

Mr. OLSZEWSKI. Mr. Speaker, in November, the American people sent us all here to Congress with one clear mandate: to lower costs, to make life easier for working families, and to ensure that no one in this country has to choose between putting food on the table and keeping the lights on.

I came to this floor 49 days ago with a similar poster. Now, here we are again, 81 days into this session of Congress, and I return with the exact same message. Nearly 3 months in, and what do we have to show for our work? Not one vote, not one serious effort from the Republican leadership of this House to tackle rising costs for struggling families, nothing to lower grocery prices, bring down the cost of gas or prescription drugs, help parents afford childcare, or support seniors who are worried about their retirement.

President Trump promised to lower costs on day one. He has now failed to deliver on his day-one promise for 64 consecutive days. Making matters worse, costs are anything but lower. Instead, the reality is grocery prices are rising, inflation is up, and the stock market is unstable. In fact, rather than lowering costs, the Trump administration is actively promoting policies that are poised to drive up costs even higher.

The Trump tariffs alone will increase costs for the average family by as much as \$2,000 per year, simply to buy essentials like gas and groceries. God forbid your family needs a new car or a home renovation in the near future.

Making matters even worse, as prices go up, safety nets for our most vulnerable families are poised to be slashed under this reckless Republican budget. I voted “no” because it cuts hundreds of billions of dollars in funding for SNAP and Medicaid, which means children will go hungry, seniors will lose care, and people with disabilities will be left behind, period.

You don't have to take my word for it. The Congressional Budget Office issued a letter on March 5 where they reinforced that the math is conclusive: Major cuts are the only way to meet the requirements of the Republican House budget resolution.

The American people are tired of the political theater. They are simply asking for solutions. However, this administration and extreme Republicans have offered no real plans, no real solutions, just more empty promises with painful cuts and a whopping Federal deficit increase looming on the horizon.

That is why I have been tracking congressional inaction day after day after day on my social media, because families in Maryland and across the country cannot afford to waste any more time.

Here we are, on the House floor once again, calling on House leadership to bring real legislation to this floor that will start delivering results for our constituents.

The good news is, there is no shortage of legislative proposals that will

help accomplish this. For example, I am proud to have cosponsored bills that will provide immediate relief by strengthening and modernizing the child and earned income tax credits, expanding paid leave, providing penalty-free retirement withdrawals, and giving Americans more financial flexibility in these tough times.

These aren't partisan bills. These are commonsense solutions. Yet, House leadership refuses to bring a single one forward for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, I will not stop calling for action. Families in Maryland and across the country demand it, and they deserve it. I will not stop until we do what we were sent here to do: lower costs and build a better future for every American.

#### ROLL BACK ENERGY MANDATES

(Mr. LAMALFA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the previous administration, the Biden administration, spent most of its years forcing extreme energy mandates onto everyday appliances: our gas stoves, our water heaters, dishwashers, air conditioners, you name it.

These rules really aren't about efficiency, as the manufacturers have worked for decades to make them more efficient and meet already existing standards. No, it is more of a control situation. These drive up costs, limit the choice for consumers, and force everything onto an already overloaded power grid. Gas stoves, I know, are the preference for many people in their homes. Gas water heaters work well. It is a deal where the government wants to take away the choices.

Natural gas is, indeed, one of the most affordable, reliable energy sources we have. The previous administration was the enemy of that. They did everything they could to push it out of homes and businesses and the production of it on our open lands that have so much potential, especially in the Western States.

We have seen attempts to regulate gas stoves out of existence, and earlier this month we in the House voted to overturn one of those rules. Americans should be able to choose appliances that work best for them, not be forced into expensive, unreliable electric alternatives that they may not be able to afford that the government simply mandates.

The push to electrify everything is reckless. In my home State of California, for example, they want to take away lawnmowers, leaf blowers, even—get this—generators. Now, when the power goes off, that means the power is off, the electricity is off. What are you supposed to run a generator on, if you need to, especially for a couple days, to keep your freezer going, things like that? It doesn't make any sense.

