

the right strategy to deal with both Afghanistan and Pakistan.

As with the ISG, I believe fresh eyes are needed now to examine U.S. policy in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The security situation continues to erode as evidenced by coordinated insurgent attacks on heavily fortified U.S. and NATO compounds just this week. The Taliban still finds safe haven in the tribal wilderness of Pakistan and the ISI actively funds terrorist groups.

Given these and other concerns on the ground in Afghanistan, I continue to be puzzled why you, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary Clinton are not supporting the Af/Pak Study Group idea in the same manner that Secretary Rumsfeld and other Bush administration officials supported the ISG. Having the experience of serving on the ISG and now serving as Secretary of Defense with a Democratic president (who I acknowledge inherited the war in Afghanistan), you are in a unique position to make this group a reality. The authorization and funding for the Af/Pak Study Group in the House-passed Defense Appropriations bill gives you the authority to create this group today.

I have to tell you that I continue to be disappointed that your staff has yet to contact former Ambassador Peter Tomsen to discuss his book, *The Wars of Afghanistan*. His book provides insightful information on the tribal structure of both Afghanistan and Pakistan and the political allegiances that underlie all actions in the region. I believe his knowledge and experience in this region would be invaluable in formatting future policy in South Asia. I respectfully ask again, please take advantage of his work and meet with him as soon as possible.

Leon, I don't have the answers on Afghanistan. Perhaps current U.S. strategy is the best way forward. But we owe it to the men and women in uniform who have served and continue to serve there—some paying the ultimate sacrifice—to know definitively. I continue to believe that fresh eyes from outside government focused on assessing the situation is the prudent action to take. I ask that you take the advice of those who support an Af/Pak Study Group, including Jim Dobbins, General Charles Krulak, Ryan Crocker, who I spoke with prior to his appointment as ambassador to Afghanistan, and other prominent Americans with experience in this region.

I believe it would be a sign of strength to appoint a study group and let the American people know that the administration is willing to examine all possible policies to achieve a successful outcome in this troubled region.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the United States is familiar with its own stories of brave men and women who fought to break the bonds of tyranny and form a new democracy. The walls of this chamber and the surrounding Capitol complex remind us daily of our proud history. But I want to share with you today the story of another like minded group

of individuals on the other side of the world who also dared to demand freedom for their people. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the centennial anniversary of Republic of China in Taiwan.

One hundred years ago, on October 10th, 1911, under the inspiration of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, the Republic of China began by throwing off the bonds of the Wuchang dynasty in order to create the first Republic in Asia. This year the Republic of China (Taiwan) celebrates the centennial of its National Independence Day, also known as "Double Ten Day".

The United States and Taiwan not only share a similar story of self-determination but we continue to maintain a strong and vital friendship. The people of Taiwan have made clear through the years, their appreciation and gratitude for the support the United States has provided Taiwan through the decades. This friendship has been evidenced through investment and economic development, through cultural and social exchanges, and even through the military support shared between our two peoples. Taiwan has stood with the United States to combat global terrorism; and the people of Taiwan have always given generously in our greatest times of need. Throughout the past ten decades we have become not just allies, but great friends.

As the Republic of China (Taiwan) enters into her second century of democracy, it is just as important that the United States stand with her 23 million citizens to face the challenges of the next hundred years. Surely there will be struggles, political and economic, at home and abroad. As we continue to engage other nations around the globe, we must remember that in our Taiwanese friends we have a nation ready to stand with us in the effort to promote freedom, tolerance, and democracy.

On this very special day, the United States joins with the Taiwanese people to recognize the sacrifice of those who made Double Ten Day possible so many years ago, and we reaffirm that our friendship remains steadfast. I ask my colleagues to please join me in extending to President Ma Ying-jeou the good wishes of the United States House of Representatives on this centennial anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MICHAEL CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 160th anniversary of St. Michael Catholic Church in Independence, Ohio.

