protecting the integrity of the financial system, and manage the U.S. Government’s finances and resources effectively.

Treasury’s mission highlights its role as the steward of economic and financial systems, and as an influential participant in the world economy.

The Treasury Department is the executive agency of the Department of the Treasury, whose primary responsibilities include: investigating and prosecuting tax evaders; collecting taxes, duties and monies paid to and due to the U.S. and paying all bills of the U.S.; currency and coinage; managing Government accounts and the public debt; supervising national banks and thrift institutions; advising on domestic and international financial, monetary, economic, trade and tax policy; enforcing Federal finance and tax laws; investigating and prosecuting tax evaders, counterfeiters, and forgers.

**ORGANIZATION**

The Department of the Treasury is organized into two major components: the Departmental offices and the operating bureaus. The Departmental Offices are primarily responsible for the formulation of policy and management of the Department as a whole, while the operating bureaus carry out the specific operations assigned to the Department. Our bureaus make up 96% of the Treasury work force. The basic functions of the Department of the Treasury include:

- Managing Federal finances, and international financial institutions to encourage global economic growth, raise standards of living, and to the extent possible, predict economic and financial crises. The Treasury Department also performs a critical and far-reaching role in enhancing national security by implementing economic sanctions against foreign threats to the U.S., identifying and targeting the financial support networks of national security threats, and improving the safeguards of our financial systems.

- Managing Government accounts and the public debt; supervising national banks and thrift institutions; advising on domestic and international financial, monetary, economic, trade and tax policy; enforcing Federal finance and tax laws; investigating and prosecuting tax evaders, counterfeiters, and forgers.

**FIXING A BROKEN WASHINGTON**

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of the overwhelming majority of my southern Indiana constituents.

A year ago, they sent me to this body to give a voice to their frustrations with Washington—a frustration I shared then and share now more than ever. The American people’s frustrations stem from a lack of real progress in addressing America’s most pressing mental challenges: Federal spending, our national debt, job creation, and the decline of the middle class. Our fellow citizens have concluded what I, too, have concluded—Washington is broken, and no one is in a hurry to fix it.

Congress hasn’t passed a balanced budget in over a decade. The Senate hasn’t passed any sort of budget in 3 years. Our national debt recently topped $15 trillion, and our unemployment rate hovers around 9 percent. Instead of trying to fix our problems, Washington would rather argue about who’s to blame for causing our problems. Sure, there’s a lot of agreement out there about the need to reduce the deficit, but not a lot of action geared towards making anything right. Our President and too many in this Congress would rather demagogue and demonize than lead and legislate. Washington is broken, and nobody’s in a hurry to fix it.

While many of our constituents are struggling to find a second, and in some cases a third, job, Washington is falling to perform its only job—governing. Is it any wonder that so many Americans are frustrated?

These aren’t Republican problems or Democrat problems. They’re not House problems or Senate problems; these are Washington problems. Unfortunately, after 11 months on the job, I’ve seen far too few Washingtonians put their heads together and do what’s right.

Many of us came to Washington this year, some of us new to government, to offer solutions. We came ready with ideas. We came ready to defend those ideas, to respond to criticisms, to make the ideas into workable solutions and, ultimately, to implement those solutions to make a better life for those who sent us here. We came with the same sense of urgency that the American people expect of us.

But Washington is broken. Too many people in this city resist publicly communicating with American people and then defending it. In so many cases, a third, job, Washington is broken. Unfortunately, after 11 months on the job, I’ve seen far too few Washingtonians put their heads together and do what’s right.

That’s why Washington is broken.

Now, early on, those of us on the Budget Committee introduced a comprehensive plan that would reduce our deficit over the next decade by over $6 trillion. It would balance the budget and start paying down our debt. It would set an environment where jobs could flow into our economy, and it would save and strengthen our safety net programs like Medicare and Medicaid. Most importantly, it addressed our challenges with the sense of urgency they require.

