

SMALL BUSINESSES ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF AMERICA'S ECONOMY

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

Mr. LOPEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to champion the heartbeat of America's economy, our small businesses.

These are not just storefronts or individuals who are looking to open a business for their own satisfaction; these are individuals who risk their daily lives trying to be successful. When you look at a small business owner, I would urge you to realize that they are on the front lines of our economy.

There are servicemen and -women in uniform, and we should always salute them because they are in harm's way in order for us to live the American Dream. I am here to tell you that there is a second army, and that is the small business community. Every day they get up not knowing whether they are going to have a successful day, not knowing whether they are going to be able to achieve those dreams, but they have families and friends and employees that they must provide for.

Madam Speaker, I am here to urge everyone to remember that small business is big business. Small business is the heart and soul of our Nation. Without small business, there would be no communities. There would be no quality of life.

Every single day, every American, when you walk around in your daily lives, you will touch anywhere from seven to eight small business owners. You will touch them and you will help them because that is the fabric of America.

Every major corporation started small. No one begins as a large company. I am here to remind you that you must always recognize that when small business is suffering, our communities are suffering.

I previously served as the mayor of Parker, Colorado, and I used to be the former director of the United States Small Business Administration in Colorado. I would remind people that when corporate America sneezes, small business catches pneumonia because they are the ones that are struggling the most.

I am also here to tell you that our farmers and our ranchers are small business owners. A lot of people forget that most of our farms are family owned. I have 21 counties in Colorado that I represent and it is rural Colorado. I have hundreds of families that are farmers and ranchers, and these are small businesses. We must protect them.

We are going to be talking about the continuing resolution and how we are going to fund government for the rest of the year going into the year 2025. I am glad to know that we are going to look at how we are going to support the small business community, specifically our farmers and ranchers.

One of the things that I always remind people is that in America you can live that American Dream by being that small business owner, by understanding that you can create your own destiny.

For those of you who believe a small business owner is rich, that for some reason, somehow they have hit the lottery, I am here to tell you that small business owners work long hours. They work 14, 16 hours a day just to be able to be successful.

At the end of the day, they will pay their employees before they will pay themselves. That is what America is all about. It is creating that strong foundation in every single community.

For those entrepreneurs out there, know that there is a voice in the Small Business Administration that will always champion your cause and know that there are people that understand the contributions that you make to this Nation.

Most importantly, you are the future. You are the entrepreneurs. You are what makes America great. You are the individuals who bring hope and prosperity to Main Street in every community.

Madam Speaker, I salute them, and I wish them the best. Let us all remember: Small business is big business.

GRAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE RISING TREND OF ANTI-SEMITISM AROUND THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, today, I rise with grave concerns about the disturbing rise of anti-Semitism, both here at home and around the world.

Since Hamas' brutal attack on our democratic ally, Israel, on October 7, 2023, the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust, anti-Semitism has soared to dangerous new heights.

We have witnessed it online, in our schools, at hospitals, at professional associations, at art exhibits, and in communities across the country where Jewish individuals and institutions have been targeted with hate and violence.

This recent surge, while shocking, should not blind us to the fact that anti-Semitic sentiments have been festering and intensifying for years. We have seen this hatred manifest in alarming ways from the neo-Nazi chants on the streets of Charlottesville to the horrific attack at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, where 11 American Jews were murdered during Shabbat services.

Just this morning, a synagogue in Minneapolis was defaced with swastikas. These incidents are a stark reminder that the Jewish community is facing a relentless wave of anti-Semitic vitriol. We know anti-Semitism is not new. It is an ancient, shape-

shifting conspiracy theory that has endured throughout history, adapting and taking on new forms across the centuries and blaming the Jews for whatever ills a society experiences.

It is a deep-seated prejudice that has caused unimaginable suffering, whether during the Crusades, the Spanish Inquisition, the expulsion of Jews from England and France, or the violent pogroms in Russia, which brought my family here.

