

create \$2 trillion to \$3 trillion worth of revenue over the next 20 years.

What we need to be doing is making a commitment to invest that money in American infrastructure, American resources, American funds for American infrastructure.

Think of what this also does for our manufacturing. When you create that kind of demand for steel and concrete and that kind of demand for equipment to be purchased over a long time, this is a real jobs plan. We don't need to be going back hat in hand to other countries and saying, please let us borrow more from you. We don't need to be having class warfare. We don't need to be saying, let's just attack people who make a certain amount of money. We don't need to be saying, let's take all the revenue that comes from taxing these corporate jets for 10 years and use it to fund the government for a lousy hour and 45 minutes. Those may be great talking points, but they are not a jobs plan.

America wants to work and America wants us to use our resources. America wants to stop funding both sides in the war on terror. We can do this. And it doesn't take some sort of super plan to do this. It just says, America has all the resources.

I call upon my colleagues to continue to push for ways that we can free up American resources, stop saying no to American jobs, stop simply using political rhetoric to block these things, but really create this mechanism by which we can pay for rebuilding America.

We can do it. We have the resources to do it. We have to have the way and we have to have the will.

INITIATIVES OF THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALTMIRE. Recently I had the honor of being reappointed to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, a committee on which I served during my first two terms in Congress. Consequently, caucus rules require me to, in turn, step down from the Small Business Committee, where I've proudly served for the past 5 years.

As I leave the Small Business Committee, I wanted to take a moment to discuss a few of the important initiatives on which the committee has played a meaningful role during that time. Some of the most important initiatives have been to support the brave men and women who have served our Nation in uniform. The Small Business Committee, over the past 5 years, has led the way in helping small business owners deal with the loss of key employees during long-term overseas deployments, and has helped incentivize the hiring of our military veterans.

Committee successes include the enactment of my legislation to increase business opportunities for veterans and

reservists, and support business owners who employ them. This bill was signed into law by President Bush in 2008 and has since helped countless veterans and employers.

We also successfully enacted laws to help returning veterans access job training programs and learn entrepreneurial skills to help them transition back into the workforce.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, I was able to convene hearings that gave voice to all sides on pending issues in Congress, including bringing more than a dozen people from western Pennsylvania before the committee to make sure that their voice was heard and their point of view understood during the critical early stages of the legislative process.

Our subcommittee held hearings that brought to light the unintended consequences of the Consumer Product Safety Commission's lead regulations on small businesses and home-based toy manufacturers. We also held hearings that raised concerns about the effect that various health care reform proposals might have on small employers, and the devastating impact that skyrocketing gas prices can have on businesses and consumers.

When CMS proposed a flawed Medicare competitive bidding program that would harm medical equipment suppliers and negatively impact patient access and quality of care, our subcommittee heard the concerns of small businesses across the country. And when necessary, our subcommittee also convened field hearings to discuss important issues, such as a hearing we held in western Pennsylvania to discuss ideas on how to increase access to capital for small businesses.

When flooding impacted businesses in western Pennsylvania, we brought the SBA to Aliquippa to personally inspect the damage and improve the SBA's response. And as gas prices continued to climb and the Nation looked for solutions to our energy crisis, I joined our former colleague, Mary Fallon, now Oklahoma's Governor, to cochair a field hearing in Tulsa to hear directly from the oil industries their explanation of why gas prices were so unacceptably high and what we can do to help bring them down.

Our subcommittee also led the way in twice passing through the House my bill to expand access to private capital investment through the SBIR program. And we held the first hearing in either Chamber of Congress on the controversial credit card interchange fee, an issue that since has grown into a top priority for businesses, consumers, and banks.

We worked in a bipartisan way to successfully advocate for repeal of the onerous 1099 reporting requirements included in the health care reform law. All in all, quite a record of bipartisan success.

As I leave the committee, I want to thank Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for

her help and support during my time on the committee, and I look forward to continuing to work on small business issues through my new committee assignments in the months ahead.

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RECOGNIZING MATT PORTER, 2011 RECIPIENT OF NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME SOCIETY'S DAN PIPER AWARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Matt Porter of State College, Pennsylvania, the 2011 recipient of the National Down Syndrome Society's Dan Piper Award.

Dan Piper was a young man born with Down syndrome who spent much of his life advocating on behalf of himself and others with Down syndrome. He, sadly, passed away on September 1, 2002. In order to celebrate Dan's life, the Dan Piper Award was created to recognize and celebrate an individual with Down syndrome that has made similar contributions to Down syndrome awareness and advocacy.

Today, I'm pleased and proud to recognize one of my constituents, Matt Porter, as the 2011 recipient of this great honor. I have met Matt Porter on several occasions. Most recently, I joined him and others at the Centre County Down Syndrome Society's annual Buddy Walk. My introduction to Matt, however, was sometime before that when he visited my Washington office in mid-February with his brother, Andy. Matt was visiting congressional offices to raise awareness for the Down Syndrome Society and to advocate on issues most pressing to those who are living with Down syndrome.

Matt's personality and attitude towards life embody the spirit of the Dan Piper Award. Much like Dan, Matt's accomplishments have opened so many doors to those with Down syndrome. I find Matt to be an inspiring individual, and I commend him on the hard work with his employment, participating in the Special Olympics, volunteering in the community, and advocating on behalf of others with Down syndrome.

We all stand to learn a lot from this young man's example and character. Congratulations, Matt Porter.

HAVE 10 YEARS IN AFGHANISTAN MADE AMERICA SAFER?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I feel like I have a case of déjà vu. Two years ago, I stood on this floor, on the eighth anniversary of our invasion of Afghanistan, and asked: Have our 8 years, 791 American deaths, and billions of U.S. dollars spent in Afghanistan made America safer?