If you disagree with that plan or you have a more optimal solution, let’s hear it. Introduce it. I’m open to better plans. I didn’t come to Congress because I thought I had all of the solutions. I came to Congress because my constituents wanted me to be part of the solution. But criticizing the other guy’s plan is not the same as having a plan.

That’s why Washington is broken.

Washington is indeed broken. Let’s hurry up and fix it together.

PASS AMERICAN DREAM ACT

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass the American Dream Act.

This past weekend, I learned of the tragic death of Joaquin Luna, a senior student at Juarez Lincoln High School in Mission, Texas, who took his life because he believed that he would never be able to fulfill his dream of becoming an engineer, earning his citizenship, and leading a full and prosperous life in America.

Joaquin was brought to the United States as an infant. Joaquin attended our Nation’s public schools, played the guitar at his church, and hoped to go to college and achieve the American Dream. I cannot express the sorrow I feel on the loss of such a talented young man. I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to Joaquin’s family and friends. I cannot imagine the pain they are suffering. It is heartbreaking to know that many of us in the U.S. House of Representatives passed the DREAM Act at this time last year, only to see legislation held up in the Senate by a vote of 55–41.

Today, as Joaquin Luna’s body is laid to rest, I believe it is imperative to underscore the urgency of passing the DREAM Act in the 112th Congress and renewing hope for DREAM students. As a proud cosponsor of H.R. 1842, the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2011, better known as the DREAM Act, I urge President Obama and my colleagues in the House and the Senate to put their ideological differences aside and do what is right.

Now more than ever, we must give these young people an opportunity to pursue their college and career goals, resolve their immigration status, and earn their citizenship.

The DREAM Act would allow these students the opportunity to earn legal status if they were 15 years old or younger when they were brought to America, are long-term U.S. residents and have lived in the United States for
at least 5 years before the enactment of the law, have good moral character, graduate from high school or obtain a GED, and complete 2 years of college or military service in good standing.

Having been brought by their parents to this country as children, these young men and women know America as their home. Without question, DREAM students exemplify the best of American ideals, such as hard work, perseverance, and the desire to contribute to the Nation’s workforce, economy, and civic life.

In the Rio Grande Valley of south Texas, DREAM students have excelled in school and have become valedictorians, Advanced Placement Scholars, and student leaders, despite facing difficult circumstances.

As ranking member for the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training, I have no doubt that the DREAM Act will help these students and their families thrive. We must ensure that our Nation’s air and water were firmly rooted in legitimate concerns to protect these vital resources; but like so many movements, as it succeeded in its legitimate ends, it also attracted a self-interested constituency that has driven far past the borders of common sense and into the realms of political extremism and outright plunder. I’m hopeful that we’re now entering an era when common sense can restore to environmental law in this session of the Congress.

First, to limit private-party lawsuits to issues of significant noncompliance rather than harmless paperwork errors; Second, to shield local agencies from liability for acts that are beyond their control; Third, to give local agencies 60 days to cure a violation before legal action can be initiated; Fourth, to allow communities to amortize the cost of new facilities over a period of 15 years before new requirements can be heaped on them; Fifth, to require a cost-benefit analysis before new regulations can be imposed; Sixth, to limit attorney fees to the prevailing fees of the community.

Like many movements, the impetus for stronger environmental protection of our air and water was firmly rooted in legitimate concerns to protect these vital resources; but like so many movements, as it succeeded in its legitimate ends, it also attracted a self-interested constituency that has driven far past the borders of common sense and into the realms of political extremism and outright plunder. I’m hopeful that we’re now entering an era when common sense can restore to environmental law in this session of the Congress.

PILOT FATIGUE RULE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. Higgins) for 5 minutes.

Mr. Higgins. In February 2009, tragedy struck western New York when Continental Connection Flight 3407 crashed outside of Buffalo. The National Transportation Safety Board concluded that the cause of the crash was pilot fatigue, so Congress passed landmark aviation legislation to reform the system.

