aid they so desperately need, but we have a window of opportunity to change that. I am calling on my colleagues to work together to seize this opportunity.

The White House has submitted a roughly \$100 billion request to help our Nation recover from natural disasters. This request is a step in the right direction.

Georgia alone, according to Governor Brian Kemp, needs \$12.2 billion just for Hurricane Helene damage recovery. That is just one State and just one storm.

I don't say this often, not often at all, but I echo President Biden's call to quickly pass a supplemental funding package with no delay.

We must work together in a bipartisan and bicameral manner to get the American people the help they deserve. Disaster relief is not a red issue, and it is not a blue issue. It is a red, white, and blue issue.

We have a responsibility to help our communities recover, and there is no excuse for us to delay any further.

We also must ensure that our timber farmers are able to deduct the value of their lost crop, which is why I am pushing for my bill, the Disaster Reforestation Act, to be included in this package.

I am ready to work with my Republican and Democratic colleagues to get this disaster supplemental across the finish line. Anything less than this, Mr. Speaker, will be a dereliction of our duty. Our people need help, and they need it now.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his remarks. Utah has potential for

some disasters, but nothing like the devastation they have seen, and our heart goes out to them.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would echo, too, following BUDDY CARTER, that we did an outing over the weekend down along the Georgia and Florida area. As a Californian, we have our own disasters typically, but it is very devastating.

We talked to a lot of farmers, ranchers, and timber people there. Immediate help is needed for them. They will be gone if something isn't done. They will be out of business, and the next generations won't have that option. We will miss that giant hole in the economy in that area and that food supply chain, as well as the lumber.

Something must be done immediately in whatever package that comes out of here.

I did want to speak about energy and energy policy a little bit. We have suffered as a nation these last 3½ years because we haven't really had a coherent energy policy.

A lot of things go hand in hand with a strong economy, with energy and some of the byproducts it takes to put into it. We have to have the wherewithal with our natural resources to produce energy, the inputs that are required, and the equipment.

That means mining, and that means hydroelectric power. We have to be able to build water storage to make electricity.

People right now are suffering from inflation, and it keeps ramping up. Two of the main drivers we have seen from this streak of inflation the last 3-plus years have been driven by the cost of energy and profligate spending by this government above and beyond what we should have been doing.

I know we had to go through that COVID period, and it was tough, but the spending within that and also on top of that was the so-called infrastructure bill, the Inflation Reduction Act, they call it, and other angles. It is just pathetic. It hasn't been focused.

The true infrastructure we need is water storage. The true infrastructure we need is enhancing our transportation, whether it is our ports, highways, or trains, what have you. Instead, we get more mandates.

As a Californian, the mandates come down the pike from CARB, as it is known, the California Air Resources Board, and it is emulated by about six other States. Even EPA looks at how California does it, trying to foist that on the whole country to force requirements for, for example, locomotives that don't even exist yet. It is the equivalent of what would be called tier 5, as we haven't really perfected the tier 4 locomotive yet as far as cleanliness.

The diesel engines we produce these days are so much cleaner than anything just 20 years ago or much longer

than that. If we allowed trucks and trains to be replaced by attrition over time with the clean technology, we would see dramatic gains.

If we achieved 99 percent in cleanliness from, say, 1950 or 1960 to now, that last 1 percent is the one that is acutely hard to achieve and hyper-expensive to get that last 1 percent, but the regulators are hell-bent all the time on trying to get that last 1 percent.

Why can't we move toward having everything hit that first level at 99, whether it is clean engines or what have you, on that, and achieve that goal and see where we are?

That is because the more we export our industry and the more we export agriculture to other countries, they do it much, much dirtier, if you want to put it that way, than us. Coal, for example, used to be a cornerstone of our energy grid in this country. It is dissipating, yet China builds more coal power plants every month, and they don't really care about environmental stuff like we do.

□ 1800

We are looking for reasonable environmental regulations, and sometimes it goes too far. They don't care.

Remember when they had the Olympics? They shut down the country for about 2 or 3 weeks beforehand so the air would clean up enough and it would look good on TV and the athletes wouldn't choke to death, but then right back to business as usual afterwards.

A coherent energy policy means, yes, we need to be extracting oil and gas from the lands we have, whether private or Federal, and it can be done ecologically soundly. We don't have to be scared to death.