Of course, there is the Holocaust, a tragic and incomprehensible period in which 6 million Jews, including over 1 million children, were systematically murdered.

Despite the unspeakable horrors committed during the Holocaust, this hatred has not disappeared. It has adapted, it has spread, and it continues to poison societies to this very day.

History has shown us a painful truth. When we allow anti-Semitism and Jew hatred to spread unchecked, it becomes a profound threat, not only to the Jewish community, but to the very foundations of democracy itself.

Anti-Semitism is a poison that corrodes societies from within. It is not merely a threat to the Jewish people; it is a threat to all minority groups, to the vulnerable, to the values of tolerance, equality, and justice that underpin our democratic institutions.

However, unlike in the past when governments themselves promoted, sponsored, and weaponized anti-Semitism to fuel discrimination and violence against the Jews, that is not the case today. Today, our government is engaged in the fight against anti-Semitism.

Indeed, in the United States, we understand that we have the power, the responsibility, and the moral obligation to take a stand against anti-Semitism.

That is why in response to this rising tide of hatred, I have introduced the Countering Antisemitism Act, the most comprehensive anti-Semitism legislation in the history of our country.

This bipartisan, bicameral legislation with more than 60 cosponsors would codify portions of President Biden's national strategy to counter anti-Semitism. It would establish the first-ever national coordinator to counter anti-Semitism. It would also require law enforcement to ensure robust threat assessment reporting, enhance education about the history of anti-Semitism, and appoint a senior official within the Department of Education to counter anti-Semitism on college campuses and in K-12 schools.

Come January, we will have a new administration and a new Congress, yet this issue is not going away. That is why I am calling on my colleagues to join me in taking a firm stand against rising anti-Semitism. Each of us in this body has a responsibility to ensure that the horrors of the past are never repeated.

This Congress must send a powerful message that there is no room in this

country for anti-Semitism or any kind of hatred. I ask my colleagues to continue this work after my time in Congress comes to an end.

While we may never eradicate anti-Semitism, we must make it clear that anti-Semitism and all forms of discrimination are unacceptable and can never be normalized in this great country, the United States of America.

WASHINGTON'S OBSESSION WITH OVERREGULATION

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about how Washington's obsession with overregulation is making life unnecessarily difficult for everyday Americans.

Under the Biden administration, their energy efficiency standards have become weapons of control, driving up costs, limiting choices for households, and strangling economic growth.

Under Biden's anti-energy agenda, American families are feeling the pinch every time they turn on a light, heat their home, power their appliances, or fuel up their vehicle.

These so-called efficiency standards don't lower costs; they shift the burden onto people's wallets and purses.

In my home State of California, we have seen the impact firsthand. Between skyrocketing energy bills and blackouts caused by these misguided policies, families are paying more for less reliability. Indeed, the blackouts we see in California are for two chief reasons. First, on a hot day in July or August or September, you can see the grid actually having to shut down manufacturing and shut down businesses so the rest of the grid doesn't collapse when people are trying to air-condition their homes or other businesses.

Secondly, we have what are called public safety power shutoffs, which, when the wind blows in California, we actually have to shut off the power lines in some cases because the fear is that trees or branches or whatever might fall upon the power lines can cause a blackout and the failure of the equipment, or, worse, a wildfire.

Indeed, in my own district, we have suffered with enough wildfires to last eons. Just to name a few: a million-acre fire known as the Dixie fire just this year, the Park fire where hundreds of thousands of acres were destroyed and many homes damaged, and the Camp fire a few years ago where 85 people lost their lives.

It is all sorts of mismanagement by my Governor in that we are not managing our forests. We don't have the electrical grid to have 24-hour sustainability even in a tough time of year.

There are remedies for that. We could be building more nuclear power plants. We could be building more natural gas plants and not regulating them out of business. We should be building more

pipelines to get natural gas, which is extremely efficient and low cost.

