

At a time when the U.S. is trying to electrify everything—automobiles, stoves, leaf blowers, and everything else—they are taking out clean, hydroelectric power.

The chromium levels in this material, the pollutants in there, is unbelievable. There is a lot more to this story. Keep watching to see what is going on with this Klamath River system and the disaster that it is becoming.

RECOGNIZING LAWRENCE ALLEN SWOOPE

(Mrs. SYKES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise today to recognize Lawrence Allen Swoope II as the Champion of the Week for Ohio's 13th Congressional District.

Swoope, as he is widely known, is a Christian hip-hop and gospel artist who was born and raised in Akron, Ohio, and he is a shining example as to why our community is the birthplace of champions.

Swoope released his first extended play record, or EP, in 2010 called "Applause Volume 1" and has since released multiple studio albums that have made an impact on the Christian and gospel music charts, including his 2014 album "Sinema," which peaked at number 1 on the U.S. Gospel Chart and was number 55 on the U.S. Billboard 200.

Last week, Swoope won the 2024 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Christian Music Performance/Song as a producer on the song "Your Power."

The son of Lawrence Allen Swoope I and the late Pastor Diana Lynn Swoope of Arlington Church of God in Akron, Swoope has continued the mission of the church and dedicated his life's work to spreading the Lord's message and bringing people together through his music and faith.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Swoope for this incredible accomplishment. Ohio's 13th Congressional District is proud of him, and we all wish him many more years of success in his endeavors.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this is Black History Month. This is a moment to recount the journey of African Americans in America.

I rise today to speak about H.R. 40, the Commission to Study Slavery and Develop Reparation Proposals introduced by John Conyers almost 40 years ago. I was honored and privileged on his retirement for him giving me the honor of carrying this legislation.

For many in this body, one would wonder why we need to retrace that history of slavery. It is an amazing and

powerful history. It is an amazing history of unselfishness, but at the same time the dividing of families, the blocking of learning to read, and the violence of the whole condition of slavery.

Again, it is a time in America's history that we must review and understand.

As a Member of the United States Congress, I have introduced this legislation and look forward to its passage by executive order. At the same time, I want my colleagues to come join me, to walk the Emancipation Trail, which I have introduced and it has passed in this House. That is the trail that slaves took in 1865 after General Granger came and indicated that slaves west of the Mississippi were free.

That trail has not yet been finalized, but, Mr. Speaker, this will be a major part of America's history. Join me in supporting the Emancipation Trail.

STORM DAMAGE

(Ms. PINGREE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, since December 18, 2023, my home State of Maine has endured a barrage of devastating storms causing severe flooding, power outages, and millions of dollars in damages.

The sheer destruction that these storms have done to our working waterfronts is astonishing.

More frequent, intense storms, floods, and rising sea levels mean our communities will continue to be faced with the kind of devastation we have seen in Maine over the past few weeks.

At the same time, our working waterfronts are rapidly disappearing nationwide due to heavy development pressure.

When fishermen must grapple with the loss of wharves, processing facilities, and other essential infrastructure, in addition to navigating the challenge of climate change, it threatens the very survival of our communities.

My and Congressman WITTMAN's bipartisan Keep America's Waterfronts Working Act will help reverse a worrying trend of shrinking waterfronts while simultaneously protecting jobs and preserving the character of our coastal communities.

Congress must act to protect our working waterfronts and the more than 30,000 Mainers and 2.3 million Americans who rely on marine-related industries for their livelihoods. This is bigger than any of us.

CELEBRATING CREDIT UNIONS

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate America's credit unions during National Credit Union Education Month.

Credit unions play a crucial role in improving the financial well-being of households and local businesses across America, offering working people affordable financial services for acquiring a home, investing in their child's education, and providing accessible lending options that help build generational wealth.

Credit unions are legally owned by the people who use their services, meaning that when you deposit money into a credit union, you are not just a customer, you are a part owner. This makes credit unions all the more responsive and accountable to the communities they serve.

This not-for-profit cooperative structure also ensures that earnings are paid back to members in the form of higher savings rates and lower loan rates, not to private investors.

Rhode Island boasts 18 credit unions that serve 480,000 Rhode Island residents—nearly half of our State's population. During my time as State treasurer, I worked with our credit unions in our State to help promote financial empowerment and stability for all Rhode Islanders. I look forward to continuing to support this credit union model in Congress.

GAMBLING ADDICTION

(Ms. SALINAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a growing public health problem in this country. It is estimated that nearly 7 million Americans are suffering from a gambling addiction, and while it may not be as visible, it can be just as harmful as any other addiction.

About 90 percent of gambling addicts reported having one or more mental health disorders, as well as increased dependence on alcohol and other substances.

Problem gambling can also cause deep financial and emotional harm to families when the gambler takes on debt to pay for their addiction or manipulates loved ones to get what they want.

Clearly, this is a serious problem that must be addressed. It is why I have introduced the Gambling Addiction, Recovery, Investment, and Treatment, or GRIT Act last week. This legislation would utilize current revenues to devote funding toward gambling addiction, research, and treatment.

My bill would give State health agencies and nonprofits the resources they need to study this kind of addiction and get more people into recovery.

This is a commonsense solution that would improve mental health and well-being for countless families across America. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the GRIT Act.

□ 1800

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DR. DOLLY PATEL SKEETE

(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, with a heavy heart, I rise to honor the memory of Dr. Dolly Patel Skeete, who left this world way too early, on January 29, 2024, at the age of 49.

Dolly's journey, from an injured leg at 11 to becoming an all-American runner at the United States Air Force Academy in the class of 1996, truly embodies the essence of the American Dream.

