

has been recognized, and I hope their example will continue to help bring quality medical care to rural communities like Childress.

MANUFACTURING IN THE UNITED STATES FACES CHALLENGE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, since January 2001, the United States has lost 2.8 million manufacturing jobs. As a result, manufacturing states have seven of the ten highest unemployment rates in the country. But manufacturing affects us all, not just those workers who are directly engaged in manufacturing, because manufacturing has the largest employment "ripple effect" of any U.S. industry. During President Clinton's administration, when manufacturing was growing and thriving, private sector job growth was 22 percent. Under the current administration, it's an anemic 2.4 percent. Manufacturing is also responsible for nearly two-thirds of all private sector research and development.

Manufacturing in the United States faces serious challenges in the global marketplace, as our manufacturers compete with companies who get the benefit of a healthy workforce without having to shoulder the rising cost of health care, deal with skyrocketing energy costs, and often face an unlevel playing field when they sell their goods. Instead of standing up for manufacturing and the men and women it employs, the Bush administration continues to sit on its hands as the manufacturing jobs crisis worsens. The workers who are harmed by that inaction deserve to be heard. Tonight, I'd like to read testimony several Michigan workers submitted to us about how the manufacturing jobs crisis is affecting them.

Sherry Lowell of Grand Blanc, MI writes:

"For the past 27 years, I have worked as a Journeyman Toolmaker for GM/Delphi in Flint, MI. My marvelous experience as a tradesman began when I was 30 years old. At the Flint East site, I was the 7th female to graduate as a tradesman. . . .

"For almost three decades, I believed that I was an integral part of the team with the goal of producing products with first time quality at a profit. The wages that I earned were appreciated and getting dirty and greasy were part and parcel of my job as a toolmaker. I have fulfilled my promise to the corporation for the past 27 years to faithfully come to work, work hard at work despite cold (45 degrees) and hot (103 degrees) and dirty environments, and buy GM/AC products.

"The promise of a defined-benefit pension was very important to me. Furthermore, financial planning for my old age has been threatened by corporate raiders of pension funds and the possibility of Social Security benefits ceasing. I would appreciate Congressional efforts to support the men and women of manufacturing skilled trades and production in protecting the pensions they were promised."

Patricia Neal of Clinton Township, MI writes:

"I have been a UAW member and a GM employee for 28 years. I live in Clinton Township, MI. At some point in time nearly every UAW represented auto worker in America has had to hear, that we are 'over paid and under worked'. Every headline that screams

out to the public, pointing a scolding finger at UAW represented auto workers, is not only demoralizing and degrading it is downright deceiving. . . .

"We, UAW workers, make the products put before us, we drive the fork trucks, we stand on the steel plated or concrete floors, we tighten the nuts and bolts, we handle the machines, we breathe the toxic fumes but we do not make the decisions. We do the work. We want to see GM make a profit, we want GM healthy."

Charles McCray of Southgate, MI writes:

"I am a 54 year old retired hourly worker after 30 years of service. I have worked hard for GM and the UAW. I have always purchased GM products over the years. I want GM to keep their promise to me with the contract I signed when I retired. I retired and gave up my position to another worker to pay taxes and make a good wage.

"With the possible problem at GM if I were to lose any pay what-so-ever I'd be in a tight spot. Where does all the money come from to even bury me when the time comes. We have never lived beyond our means at all. We have been able to pay for college for our 2 children, have a small home paid for. There is a small savings for future use after 62 years of age. With our monthly retirement we do OK but most do not. I have already gone out and have taken another job just because I am not sure what is going to happen at GM."

I hope President Bush and my colleagues in the House will hear these workers and the millions like them, and will begin work on a real agenda to preserve and expand our manufacturing sector and the quality products and jobs it produces.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JOBS CREATION INCENTIVE ACT OF 2006

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a very important piece of legislation to address a very serious problem.

Because of the policies put in place by this Congress and this Administration, our country has prospered and enjoyed continual economic successes. More than 2 million jobs have been created nationally in the last year and our national unemployment rate is down to 4.8 percent. In the last quarter alone, our GDP grew by 1.7 percent.

However, my home state of Michigan has not yet seen this success. Our state economy continues to struggle, our manufacturing base is in serious jeopardy and our unemployment rate of 6.6 percent is one of the highest in the nation. The troubles of the auto industry—Michigan's largest employer—have forced layoffs, downsizing and cutbacks.