St. Michael Catholic Church was founded in 1851 when Bishop Amadeus Rappe commissioned Father Nicholas Roupp to begin celebrating Mass in Independence, Ohio. There had recently been an influx in the area of Catholic Swiss and German immigrants. After operating for several decades as a mission church, in 1888, the Cleveland Catholic Diocese raised the community to parochial status and Father Peter Scerer became St. Michael's first pastor. After two pastors in just a couple of years, St. Michael Parish reverted back to a mission and was served by the Jesuit Fathers of St. Mary Parish.

Throughout the 20th Century, St. Michael Parish experienced many renovations and ex-

pansions. In 1900, the congregation welcomed its third pastor, Father Albert Aust. Under the leadership of Father Aust, St. Michael Parish thrived and added a new rectory, school, and in 1908, teachers from the Notre Dame Sisters. The parish later added a sister's residence in 1934, built a new school in 1950, erected a new church in 1955 and new rectory in 1968. In 1990, a new social hall and gymnasium were constructed and named Rappe Hall, in honor of Bishop Amadeus Rappe. Most recently, in 2001, St. Michael completed an interior renovation of the current church on Chestnut Road.

The St. Michael congregation will celebrate its 160th anniversary in conjunction with the annual Feast of St. Michael. This year's celebration will include an Oktoberfest dinner, arcade games, and donations will be collected for both the St. Michael School Student Council's "Jeans for January" drive and St. Vincent DePaul Society's Food Pantry.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the 160 years of service that St. Michael Catholic Church has provided to the parishioners of Independence, Ohio.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, due to a previous commitment, I unavoidably missed two votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on passage of rollcall 725, and "nay" on passage of rollcall 726.

REED COLLEGE CENTENNIAL

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this year one of the nation's top liberal arts colleges in the heart of my Congressional District in Portland, Oregon is celebrating its centennial. Reed College began its first classes in 1911 with 50 students—26 men and 24 women—and five faculty members and has grown to 1,400 students and 135 faculty. Committed to intellectual rigours and academic freedom, Reed has served as a groundbreaking model for liberal arts colleges over the past 100 years.

Reed's commitment to academic excellence is reflected in the student body and faculty. All students are expected to complete an original work in a major subject area—a senior thesis. A higher percentage of Reed graduates go on to earn Ph.Ds across fields than do graduates of all but three other U.S. colleges and universities. Students regularly win Fulbright, Watson, National Science Foundation, and other fellowships, and the faculty has received national recognition for its commitment to teaching.

While "Reedies"—as students call themselves—are widely known for studying—sleeping—and studying some more, they engage in a broad range of campus and civic activities. One such tradition dates back to 1913 and is

known as Canyon Day, in which students and community members come together to clean up and restore the ecosystem of the natural canyon and creek that meanders through campus.

It is said the true mark of a Reed education is not conventional success, but a certain "quality of thought, curiosity, and willingness to challenge received wisdom." For a hundred years Reed has remained a hallmark of rigorous scholarship and intellectual pursuit. I am honored to represent this distinguished institution and look forward to celebrating future landmark occasions.

MOTION TO CONCUR

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2608, the Continuing Resolution for the 2012 fiscal year.

This year, our country has faced perhaps the worst string of natural disasters in a generation. Flooding in the Upper Midwest and Northeast, tornadoes in the Midwest and Southeast and wildfires in Texas have caused an estimating \$35 billion in property damage in 2011. These disasters are yet another indication that our burning of dirty fossil fuels is causing our climate to change, resulting in more frequent and destructive severe weather events.

The government has a responsibility to aid the victims of these events by funding cleanup and recovery efforts. But the Continuing Resolution that we are considering today pays for disaster relief by slashing funding for an important clean energy technology program—undercutting the very solutions that are an essential part of combating the causes of climate change and building a clean energy, 21st century economy.

This kind of reasoning could make sense only in Washington. It makes as much sense as cutting vaccine funding to pay the costs of a measles outbreak, or cutting funds for aerial fire retardant chemical stocks in order to pay for the horrific fires in Texas.

In addition, this program, the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Program (ATVM), has already created jobs for over 40,000 Americans. The Center for Automotive Research credited the program with bringing the production of the Ford Focus, a vehicle that gets 40 miles-per-gallon, from Mexico to Detroit. If Congress simply leaves ATVM alone, it will create employment opportunities for another 35,000 to 40,000 Americans in the heart of the manufacturing belt, by the end of the year.

