

Washington State and the good people of eastern Washington.

Over the last break, I had the opportunity to do a 12-county and 12-day whistle-stop tour across my district, and I want to share with the good Members of Congress and the people of America what I learned.

Mr. Speaker, the inspiration for this trip was actually former Speaker of the House Tom Foley, who once represented the congressional district that I am now pleased to represent. Many people in eastern Washington think fondly of Tom Foley, including myself. In 1998, I received a Foley scholarship to Washington State University. I am often inspired by him, and he made whistle-stop tours.

In that spirit, I was inspired by him to make a 12-day tour across all 12 counties in my district, the largest congressional district in Washington. I had the honor of meeting with constituents at townhall meetings, county courthouses, schools, small businesses, and manufacturing facilities, to hear directly about their concerns, priorities, and ideas for the future.

The people of Washington's Fifth Congressional District spoke about many important issues, expressing support for progress in areas such as passage of the farm bill, which will benefit our farmers and ranchers, as well as continued congressional backing for the defense and aerospace industries that are vital to our region's economy and national security.

We also discussed the ongoing challenges facing our communities, including access to rural healthcare, rising gas prices, burdensome regulations, concerns surrounding trade policy, and ensuring the competitiveness of college sports.

I am so proud to serve as the voice of my constituents here in Washington, and I will continue working to advance legislation that strengthens the communities of eastern Washington.

Whether from Ione to Inchelium, from Clarkston to Colville, the wheat fields of the Palouse to the vineyards of Walla Walla, we have such a beautiful district, and it was wonderful to visit it over these last 12 days.

RECOGNIZING COLVILLE'S ROCKET CLUB

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Colville High School Rocket Club, whose team recently qualified as a finalist in the national American Rocketry Challenge.

This team of 10 talented and dedicated students devoted months to designing, building, and launching model rockets in pursuit of excellence in science, engineering, and teamwork. Earning a place amongst the top 100 teams nationwide is an extraordinary accomplishment, especially in a competition that included more than 1,000 teams from across the country.

I am proud to welcome the Colville High School Rocket Club to Washington, D.C., this week. I met with them earlier on the Capitol steps. They

truly represent the best of the future, and I can assure the American people that our future is bright as a country because of the young men and women of the Colville Rocket Club.

RECOGNIZING THE SWINGING DOORS BAR

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Spokane institution and celebrate the 45th anniversary of The Swinging Doors Bar in Spokane, Washington.

Founded by Bob and Barb Materne on May 11, 1981, The Swinging Doors has been a go-to spot for delicious food and a warm, friendly atmosphere in Spokane for years. From the Doors mozz to Swinging Doors broasted chicken, from Barb's bacon burger to the German sausage sandwich, you can't go wrong with what you order at The Swinging Doors.

Over these past 45 years, The Swinging Doors has been more than just a restaurant. It has been a gathering place for families, friends, and neighbors. The Swinging Doors employs over 40 people. An experience with 60 televisions, it is an ideal spot to catch your favorite team on game day.

I congratulate The Swinging Doors and Bob and Barb. Everyone in Spokane knows how wonderful they are. It is wonderful to share their story with the good people of America and have them entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

AMERICANS ARE PAYING THE PRICE

(Ms. BARRAGÁN of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, do you know what the price of a gallon of gasoline costs today? It is too much. In Toledo, Ohio, it is \$4.56. In Gainesville, Florida, it is \$4.43. In Salt Lake City, Utah, it is \$4.57.

That is too expensive.

Do you know what President Trump said about it? He basically said that it is tough luck. He said that he doesn't think about Americans' financial situation. His priorities make that clear.

Do you know what is a priority for Trump and Republicans? It is billions of your tax dollars to fund a fancy ballroom for Trump and his billionaire buddies, while at the same time giving ICE \$70 billion to continue terrorizing our communities.

What Americans need right now is relief from higher costs. Gas is more expensive; groceries are more expensive; healthcare is more expensive, all because of choices made by Trump and Republicans.