Workers in my state are losing their jobs, and our unemployed face multiple challenges and impending statistical disadvantages.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I am introducing this legislation today. My bill, the Job Creation Incentive Act, will help businesses in Michigan and across this country create more jobs.

Simply put, my bill will generate jobs by giving small businesses tax incentives for every new employee they hire.

It is a well known fact that collectively, small businesses are the number one employer in our Nation. When we encourage these small

businesses to expand their payrolls and hire more employees, we not only create jobs but we also promote business development and growth.

My bill will give companies with 100 employees or less a tax credit for every new employee they hire. The credit will be equal to 5 percent of the new employee's salary, up to \$2,500 maximum, and the new employee must have been on the payroll for at least 960 hours—the equivalent of a full-time position for six months. If companies create multiple jobs, they can receive multiple credits up to a total of 25 percent of their tax liability for the year.

I know that tax incentives are not the complete answer to all of our economic problems in the state of Michigan. We still must work continually to find solutions to solve the problems within our manufacturing base and bring relief to our businesses and our workers.

I also know that for some of us it may be difficult to understand that while America's economy is doing so well nationally, there are still areas where more help is greatly needed. My district is one of those areas.

The Job Creation Incentive Act will help our small businesses through these tough times and will allow them to do what they do best—innovate, drive economic growth, compete in the domestic and global marketplace, and create more jobs for American workers.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the time to speak on behalf of my bill, the Job Creation Incentive Act. I respectfully request the support of my colleagues for this important piece of legislation to ensure the future success of Michigan's economy and job growth across the country.

IN SUPPORT OF THE EASTERN SIERRA RURAL HERITAGE AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, today I take pleasure in introducing the Eastern Sierra Rural Heritage and Economic Enhancement Act.

As you are aware, I am fortunate enough to claim the majority of California's Eastern Sierra Mountains as part of my district. My legislation will protect some of the most pristine land in California for the enjoyment of my constituents in the 25th District, and the visitors we welcome to the Eastern Sierra's each year.

My legislation calls for three wilderness additions: the Hoover Wilderness Addition, the Emigrant Wilderness Addition, and the Amargosa Wild and Scenic River Addition. The Hoover Wilderness Addition rests in between Yosemite National Park, the existing Hoover Wilderness, and the Emigrant Wilderness, and designates 39,680 acres of 11,000 foot mountain peaks, glacial valleys, alpine lakes, and conifer forests as protected wilderness area. The Emigrant Wilderness addition lies adjacent to the existing Emigrant Wilderness, and claims two miles of the Pacific Crest Trail. The Amargosa Wild and Scenic River Addition designates a 24-mile stretch of river as protected, and divides the section into three parts: wild, scenic, and recreational.

Given the popularity of these areas, it is necessary to find a compromise between protection of the land and local wildlife, and recreational sport. This legislation provides such a compromise, affording land for recreation and preservation. Preserving wilderness areas for future generations is imperative, and I am pleased to present this bill as an opportunity to do so.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is the result of a great deal of compromise, cooperation, and support. Assistance from the Mono County Board of Supervisors which claims the Hoover and Emigrant Wilderness Addition, and the Inyo County Board of Supervisors which claims the Amargosa River Addition has been vital to the introduction of this legislation. This bill required compromise and cooperation between the local environmental community and the Bureau of Land Management, and I am pleased with the agreement that has been reached by both parties. Support from Senators DIANNE FEINSTEIN and BARBARA BOXER, as well as my constituents in the 25th District make it a distinct pleasure to introduce this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to support the Eastern Sierra Rural Heritage and Economic Enhancement Act.

CECIL D. ANDRUS ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House to a most important lesson in civic virtue.

We hear much today about the shortcomings of our education system, about a growing sense of frustration and despair on the part of students, parents and policy makers. Today I have the honor and privilege of telling you about a success story that we all can celebrate.

The heroes in this story are fifth graders at Cecil D. Andrus Elementary School in Meridian, Idaho. I recently received almost 30 letters from these young Americans requesting that I do whatever I could to stop Congress from removing funds that pay for the "We the People . . ." civic education program at schools throughout America. Mr. Speaker, these students are to be congratulated and encouraged to continue participating in the process of our government, to fully realize their potential as citizens of our great nation.

I also congratulate their teacher, Heidi Fry and their principal, Barbara Horn, whose dedication and example have worked their magic with these students.