As an orthopedic surgeon, wife, and mother of three, Dolly shattered stereotypes, radiating positivity. From running cross-country to deploying to Afghanistan, she illuminated the lives of those around her.

Dolly leaves a legacy challenging us to live life fearlessly, uplift others, and relentlessly pursue our dreams. May her story inspire generations to come.

WITNESSING THE AUTO INDUSTRY BAILOUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JAMES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to be on the House floor this evening, this Valentine's Day, collecting my thoughts and remembering a bit of history.

We had quite the whirlwind year last year in Michigan and in this country. As I think about the fall, we were preparing to appropriate fiscal year 2024's authorizations, and we were stalemated and still in a continuing resolution of funding the government.

At the same time, we were also witnessing our United Auto Workers union set forth a record strike effort, targeting all of the Big Three for what they dubbed as record profits, meaning a record contract. That was, in many respects, a whirlwind time period. Then, to add to it, our beloved ally in the Middle East, the only democratic nation in the Middle East, Israel, was attacked.

Members of Congress, residents in Michigan, and people across this country, our heads were certainly spinning in many respects. For those of us tied to the auto industry, we were looking at the strike that took place, and we were being reminded of a little bit of history. We were being reminded why the UAW, at that moment, was saying we have record profits in the auto industry, but now we are looking for a record contract, because 15 years ago, the UAW made major concessions.

They made major concessions during a strategic effort led by the Obama ad-

ministration and carried over from the Bush administration. The Bush administration said we are going to leave this to the next administration for how we make decisions impacting the auto industry.

Fifteen years ago, we were in the wake of the Lehman Brothers crash. We saw our economy spinning out of control, unemployment shooting up in ways that we hadn't experienced as a country since the Great Depression. We had pressure on our insurance industry and our housing sector. We had a foreclosure crisis, and then we had the unbelievable challenges that were facing our auto industry.

The Troubled Asset Relief Program was passed through this very Chamber at a time when I was on the campaign trail. I was working to elect the next President of the United States of America. This very Chamber, under the leadership of then-Speaker PELOSI, passed the Troubled Asset Relief Program to stabilize our financial sector that had gotten in trouble due to lack of regulation, to stabilize the insurance industry, to stabilize the housing sector, and some emergency relief dollars for the auto industry, which President Bush gave in a temporary fashion and then said, very famously, whoever is elected President will inherit the ability to make the decisions.

We know that in this country, we used to have a longer transition process. Presidents would get elected in November and then be sworn in in March. Now, you get elected in November and are sworn in in January.

I had the very sincere privilege of working on President Obama's campaign. I was in the policy operation for the Vice Presidential nominee, now President Biden, then-Vice Presidential nominee Joe Biden. President Obama won that election. We were in Grant Park. Then, the next day, the transition began with the Presidential transition team.

It was the year 2008, which is kind of an interesting moment because the internet wasn't as populated with the vast amounts of information it has today. As a young 20-something-year-old, I was working on this transition and hearing about people looking to go into the administration and really having very little understanding of what that meant.

As a daughter of Oakland County, Michigan, as a family member of a former Chrysler engineer who worked on some of the original designs for Jeep, and as a granddaughter of a Ford UAW member, I couldn't help but take the time during lunch breaks, or breaks in the schedule while working on that transition operation for President Obama, to look at the Detroit Free Press, to pause and try to get a sense of what was going on back home because it was head spinning. From September 2008 to January 2009, we were absolutely in a pressure-cooker moment.

You have a brand-new President, a whole new administration, including 8

years of the Bush administration, an Iraq war that many Americans disagreed with, and some true injustices that were taking place back home in my home State. I couldn't help but humbly think that maybe I should go home to Michigan and try to help these automakers, try to help these auto-workers.

In Michigan, we were, in many respects, the example of what was taking place in this Great Recession. It was a capital G, Great Recession, capital R. It was a major challenge for us.

It was not just "for sale" signs in front of people's homes. It was massive foreclosures and people wondering if they were going to have their job in the auto industry, an absolutely unprecedented economic whirlwind taking place.

To shine some light on this, what happened to our Big Three automakers, General Motors, Chrysler, Ford—we call them the Big Three. We all know that. The Big Three had 71 percent of market share for the auto industry in 1998, and it dropped to 47 percent in 2008, in 10 years. We saw a dramatic decrease in car sales. We saw a shoring up of capital.

This was pre-Affordable Care Act. They had large responsibilities for healthcare obligations, the right obligations, to workers who had paid their entire lives for that benefit.

We faced the very stark reality that these companies were maybe not going to survive and, with them, millions of jobs.

As it became apparent that President Obama was going to put in place a senior counselor in the Department of the Treasury under these emergency authorities to manage the auto rescue, I had the opportunity, while working on that transition operation, to introduce myself to that individual whose name is Steve Rattner. He was in need of a chief of staff. He received a recommendation to interview me. It was a frenetic time. It was a several-minute interview. I was hired. I was brought in as a political appointee.

We were set up in temporary office space in the U.S. Department of the Treasury, which is right next to the White House on East Executive Avenue over there.

Steve Rattner and myself and some individuals from the National Economic Council and the Council of Economic Advisers, people like Brian Deese, Alan Krueger, Austan Goolsbee, Gene Sperling, Diana Farrell, and, of course, Larry Summers, who was leading the NEC, created a makeshift team.

We realized we needed to hire a team, by the way, but it was kind of a makeshift team to make a series of rapid recommendations to the President of the United States about what to do with General Motors and Chrysler because they were running out of money. They were staring liquidation in the face. It was 15 years ago this month, my friends, 15 years ago this February.