Trump and Republicans have taxed Americans thousands of dollars a year on everyday items with their tariffs on items like phones, soup, and shoes, and cut billions of dollars in programs that would help make healthcare more accessible.

The pain that Americans felt was not enough for Trump and Republicans. As costs were already rising, Donald

Trump launched us into this reckless war of choice on Iran that has skyrocketed gas prices. That pain is felt by every American.

As of Monday this week, the average price of gas was \$4.52 a gallon. That is a parent deciding whether to fill the tank or buy groceries. That is a worker wondering if they can afford the commute to their job. Everywhere I go—in townhalls, community events, and neighborhood meetings—I hear the same thing: Congresswoman, prices are too high. We can't keep up. People are frustrated.

Trump promised to lower costs and end foreign wars. He lied. The American people are paying the price, and Trump says their pain is "worth it."

In my district, Marianna, a Wilmington resident, thinks twice before using her car. Why? She is afraid that she can't afford the price of gas. She now relies on online shopping just to get what she needs so that she doesn't have to use gas to drive to a store. Even Amazon online buying is costing consumers more because of higher fuel costs.

David, a small business owner of a local trucking company, has jumped back into driving his trucks to make ends meet because he can't afford to hire another driver.

While families are struggling, Big Oil companies are cashing in record profits, windfalls built on people struggling off of a crisis, then working families deserve a return for their money.

Instead of investing in solutions, the Trump administration has cut them. They have cut support for electric vehicles, cut funding for public transit, and cut funding for clean energy sources that would give people a choice. Yet, that is backward.

We need to invest in affordable, clean energy of the future so that families aren't stuck riding this roller coaster every time oil prices spike.

President Trump chose this path, and Republicans backed it. Big Oil is profiting from it. Meanwhile, the American people are left holding the bill. That is unacceptable. We need relief now, and we need to end the war to bring prices down.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FONG). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

SUPER TYPHOON SINLAKU RECOVERY IN NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

(Ms. KING-HINDS of Northern Mariana Islands was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. KING-HINDS. Mr. Speaker, my district, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is incredibly far from this Chamber, nearly twice as far from Washington, D.C., as Moscow, Russia.

Yet, the distance between the Northern Mariana Islands and Washington is

not measured only in miles. In many ways, our people are also living with systems and conditions decades behind the rest of our country. Power infrastructure built over 40 years ago struggles to stay online. Water systems built generations ago are failing under the weight of time. Long before Super Typhoon Sinlaku struck our islands this year, our economy was already under extraordinary strain.

Tourism had not recovered. Businesses were closing. Families were leaving. Air service was shrinking. Government revenues were collapsing.

Mr. Speaker, this did not happen in a vacuum. For decades, Federal policies toward the territories, while often well-intentioned, have too often operated as barriers instead of bridges to long-term economic sufficiency.

One-size-fits-all Federal policies may work on the mainland, but they do not work for small, remote-island economies in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

When transportation policies fail to account for isolation, we pay more. When healthcare systems fail to account for remoteness, people leave. When economic policies fail to account for the fact that tourism is our customer base, entire industries collapse.

When Federal systems are built around the assumption that every community has the same market access and the same economic flexibility, places like the Northern Mariana Islands are left trying to survive under rules that were never truly designed for us.

Then, Super Typhoon Sinlaku arrived.

Mr. Speaker, we are now weeks into a territory-wide recovery emergency across Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. More than 5,000 residents have already registered for FEMA individual assistance. Nearly half of surveyed households suffered major or catastrophic housing damage.

Entire islands lost power. Water systems failed. Hospitals, schools, sports, airports, and government facilities were forced into emergency operations.

While national media attention has already begun moving on, the people living this reality did not have the luxury of changing the channel because, for us, this is not a headline. This is home.

Thankfully, recovery is happening, but, Mr. Speaker, disasters do not create weaknesses out of nowhere. They expose the weakness that already exists. When a community has spent years operating at the edge, even a single storm can push entire systems toward failure.

The Indo-Pacific is often discussed through the lens of strategic competition and force projection, but national resilience in the Pacific also depends on whether American communities in the region remain economically and socially viable.