The "We the People . . ." program is funded through the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress. It was established in 1987 under the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution.

Letter upon letter from the students at Andrus Elementary related stories about lessons they had learned through the "We the People . . ." program—visionary quotations from the Founding Fathers and the Framers of the Constitution, the history of the documents that became our blueprints for freedom, and how leaders of the founding generation knew that survival of our new American Republic

would require each successive generation to learn and embrace the value, price and responsibility of living in a free country.

No greater testament could exist to the value of this educational program than the words of these young people, Mr. Speaker. No more compelling argument could be made for its continued existence in our schools. I therefore gave them my word I would do what I could to restore the funding.

As a side note, the namesake of the school those children attend—Cecil D. Andrus—was Secretary of the Interior during the Carter administration and four times was elected governor of the great state of Idaho. I served with Governor Andrus as Lieutenant Governor during his third and fourth terms. He was a leader who put great store in the value of educating Idaho's young people to prepare them for shouldering the responsibility of freedom and the stewardship of our human and natural resources. He also placed great importance on people meaning what they say and keeping their word—especially those in positions of public trust.

In closing I should like to add the names of these students to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that one day in the not-too-distant future, when citizens of Idaho and this Nation are reviewing the background of their generation's leaders, I'm confident these names will surely be among them.

Elaine Beech, Natalie Bowman, Steven Bowman, Ashley Charles, Nicole Covell, Madisson Cutbirth, Alejandro Delaloz, Cole DeSilvia, Joneya Dunn, Amber French, Talia Johnson, Corey Kerensky, Joseph Koetter, Jordan Lee, Brian Luke, Taylor McQuiston, Summer Moffet, JT Moore, Brianna Pantell, Courtney Paul, Dillon Pierce, Zach Poralla, Rhett Suci, Eric Swider, Jakob Thompson, Lindsay Williams, and Chanel Zeko.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all my colleagues to recognize the value of the "We the People . . ." program and help me restore the funding. Let's keep our word to these Idaho students, and to the generations of American students yet to come.

NIDIS BILL

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a bill to create a National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS). Our nation is unfortunately very aware of the damage droughts bring to our citizens. In my home state of Texas, the wheat crops have been decimated by drought conditions, producing the worst ratings in 20 years. My own home district in northeast Texas is experiencing the most severe damage statewide from the drought. In Missouri, farm ponds have been drying up in record numbers, and in Oklahoma, the wheat crop rated 58% poor to very poor. Droughts cause between \$6 billion and \$8 billion a year in direct estimated losses to the U.S. economy, and they have devastating impacts on our society.

While we cannot stop nature, we can do a better job predicting, monitoring, and mitigating this problem. Our nation needs a comprehensive drought information system that

enables our local, state, and national leaders to be more proactive in their approach to droughts. This bill establishes an integrated system and designates NOAA as the lead agency. NOAA will coordinate with local, state, and federal entities to create a comprehensive network of drought information and provide decision-makers with the best tools to manage our resources. NOAA will do this by building a national drought monitoring and forecasting system, create a drought early warning system, provide an interactive drought information delivery system, and designate mechanisms for improved interaction with the public.

This NIDIS initiative will hopefully improve our analysis of conditions, provide us with more accurate seasonal forecasts, and equip us with a better understanding of climate interactions that produce droughts. I would like to encourage Members to join me in supporting this vital and important initiative.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, because of official business in Colorado, I was not able to be present yesterday for three votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll call No. 82, H.J. Res. 81—Providing for the appointment of Phillip Frost as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution—I would have voted "yes."

Roll call No. 83, H. Res. 703—Recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and supporting continued efforts to control radiation and mitigate the adverse health consequences related to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant—I would have voted "yes."

Roll call No. 84, H. Res. 744—Expressing support for the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 as the blueprint for lasting peace in Northern Ireland and support for continued police reform in Northern Ireland as a critical element in the peace process—I would have voted "yes."

THE OCCASION OF THE 91ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join today with many of my colleagues in remembering the victims of the Armenian Genocide. April 24th will be the 91st anniversary of this human tragedy.

From 1915 to 1923, the world witnessed the first genocide of the 20th century. This was clearly one of the world's greatest tragedies—the deliberate and systematic Ottoman annihilation of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children.

Furthermore, another 500,000 refugees fled and escaped to various points around the