students to protect corporate network infrastructures and business information systems.

I congratulate the 2010 National Collegiate Cyber Defense Champions on their win and I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is $13,038,916,836,943.40.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was $10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by $2,400,491,090,649.60 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, because of a necessary absence, I missed the recorded vote on H.R. 5623, the H.R. 5618, the Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act. (Rollcall vote No. 398) Had I been present and voting on this vital legislation, I would have voted yes.

Since Congress first provided the emergency extension on unemployment benefits in H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, I have voted to continue the extension at least seven times. As our nation recovers from the worst recession since the Great Depression, it is very promising that almost 431,000 jobs were added in May, the most in four years. But we cannot reverse two years of recession overnight, nor can we turn the tide on a decade of declining middle class economic security. There is still much to be done to help the nearly eight million people who lost work during this economic crisis return to payrolls. Providing unemployment insurance benefits so that families can continue to put food on the table and pay their mortgage, is necessary to the economy's continued recovery.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CYBER DEFENSE COMPETITION

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1244, ''Recognizing the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition for its for its now five-year effort to promote cyber security curriculum in institutions of higher learning,'' as introduced by my fellow member of the Texas delegation, Rep. CIRO RODRIGUEZ.

Our Nation's critical infrastructure is composed of public and private institutions in the sectors of agriculture, food, water, public health, emergency services, government, defense industrial base, information and telecommunications, energy, transportation, banking and finance, chemicals and hazardous materials, and postal and shipping. Cyberspace is their nervous system—the control system of our country. Cyberspace is composed of hundreds of thousands of interconnected computers, servers, routers, switches, and fiber optic cables that allow our critical infrastructures to work. Thus, the healthy, secure, and efficient functioning of cyberspace is essential to both our economy and our national security.

One of the most significant security challenges that our Federal government faces today is ensuring that we have an abundance of adequately trained individuals defending our information infrastructure. In the past, I have been proud to sponsor bills that would increase funding for cybersecurity education programs, to ensure that we have a properly trained workforce to protect this vital infrastructure. The National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC) is an important piece of the cybersecurity education puzzle.

Since 2005, the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition has given students in the field of cybersecurity the opportunity to showcase their abilities. Rather than having students design an ''ideal'' network, the CCDC requires participants to assume the administrative and protective duties for an existing ''commercial'' network. This allows participants to show their skill at ''real world'' situations, as very few cybersecurity workers will have the luxury of building a perfect system from the ground up. While we obviously want to build the most secure networks possible, our experts must be able to work with the infrastructure that exists, finding and eliminating weaknesses that may already exist, and making imperfect systems secure.

Over the last few years, the contest has grown to include regional competitions in Texas, Maine, Washington, California, and Minnesota, among other locations. This year, there were more than eighty schools that participated, from all parts of the country. The students participating in this contest have not only demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of this important function, but they have also had the opportunity to hone their skills by dealing with actual, real time issues. The National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition plays an important role in the development of our next generation of cybersecurity professionals, and I am proud to join Mr. RODRIGUEZ in recognizing it.

H.R. 5629, THE OIL SPILL ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT OF 2010

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 5629, the ''Oil Spill Accountability and Environmental Protection Act of 2010'', legislation to respond to the ongoing Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster and to address several shortcomings in the law to ensure that a similar tragedy cannot happen again.

To understand the intent of this legislation, it is important to understand the historical context in which H.R. 5627, the ''Oil Spill Accountability and Environmental Protection Act'', is being introduced.

On April 20, 2010, a blowout from the mobile offshore drilling unit (MODU), the Deepwater Horizon, led to an explosion in the Gulf of Mexico that left 11 crew members missing and presumed dead. The Deepwater Horizon was owned by Transocean Ltd., and leased, at the time of the explosion, to BP p.l.c. (BP), which owns a majority stake in the Mississippi Canyon Block 252 (MC 252) site and had contracted the rig to drill a prospect well.

Following the explosion, the Deepwater Horizon sank on April 22. Since the explosion, oil has been spilling from the well into the Gulf of Mexico. In response to the Deepwater Horizon disaster, BP has made numerous attempts to stop or contain the flow of oil into the Gulf. U.S. Government and independent scientists estimate that the most likely flow rate of oil today is between 35,000 and 60,000 barrels per day.

In light of the April 20 explosion and the ongoing release of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has held three hearings investigating the potential causes of this disaster, and exploring potential changes to the laws and agencies under the Committee's jurisdiction to ensure that a similar event cannot happen in the future.

While the causes of the explosion aboard the Deepwater Horizon, and its eventual sinking, remain under investigation, the hearings before the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure have uncovered several shortcomings in current law that may have allowed the causes of this disaster to be set in motion.

For example, through the Committee hearings, our Members received testimony on how the MODU, Deepwater Horizon, was registered in the Marshall Islands and, therefore, was not subjected to as rigorous of a vessel safety inspection by the Coast Guard as a similar U.S.-flag vessel.

The Committee also learned that, because of the unique nature of offshore drilling, Federal oversight of the Deepwater Horizon drilling operation was divided between the Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service and the Coast Guard, with no clear final say of Federal authority over the operations onboard the drilling rig.

The Committee also learned that apparent shortcuts were taken in the development, approval, and implementation of oil spill response plans for the Deepwater Horizon drilling operation, and, in hindsight, these response plans were wholly inadequate to address a worst-case scenario involving a blowout from the well head.

The Deepwater Horizon disaster has also demonstrated that the current limits of liability, including the levels of financial responsibility for responsible parties, are insufficient to address a potential worst-case scenario on the release of oil for offshore facilities, and have called into question the current limits of liability for other vessels as well. With the expected