A collapsing utility system is a national security issue. A collapsing

transportation system is a national security issue. The inability of American territories to sustain population, workforce, and economic activity in a strategically important region is a national security issue.

If we are serious about maintaining a durable American presence in the Indo-Pacific, then we must also be serious about the long-term viability of the American communities already living there.

In the coming weeks, I will be working with my colleagues, Federal agencies, and the administration on proposals aimed at addressing the underlying vulnerabilities this disaster has exposed because we cannot simply rebuild to what existed before. We must build systems that are stronger, more flexible, and actually designed to give communities like ours a chance to survive and grow.

Mr. Speaker, at the beginning, I mentioned that the Northern Mariana Islands live a day ahead of the rest of the country. Sometimes, it also feels like communities like mine experience America's future first.

What happens when infrastructure ages beyond sustainability? What happens when economic systems become too fragile to absorb disruption? What happens when communities lose the flexibility to respond to their own realities because the systems governing them have become too distant and too rigid?

In the Northern Mariana Islands, those pressures arrive earlier and more visibly because we are small, remote, and heavily dependent on decisions that are made here, but the lesson is not unique to the Pacific. A country as large and diverse as the United States cannot remain strong if every community is treated as though it faces the same conditions, the same constraints, and the same path forward.

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Recovery is not only about debris removal and emergency response. It is about whether American communities still have a future once the cameras leave and the attention moves on. For the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that question is immediate. It is urgent, and it deserves the attention of Congress.

ROSEBURG VA HOME

(Ms. HOYLE of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, in March, I testified in front of the Appropriations Committee in support of the \$600 million appropriations funding request for the Veterans State Home Grant. This is a program that funds the Roseburg State Veterans' Home.

The Appropriations Committee came back with \$171 million request instead. That is a \$104 million cut from the 2026 enacted amount and an insult to those who served our country and who have earned the right to live out the rest of their lives in dignity.

There is a huge backlog of projects that need funding from the VA State Home Grant, including the Roseburg State Veterans' Home, totaling over \$1 billion—\$1 billion. That is less than we spend in day on the war in Iran.

Veterans in my district have been advocating for this home since 2011. Oregon has done its part. The State first set aside matching funds for this project in 2011 when Representative CLIFF BENTZ and I served in the State legislature and again in 2024.

Unfortunately, the Federal Government has not held up its end of the bargain, and the need is clear. My district is home to more veterans than any other district in Oregon, and many live in rural communities with limited access to long-term care options.

The Roseburg State Veterans' Home would house more than 150 veterans and be a model for community-based care. Our veterans have waited long enough to receive the care they deserve. The Federal Government needs to step up and ensure these projects, like the Roseburg State Veterans' Home, can finally move forward.

This isn't just about Roseburg, Oregon, but throughout this country we should all be united in ensuring our veterans, who put their lives on the line to protect and serve our country, get the benefits that they earned and deserve.

THE RIGHT THING TO DO

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, I want to congratulate the Eugene Emergency Physicians for their hard-fought and won contract with PeaceHealth, the only level 2 trauma hospital between Corvallis, Oregon, and Crescent City, California.

Now, for those who don't know, the PeaceHealth hospital leadership decided to replace our local emergency physician group, 41 medical professionals who live in our community and who have served our emergency medical needs with distinction for 35 years, with a management-run, venture capital-funded medical group out of Georgia.

Fortunately, Oregon passed a law restricting corporate ownership and the Corporate Practice of Medicine law that restricts MSOs from owning, controlling, or directing medical decision-making for professional medical entities.

It prevents MSOs from using a friendly physician amendment to circumvent ownership laws, and it voids noncompete, nondisclosure, and nondisparagement for medical professionals.

Now, if this law were not in place, then our community would have been left a lot less safe and less able to respond to a natural disaster or large emergency medical need before the July 4 weekend, which is traditionally the highest E.R. usage period in the year, and before what everyone agrees will be a devastating wildfire season.

We won this battle in Oregon. However, there is no national law that prohibits the corporate ownership and