The electric grid is already struggling to keep up. These mandates pile

even more demand onto it while shutting down traditional energy sources that actually work.

Where is the electricity going to come from? In my home district in northern California, they have torn out four hydroelectric dams, and they have their sights on many others. In Mendocino County, they are looking at what is called the Scott Dam, Lake Pillsbury that generates some electricity and is also important for agriculture. It is a constant push to remove water storage.

In California, we lost one nuclear power plant due to an incredible amount of regulations to keep it going. That power plant was in San Diego, San Onofre. We are barely holding on to the one in San Luis Obispo, which represents 9 percent of the power grid. San Diego also represented 9 percent of the grid at that time. It has to be made up for with solar panels or windmills, which the solar one that they have in Ivanpah they are going to decommission pretty soon because it is not working very well. When we are forced into this electricity grid need, we will find that we are going to be running out because at the same time they mandate this, they mandate taking away the generation.

We have rolling blackouts in California, skyrocketing energy prices, and warnings—get this—not to charge electric cars that have been mandated by the State because the grid can't handle it at certain hours. Our Governor came out saying, well, we need to do this thing, and at the same time they are warning people, better not plug your electric car in.

As we know, wind and solar energy aren't enough to power the country. They are a tiny percentage of the overall pie. Wind power seems to work for a few years, and then they have to dispose of it, hauling the blades to some landfill in Utah because they don't have a way to recycle it.

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Mr. Speaker, we need a reliable, balanced energy approach. That includes natural gas, which is so abundant in this country with the miracle of hydraulic fracturing. We have much that we can develop here and also be a good exporter to Europe so they don't have to rely on the Russian bear to import through their pipeline. Isn't that something?

Natural gas is affordable and efficient. It keeps costs down for families, businesses, and our economy. Instead of eliminating it, we should use it to strengthen our grid and keep energy reliable and cost-effective.

The regulations previously were nothing more than government overreaches disguised as environmental policy. They don't make life better for working Americans, for the economy, or for U.S. strength and readiness. They make it more expensive, less reliable, and less efficient.

It is time to roll these regulations back and put the power literally back

in the hands of the people. It has been shown these mandates do not make things better; they are less efficient. Let industry and innovation catch up to make more efficient systems. The government can't do it.

#### CELEBRATING OSBOURN PARK HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. SUBRAMANYAM of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Osbourn Park High School girls' basketball team's historic State championship victory.

The Yellow Jackets' swarming defense propelled them to a buzzing 27-3 season record and the first State championship in school history. Their championship win was a testament to hard work, determination, and overcoming a little bit of adversity, as well.

In fact, just before the game, Head Coach Chrissy Kelly broke her pinky toe. The flu swept through the team, keeping them away from practice. On the day of the championship, the team's bus accidentally traveled to the wrong arena. The Yellow Jackets persevered, and their victory is not just a win for the team but for our entire community.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to our State champions, the Osbourn Park Yellow Jackets.

#### HONORING LOUDOUN COUNTY SCIENCE FAIR STUDENTS

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I am excited for the future after having the honor of meeting some incredibly driven individuals at a local science fair.

Every student who entered the science fair in Loudoun County was a winner, but seven students from Loudoun County Public Schools who participated in this regional fair earned the opportunity to compete at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Columbus, Ohio.

These students include Taha Rawjani, Sanjay Lakshmanan, and Matthew Li from Independence High School; Yash Sreepathi from Broad Run High School; Naija Shah and Nithya Vinodh from John Champe High School; and Naitik Oza from Freedom High School.

All the projects at the fair showed that the sky is the limit for our students as they address some of the world's most pressing challenges. For example, one project conducted groundbreaking research on limiting the spread of esophageal cancer using advanced molecular techniques, while another developed a model to identify potential treatments for pancreatic cancer.

All the young scientists and researchers who participated are paving the way for breakthroughs that can transform the world we live in for the better. Their dedication showcases the

promise of the next generation in tackling complex problems with creativity and determination.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the hard work of all the participants and wish them tremendous success, especially the ones who are moving on to the International Science and Engineering Fair.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF CHANDRA SEKAR

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Chandra Sekar. He was a devoted husband, loving father, and cherished friend whose presence filled every life he touched with warmth and love.

