

idea as to the path forward because out of 66 percent of those polled, two-thirds supported the ability to choose a public insurance option, the ability to choose whether they want to stay on their private plan or whether they want to go on to a potentially better quality, more affordable public plan.

They have told us they don't want politicians making the choice for them, that they themselves want to choose whether they are better off in the private or public market.

#### CLEAN ENERGY WITHOUT TAX HIKES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am grateful to be part of a bipartisan group in Congress that is putting forward new and innovative solutions to our energy needs.

The American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act introduced this week is spearheaded by Congressmen TIM MURPHY and NEIL ABERCROMBIE. It is legislation that would promote the energy sector to start creating jobs immediately. It does not raise taxes on American families.

This strategy promotes the development of cleaner energy and more efficiency. It encourages conservation. It utilizes the vast proven natural resources we have here in America to not only help address our current energy needs but help fund the development of the next generation of energy resources.

High gas prices and home heating costs threaten the budgets of American families. With this comprehensive strategy, we address those high costs and our environmental concerns while creating jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### CONDITIONS ON AID TO AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee has come under some harsh criticism for suggesting the money we make available to Afghanistan and Pakistan be conditioned. Chairman OBEY is right. When you consider the fact that we have put \$33 billion into Afghanistan and \$12 billion into Pakistan without conditions, you have to ask "What has it gotten us?"

We seem to be losing the war in Afghanistan because the leadership of the enemy has a haven in Pakistan. Of all the money we have given to the military in Pakistan, they have 450,000 trained, equipped troops on the south-

ern border with our ally India and one brigade on the north where we need them. Former members of the ISI affiliated with the Pak army located just south of Lahore, Pakistan trained and executed a massacre of 152 people in Mumbai, India.

They just released an extremist cleric that is arguing for sharia law across the land. They have just allowed the Swat Valley to be taken over by the Taliban. Of course we need our money conditioned. If they want American taxpayers' money, they need to start serving America's interests.

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#### THE HIGH SEAS NEEDS THE SECOND AMENDMENT

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, recently three boats of the Somali pirates gave chase on the high seas toward a lone ship of prey, ready once again to capture an unarmed vessel and the crew, and hold them hostage until the ransom is paid.

As the smiling armed outlaws sped toward the game and readied the attack, the target appeared to flee as it headed away into the horizon of the sun.

But to the dismay of the bold bandits, they were trapped. The supposed merchant ship dispatched two boats that headed directly for the malcontents of robbery. Aboard were French commandos. The alleged merchant ship was a ship of the French Navy. Shots were fired over the criminals, and in minutes the 11 pirates of misfortune were captured and stowed away in the darkness of the French brig.

Madam Speaker, it defies reason that merchant ships are not armed. The international maritime community should arm their ships against the pirates of prey. The French and American Navies cannot save them every day. Let the philosophy of the Second Amendment, "right to bear arms", apply on the high seas.

And that's just the way it is.

#### THE CAPITOL POWER PLANT

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I know the Republican leadership has opposed, even mocked, the Speaker's determination that the House lead by example by greening the Capitol. Helping each office reduce its carbon footprint, eliminate waste, and save money is exactly what Americans want from their leaders.

But last night's attack on the floor of the House by my Republican colleagues on the conversion of the Capitol Power Plant from coal to natural gas was bizarre. That Capitol Power

Plant is the number one source of pollution in the District of Columbia. We've reduced the carbon pollution 50 percent, 95 percent of the sulfur oxide, at least 50 percent of the carbon monoxide, reducing a serious problem for the respiratory health of the District of Columbia's children.

I hope that people in their zeal to score political points don't get unhinged. This is important business. We're moving in the right direction, and we ought to be able to understand these basic facts.

#### CAP-AND-TAX

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, we are learning that the Environmental Protection Agency is poised to declare any body or company or plant that emits more than 25,000 tons of carbon dioxide as a major emitter. A body of 435 adults all endlessly emitting hot air certainly will meet that annual threshold.

It appears that the EPA and Congress are literally in a race to see who can get there first. Are we going to tax the air we breathe, or are we going to regulate the air we breathe? If CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases are so dangerous to our environment, the American people truly must be puzzled by the actions of the body this week.

While the details of a cap-and-tax system are negotiated behind closed doors, Congress has debated such staggering important work as supporting the goals of Public Service Recognition Week and National Train Day. If our environment were truly in serious peril that could only be effectively addressed by a cap-and-tax system, one would think we would be burning our carbon credits debating that bill, not the suspensions we have passed.

#### JUMP-STARTING THE CLEAN ENERGY SECTOR THROUGH ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDINGS

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, after years of neglect, President Obama and the new Congress are taking on the Nation's energy crisis. This Congress is now making the tough decisions necessary to move the country in a new direction, create green jobs and build a clean energy economy.

Conserving energy by turning around our economy will require the help and participation of every American. The good news is that everyone can save money and help grow a clean energy economy. We can use less and save more by using energy-efficient weatherization technologies and appliances in our buildings. Consumers can save hundreds off their energy bills by using