

“We don’t need or want more government spending. Cut regulation, cut taxes, repeal the 2010 health care law, and let business do what it does best: Create jobs based upon demand, not government dictates, spending, and attempts at market manipulation.”

Well, Mr. Manahan, you’re absolutely right and, in fact, our House majority has passed at least 15 bills that now lie dormant in our Senate because the Senate refuses to take action on what would actually create American jobs, lift regulations, create new environments and new opportunities.

We are working nonstop in the House majority for all of our American citizens and you, Mr. Manahan, to make sure that you have the opportunity that you deserve and the prosperity that you need.

Please urge your Senator and all senators across the country to free those 15 bills and get this economy going.

WHITE HOUSE SIGNING OF THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

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

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of the American people the fact that last Friday the President signed the implementing legislation for Colombia, Panama, and Korea free trade agreements.

My colleagues and the American people might have missed it, because that’s what the President wanted. The American people don’t support more flawed trade agreements, so the President signed them into law quietly.

The White House issued no press releases or statements. No photos were taken, no signing pens were publicly handed out.

If these jobs are the job creators the President promised us that they would be, then why wouldn’t we have a public ceremony highlighting the signing of the FTAs? It’s because these FTAs aren’t going to create American jobs. They might create jobs in Korea and China, but they won’t create them here at home.

If I were the President, I’d want to keep these agreements quiet too.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Prayer Caucus to note the importance of faith in our Nation’s history. In his first inaugural address in 1789, George Washington said in part:

“It would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect. No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the

Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency.”

OVERSIGHT OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH SPENDING

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

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in improving congressional oversight of Federal spending by cosponsoring H.R. 3121, the Reclaiming Oversight of the Executive Branch Spending Act.

Too often Congress appropriates vast amounts of money within broad funding categories and gives the executive branch the freedom to spend it with little oversight. The constitutional obligation to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely lies with Congress. My legislation would require that all Federal spending and loan guarantees over \$100 million be explicitly approved by Congress.

Had my bill been law a year ago, Congress would have had to approve the \$500 million loan guarantee to the now bankrupt Solyndra and perhaps we could have stopped that from happening. Today, however, the only real vetting of programs like the Solyndra loan happens after things have gone wrong and the money has been lost.

Congress needs to reassert itself and ensure that all programs are properly vetted. The old carpenter’s rule still applies: measure twice, cut once.

I ask all of my colleagues to help me end wasteful spending by cosponsoring the Reclaiming Oversight of the Executive Branch Act.

□ 0910

TRIBUTE TO HARRY H. BASORE

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

Mr. WOMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the service of Arkansas native and Navy Captain Harry Harrison Basore, Jr., of Leawood, Kansas, who died August 2, 2011, at the age of 95, and who will be buried tomorrow in Arlington National Cemetery.

A distinguished naval aviator, Captain Basore commanded Fighter Squadron 74 off the “jeep” carrier USS *Kasaan Bay*, in support of Allied forces during their fight against Germany in southern France in August 1944. He was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism during low-level reconnaissance missions over enemy concentrations.

Like most of America’s Greatest Generation, Captain Basore returned home following the war, became president of a prominent sheet metal firm,

was an active volunteer of the Leawood Fire Department, and chairman of the board of trustees of his alma mater, College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Missouri.

Preceded in death by his wife, Shirley, to whom he was married 70 years, Captain Basore will always be remembered by his family and friends for his courage, leadership, and selfless service to his country—and his fellow man.

JOBS

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

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, far too many Americans hurt today. They hurt because of unfair tax policy. They’ve witnessed, as more and more reports are issued, that the top income stratum has seen its income grow by 275 percent, while those of more modest means have seen a growth of perhaps 15 to 20 percent, and far too many have seen no growth with a flat outcome. They also witnessed no meaningful jobs agenda coming from this House over the last 10 months. Throughout the course of the first session of the 112th Congress, they are waiting for a jobs agenda.

So, Madam Speaker, as the House drags its feet, America struggles. Many struggle to find a job. Many struggle to keep a job. Many struggle to make ends meet. Many struggle to make student loan payments. Many struggle to pay those mortgages. We need to go forward with a progressive agenda that responds to strengthening the middle class, strengthening the purchasing power of the middle class. Without a strong middle class, there’s not a strong America.

“COME AND TAKE IT”

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, during the Texas War of Independence, the enemy tried to remove a cannon from the town of Gonzales. The defiant Texans flew a flag which stated “Come and Take It.”

Now, in Montana, an intolerant radical anti-religious group wants a statue of Jesus taken down from a mountain. The Forest Service is under pressure not to renew a lease for the 58-year-old statue. The statue is more than a religious symbol. It was erected as a memorial and a tribute to Montana freedom fighters during World War II for their bravery, dedication, and patriotism.

What’s next? Is the anti-religious crowd going to demand the government chisel off the crosses, the Stars of David, and other religious symbols on the tombstones of our war dead at Arlington Cemetery? The Constitution protects free speech and freedom of religion. As those early Texas settlers

were successful in preventing the enemy from taking that cannon and the right to bear arms, I hope the people of Montana are successful in keeping the anti-religious bunch from taking the Jesus statue.