In the past, Congress has always come to the aid of those affected by disaster by paying for federal recovery efforts without conditions. The Bush Administration requested supplemental emergency disaster funding on eight occasions, and each time Congress agreed, often passing these measures with large bipartisan majorities.

This time should be no different. This disaster relief offset should be removed. This is not the way we care for our fellow Americans in a disaster. We're better than that. I urge my colleagues to support continued funding for

clean energy technology to create jobs and invest in a 21st century economy and oppose this bill.

TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the TRAIN Act. This misguided legislation would undermine the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to enforce the Clean Air Act and significantly limit the federal government's ability to ensure that the air we breathe is safe and pollution-free.

Some in the Majority have used the title of this legislation to refer to EPA's so-called regulatory train wreck. Well, the TRAIN Act amounts to a wrecking ball for public health protections.

Sadly, the TRAIN Act is the latest in a long line of bills from the majority that puts big polluters before the health and safety of the American people. From the Dirty Air Act that would remove EPA's statutory authority to regulate carbon pollution to legislation that removes accountability for offshore drilling operations, the majority seems intent on rolling back programs that preserve our environment, protect our public health, and grow our economy.

For forty years the Clean Air Act has been successful in protecting public health and preventing deaths from respiratory disease because it was written to follow science as science evolved. The success of the Clean Air Act is because its regulations are based in science. Legislators shouldn't pretend to be scientists.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this bill.

TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the TRAIN Act and urge the House to reject it.

The Clean Air Act is one of this nation's most important laws. Over the last 40 years, it has greatly reduced pollution across the

length and breadth of this country, allowing all Americans to live longer, healthier lives. There is a tendency to take the steady air quality improvements our country has made for granted. In the course of my trade duties on the Ways and Means Committee, I have visited many countries. I've been to foreign cities where the air is so thick with smog that some days you can't see buildings that are just a few blocks away. The air is hard to breathe because it is thick with ozone and particulate pollution. This is not what we want here in America.

The legislation before the House today has many shortcomings. I especially object to the provisions of this bill that delay two important Clean Air rules. The bill would delay the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards Rule as well as the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule until at least 2013, and very likely much longer than that since the bill eliminates all statutory and court-ordered deadlines for both rules.

Congress ordered EPA to take action to curb mercury and other air toxics 21 years ago, and more than two decades later we're still waiting for action. This is particularly a problem in the Great Lakes region. Mercury is thrown into the air by coal-burning power plants hundreds of miles away and bio-accumulates in Great Lakes fish. Mercury is especially a health risk for pregnant women and infants because exposure to mercury has been linked to nervous system damage.

The cost of further delay of the Mercury and Air Toxics Rule is high. For each year we delay, there will be up to an additional 17,000 premature deaths; 11,000 non-fatal heart attacks; 120,000 cases of aggravated asthma, and 12,200 hospital and emergency room visits. The Republican leadership of the House appears to be comfortable with continued inaction on air toxics. I am not. We should vote this bill down.

IN HONOR OF SISTER MAUREEN DOYLE, OSU

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sister Maureen Doyle, who is being recognized for 25 years of service as the director of the Urban Community School.

Sister Maureen Doyle was born and raised in the Cleveland area. She is an Ursuline Sister of Cleveland. Sister Maureen earned her undergraduate degree in elementary education from St. John College of Cleveland and a Masters of Education from Boston College. She began her career as an educator in 1973 and has worked for St. Charles School, St. Ann School, St. Clare School and is currently serving in her 26th year as the director of Urban Community School, UCS.

Under Sister Maureen's leadership, UCS has thrived at providing an individualized, Catholic/Christian, quality education to the children of Cleveland's Near West Side neighborhoods; primarily to those who, otherwise, might not have access to such an education. In 1987, during her first year as director, UCS was the first school in Cleveland to receive the Excellence in Education Award from the U.S. Department of Education. In 2005, Sister Maureen led UCS' transition to a new, larger