One of the key provisions required the Federal Aviation Administration to issue update flight and duty time rules and set minimum rest requirements for airline pilots by August 1, 2011. Congressional intent was clear. That should have been enough time. After all, the National Transportation Safety Board had urged that pilot fatigue rules be updated for the past 20 years.

Getting it right is also about getting it done. Yet here we are today, 16 months after Congress asked the Federal Aviation Administration to issue these reforms and 4 months past the deadline we gave them, and still no pilot fatigue rule.

That is unacceptable to me, that is unacceptable to my colleagues from western New York, and it is unacceptable to the flying public.

I urge the Federal Aviation Administration to complete the pilot fatigue rule immediately.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE SAFETY

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

Mr. Olson. In the Sierra foothills in northeastern California lies the little town of Colfax, a population of 1,800, below a median household income of about $35,000. Over the last several years, this little town has been utterly plundered by regulatory and litigatory excesses that have pushed this little town to the edge of bankruptcy and ravaged families already struggling to make ends meet.

You see, Colfax operates a small wastewater treatment plant for its residents that discharges into the Smothers Ravine. Because it does so, it operates within the provisions of the Clean Water Act, a measure adopted in 1972 and rooted in legitimate concerns to protect our vital water resources. Thus, the day that environmental law firms have now discovered how to take unconscionable advantage of that law to reap windfall profits at the expense of working-class families like the townpeople of Colfax.

In the case of Colfax, an environmental law firm demanded every document pertaining to the water treatment plant from the date of its inception. It then pored over those documents looking for any possible violations, including mere paperwork errors. By law, those documents include self-monitoring reports by the water agency itself, and any violation, no matter how minor, establishes a cause of action with absolutely no law provides no affirmative defense, even if the violation is due to factors completely beyond the local community’s control, including acts of God and acts by unrelated and uncontrollable third parties. Thankfully, that predatory environment, the law allows for no affirmative defense—and you’ve just guaranteed the attorneys all of their fees, which in this case were billed at $550 per hour.

As a result of this predatory activity, the town of Colfax is facing legal fees alone that exceed the town’s entire annual budget. Families that are struggling to keep afloat just above the poverty level are fleeced by attorneys charging $550 an hour. But that’s just part of the problem.

The law requires constant upgrading of facilities to meet ever-changing state-of-the-art regulations that have nothing to do with health and safety and that provide no concern for the prohibitive costs involved. In fact, Colfax is now required to discharge water certifiably cleaner than the natural stream water into which it is discharged. In Colfax’s case, this required a $15 million expenditure, divided among 800 working-class residents, who are now paying $2,500 per year just for their water connections. And once the town has met the standard, there’s no guarantee that in 5 years it won’t be told, Sorry, the rules have changed and you’ll need to start over.

Mr. Speaker, it’s time to restore some form of rationality back to this law and to stop the plunder of small towns like Colfax. And Colfax isn’t alone. My colleagues that represent these small wastewater treatment plants are in the same jeopardy.

No one disputes that we need to maintain and enforce sensible and cost-effective regulations—precious water resources; but legitimate environmental protections must no longer be used as an excuse for regulatory extremism and litigatory plundering of our local communities.

Today, I’m introducing legislation to offer six reforms to protect other communities from going through the same nightmare as the people of Colfax:

1. Require a cost-benefit analysis before new regulations can be imposed.
2. Permit communities to amortize the cost of new facilities over a period of 15 years before new requirements can be heaped on them.
3. Limit attorney fees to the prevailing fees of the community.
4. Require that any lawsuits filed by environmental law firms be accompanied by a adequate fee guarantee.
5. Exempt cities and towns from the devastating effects of federal regulations that are beyond their control.
6. Require the Department of Justice to review all laws to ensure that they serve the public interest.

These reforms will ensure that the law is used responsibly and that communities are not overburdened by unnecessary regulations that place an undue burden on their budgets.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to work together to protect our local communities from the plunder of environmental law firms.