Chandra built a beautiful life in Loudoun County with his wife, Vasanthi Sekar, and his kids, Ashwin and Santhosh. They were his greatest joy and pride.

Over Chandra's prestigious 30-year career, he rose from software engineer to leading cloud architect at Amazon and Microsoft.

His family said that Chandra's kindness was boundless and his spirit radiant. He had an extraordinary ability to make everyone feel seen, loved, and strong, whether through his smile or his endless compassion. His memory will leave a lasting impact on all who had the honor of knowing him.

Mr. Speaker, may he rest in peace.

#### HONORING JEKYLL ISLAND, GEORGIA

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jekyll Island, Georgia, for being home to two of the South's best beach bars as highlighted by "Southern Living." These beloved spots showcase Georgia's coastal charm, creating unforgettable experiences.

The Wharf is located on the historic Jekyll Pier with breathtaking marsh views. This institution offers a relaxed, open-air setting, welcoming everyone who enters. Known for serving fresh, Lowcountry seafood, classic burgers, and craft cocktails, this bar is a go-to for locals.

Tortuga Jacks is also recognized for being the only oceanfront, Tiki-style restaurant on the Georgia coastline. It brings a true island feeling to Jekyll with a laid-back, pet-friendly atmosphere. It specializes in Baha Mexican-style cuisine and often hosts live music.

These establishments highlight the essence of Jekyll Island with great food, lively entertainment, and a true coastal experience. I encourage everyone to stop by and enjoy what Jekyll Island has to offer.

#### HONORING THE LEGACY OF LYDIA THOMPSON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Lydia Thompson, a passionate conservationist, avid birder, and well-known artist, affectionately known as The Bird Lady.

Ms. Thompson was a passionate advocate for avian conservation, having traveled all 50 States in pursuit of her love for birding. She was also active in the Coastal Georgia Audubon Society, Georgia Shorebird Alliance, and the Georgia Coastal Artists Guild.

Ms. Thompson was dedicated to protecting shorebirds on both St. Simons Island and Jekyll Island. She founded Operation Plover Patrol to recruit, educate, train, and manage volunteers to monitor shorebirds in their nesting habitat.

In honor of Ms. Thompson, the Jekyll Island community installed two new spotting scopes behind the Jekyll Island Guest Information Center. Thanks to these new installments, Ms. Thompson's mission of appreciation, conservation, and education will continue to be part of the coastal salt marsh landscape she so dearly loved.

#### RECOGNIZING PORT OF BRUNSWICK

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Port of Brunswick as the busiest port in the Nation for heavy equipment and auto shipments.

Mr. Speaker, 2024 was a record year for the Port of Brunswick, handling more than 2 million tons of cargo, 600,000 tons of exports, and about 900,000 tons of roll-on, roll-off units of autos and heavy equipment.

New infrastructure and strengthened partnerships contributed to the port's significant growth in many areas including upgraded storage capacity to allow for 160 percent increase in heavy equipment shipping.

Georgia's ports promise auto manufacturers world-class service and long-term gains for their business.

In addition to the growth already recorded, the Port of Brunswick is continuing to make improvements to keep up with the rise in manufacturing and growing population including an upgraded shipping channel to prepare Brunswick to handle larger vessels.

The First District of Georgia is proud to be the home of the Nation's busiest port for heavy equipment and auto shipments, and I look forward to the continued excellence of the Port of Brunswick.

#### HONORING BRYNN GRANT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I rise today to recognize Brynn Grant who recently was named Woman of the Year for Georgia by "USA Today."

As a child, Brynn watched her father being sworn into a State-appointed position by the late President Jimmy Carter, who was then Governor of Georgia. Brynn's career spans more than two decades at the Savannah Economic Development Authority, where she rose to the position of chief operating officer and vice president of the World Trade Center Savannah. She also served as president and CEO of the United Way of the Coastal Empire, guiding the organization through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.