And that's just the way it is.

3 PERCENT WITHHOLDING REPEAL AND JOB CREATION ACT

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 448, I call up the bill (H.R. 674) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the imposition of 3 percent withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). Pursuant to House Resolution 448, the amendment printed in House Report 112-261 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 674

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "3% Withholding Repeal and Job Creation Act".

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF IMPOSITION OF 3 PERCENT WITHHOLDING ON CERTAIN PAYMENTS MADE TO VENDORS BY GOVERNMENT ENTITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3402 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subsection (t).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to payments made after December 31, 2011.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 674.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I come to the floor today in strong support of H.R. 674 to repeal the onerous, job-killing 3 percent withholding law. While this legislation has 269 cosponsors, I'd like to acknowledge the leaders on the bill, Ways and Means Health Committee Chairman WALLY HERGER and our Democrat Ways and Means colleague Congressman EARL BLUMENAUER. In addition to these advocates, we also have 25 other members of the Ways and Means Committee supporting this legislation—a clear signal of the strong bipartisan support for repeal of this 3 percent withholding rule.

Job creators know all too well that this provision, like many efforts to in-

crease Federal revenue and tax compliance, is lined with paperwork, complexity and costs—all of the things that hinder, rather than help, promote a climate for job creation.

By considering and passing this bipartisan bill, we will unlock new opportunities for hiring. Job creators have told us just that, and it's why this legislation has the support of a diverse coalition of more than 170 groups, including the Government Withholding Relief Coalition.

Like those job creators, others recognize the need for repeal, including President Obama. In the statement of administration policy in support of H.R. 674, the administration noted that "the effect of the repeal of the withholding requirement would be to avoid a decrease in cash flow to these contractors which would allow them to retain these funds and use them to create jobs and pay suppliers." Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree more.

Supporting the repeal of the 3 percent withholding law is a demonstration that Washington can work together. With a strong bipartisan vote, we can reduce the uncertainty facing America's job creators, and we can free up valuable resources businesses can use for hiring.

I ask my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 674 and urge the Senate to swiftly take up and pass this legislation.

I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) be designated to control the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this bill. It should have happened earlier. I think most of us, if not all of us, agree that this provision should be repealed. It is not narrowly targeted, and it would indeed impose significant and costly burdens on Federal, State, and local governments. I think we should all remind ourselves it was passed some years ago; and it was, I think, misguided when it was enacted in 2006 when we in the minority here did not control the Congress. Indeed, the Ways and Means Committee when we were in the majority approved a repeal of the provision in 2009, and the Congress ultimately delayed its effective date.

I do want to comment on the title of this bill that refers to job creation, and it should be noted that this is really not going to address the need for creation of jobs in our country. We have been here now 10 months. There is still no effort by the majority here in the House to bring up any meaningful jobs legislation; and when the President brings up proposals to create jobs, they are thwarted by the majority here and by the Republicans in the Senate.

So let's support this bill but not pretend that it will create jobs; and in this respect I refer to a recent statement by Mark Zandi, the chief economist for Moody's Analytics who said this about this bill: "I don't think it's meaningful in terms of jobs. It's more trying to clean up something that needs cleaning up." Indeed, this needs to be cleaned up. Therefore, we need to pass it.

□ 0920

Let me also comment on—and we'll talk about this later on the second bill—the pay-for. I went before the Rules Committee to ask that there be consideration of a different pay-for, what we'll be considering later. I just want everybody to understand the facts, and each can judge on his or her own how they'll vote. The impact of the pay-for that came through the Ways and Means Committee could cause up to 500,000 individuals to lose health care coverage.

I offered an amendment in the Rules Committee that would have offset the cost of a business tax provision by closing a loophole on the business side that's improperly enjoyed by oil and gas industry giants. Unfortunately, my amendment was ruled out of order. We'll talk about that later.

We're now on this bill. I urge its support. Let's not pretend it's a job creation bill. Let's get busy here on bills that will indeed help to promote jobs in the private sector of the United States of America, as our President has proposed and he has pleaded that there be consideration by the House and the Senate, only to be responded to with deaf ears.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 674, the 3% Withholding Repeal and Job Creation Act. The American people have repeatedly called on Congress to work together in a bipartisan way to encourage job creation. That's exactly what we're doing here today.

H.R. 674 repeals a tax that requires government agencies at all levels—Federal, State, and local—to withhold 3 percent of all payments for goods and services beginning at the end of next year. This tax will affect everyone, from manufacturers to road builders to physicians who treat seniors on Medicare. Many of these businesses operate on margins of less than 3 percent, meaning that this provision will harm their cash flow and effectively force them to give the Federal Government a no-interest loan.

Even though it doesn't go into effect for another year, the 3 percent withholding tax is holding back job creation right now. Coming from a small business background, I can attest that businesses look several years ahead when they're deciding how to invest.

This week the Associated General Contractors of America released a survey finding that nearly half of all construction firms will be forced to hire