The ANWR, the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, is the size of South Carolina. It is massive. The area where they want to do the extraction is a tiny postage-stamp size compared to that. Yet, we are going to ruin the whole thing, so it is disingenuous.

Energy policy will help bring things back in line costwise. Coupled with restraint on government spending, that is how we can solve a whole bunch of the inflation problems for regular Americans who are struggling.

Look to a better energy policy, whether it is oil and gas, whether it is not tearing out our hydroelectric power—there are aspirations to tear out dams all the time these days—or building more nuclear power plants. Small modular reactors are really going to be the way to go.

Guess what? With hydro plants, no CO₂; with nuclear plants, no CO₂. If you are worried about CO₂, those are good ways to not have it.

Instead, for example, in the San Joaquin Valley in California, where they are taking away so much of the water and the land values are deteriorating rapidly because they are covered up with what they are calling solar farms. There are acres and acres and acres of these plastic panels out there that will

have maybe a 20-year or 25-year life, at best. Maybe you should call it a half-life like nuclear. Then they all have to be disposed of.

Agriculture has been displaced. The best breadbasket in this country has been displaced by having a noncoherent energy policy, but whatever feels good.

Mr. Speaker, if we want to solve these problems for American consumers, middle-income and lower-income American families, these are what we need to attack.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding the time.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, as always, I appreciate the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) and his thoughtful, but yet frustratingly common voice on energy policy.

I thank my colleagues for being here tonight and taking the time to speak on some of these priorities the House Republicans are focused on as we look forward to the 119th Congress, Mr. Speaker.

As I mentioned earlier, House Republicans are pushing legislation to reform the United States tax code, to protect American hostages abroad, and support our domestic energy industry.

Currently, there are approximately 46 Americans wrongfully detained or held hostage abroad, and our tax code does not provide any relief beyond 1 year for detainees.

The Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act works to support Americans by preventing the IRS from charging late fees and penalties to U.S. citizens wrongfully detained abroad. This bill also revokes the tax-exempt status of U.S. nonprofit organizations that provide financial or material support to terrorist groups like Hamas.

This is the most commonsense legislation that we are going to see in the lameduck period, and I am hopeful to see this through the legislative process entirely as it passes the House.

Americans should not be penalized for being held hostage by adversaries abroad, and this bill is a necessary step toward ensuring detainees and hostages are able to focus on safely returning home and reuniting with their families.

This week, House Republicans successfully passed the Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act to require the Department of the Interior to increase the frequency of geothermal leases, the lease sales, from every 2 years to every year. It also includes holding a replacement sale, if necessary, and creates decision deadlines for geothermal drilling permit applications.

This bill emphasizes a robust energy policy that unleashes our Nation's energy potential, reduces reliance on foreign energy sources, and cuts back against onerous red tape that slows down energy production.

House Republicans know that we have a lot of work to do, and we are committed to using our constituents'

voices as our guide as we reverse the Biden-Harris administration's failed policies and protect American citizens, restore American energy independence, and lower energy costs for American workers and their families.

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

RESTORE THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, the American people are sick and tired of powerful corporations ripping us off, junk fees, small businesses struggling, union busting, price gouging, bad trade deals, all of it.

I am convening this Special Order hour today because I am committed to fighting back. I am here because we need to revive and restore and strengthen the American Dream for all who are willing to work for it. I know my constituents are. I know the American people want more from this body.

In the depths of the Great Depression, Franklin Roosevelt confronted these same forces in a different time head-on, saying: "These economic royalists complain that we seek to overthrow the institutions of America. What they really complain of is that we seek to take away their power."

Absolutely. There is no freedom if families are struggling to meet basic needs. There is no liberty if we are ruled by oligarchs. No one is going to say that profits don't matter; they do.

Something else has to matter more: Our safety has to matter. Our jobs have to matter. Our communities have to matter. This country has to matter.

For those things to matter, we have to break this corporate stranglehold on our economy and our country. The American economy works just great if you are a billionaire or if you are a giant corporation, but too often our system fails hardworking people.

We need an economy and a government that rewards hard work, not just extreme wealth.

Where I come from and where I grew up, that is something that we value. I represent the good people of the 17th District of Pennsylvania, western Pennsylvania. We believe in hard work. We believe in patriotism. We believe in sacrifice.

We are the folks who made the steel that built this country. We have answered the call in every war. We have