We cannot be doing dumb things like tearing out hydroelectric dams like is being forced upon us in my district in northern California where four hydroelectric dams have been removed.

What do you get with a hydroelectric dam? You get water storage, you get flood control, you get water for agriculture, you get the hydroelectric power, and you get recreation. That has been taken away.

When you are talking hydroelectric power, a lot of people are worried about CO₂ and carbon dioxide. Hydropower is a zero CO₂ emitter as is nuclear power. We seem to want to regulate these things out of business, regulate them to not be part of our grid. Instead, we opt for the idealism of a few solar panels and windmills, which have a very limited life and are very inefficient.

This is the future the Democrats want for the rest of America, like in California, where energy is neither affordable nor dependable.

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Soon gone will be the days when you can buy the appliance that best works for you. Bureaucrats now want to dictate what kind of washing machine you can have, what stovetop you can use, and even how long your dishwasher should run.

They even want to dictate what light bulbs you can use. A new mandate in California is talking about how State buildings, schools, things like that, have to start changing their light bulbs out by an arbitrary deadline. It doesn't matter if the bulbs have burned out or been used up or the ballasts have been used up. They just want to change them out.

This will cost schools, for example, hundreds of millions of dollars throughout the whole State to have to just arbitrarily change these out instead of attrition over time. I am doing that on my own farm, my own ranch, where when a ballast goes out or a set of bulbs goes out, let's change it over to LED at that time, and then you are saving the costs.

They don't care about that. They just have this mandate. We are limiting options, and the government is telling you that it is good enough for you, for your home.

Californians know this all too well. We have been forced to live with these policies that now Washington, D.C., tries to emulate. It just continues to strangle our economy. From manufacturers forced to spend millions complying with ever-changing rules to even small businesses struggling under higher energy costs, these regulations hurt all of them, large and small, as well as families.

The more we hamstringing energy production and force businesses to conform to out-of-touch mandates, the less room we have for growth and prosperity. There are a couple of key drivers that are making things less afford-

able with inflation, the high cost of energy being one of them. The other is government overspending, as we are going to find out here pretty soon this week.

These policies are rooted in the same far-left ideology that has driven inflation. They have weakened our energy independence and have left America less competitive on the global stage. We need to do better.

U.S. OFFENSIVE MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL FOR WAR IN GAZA VIOLATES U.S. LAW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor to send one straightforward message to President Biden: Providing U.S. arms and military aid to the Netanyahu government for use in Gaza violates U.S. law.

The devastation, human suffering, and Palestinian civilian deaths and injuries are unmatched in scale by any other conflict. This is the conclusion reached last week by Airwars, the British NGO that documents civilian casualties in 21st century conflicts.

Before anybody rejects this detailed report, I would like to note that Airwars is known for its exacting, thorough research. Its referrals prompted more than 70 percent of the Pentagon's investigations into incidents of civilian harm during the U.S.-led air campaign against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

Madam Speaker, this is just the latest in a series of reports from human rights, humanitarian, and defense reports documenting the civilian harm and deprivations in Gaza.

Israel, Madam Speaker, absolutely has a right to defend itself. I support military operations to dismantle and destroy Hamas' military capabilities and other terrorist organizations operating inside Gaza that have launched vicious attacks against Israeli civilians and have badly mistreated the Palestinian population, but Israeli air and ground campaigns must abide by U.S. law and international humanitarian law, also known as the Geneva Conventions and the laws of war.

States are required to take every precaution to minimize civilian harm, avoid destruction of lifesaving civilian infrastructure, guarantee unimpeded access and delivery of humanitarian aid, and ensure the life and security of humanitarian aid workers.

Specifically, I am talking about section 620I of the Foreign Assistance Act, also known as the Humanitarian Corridor Act, which states: "No assistance shall be furnished under this act or the Arms Export Control Act to any country when it is made known to the President that the government of such country prohibits or otherwise restricts, directly or indirectly, the transport or delivery of United States