

The Inner Basin pipeline, infrastructure that delivers water to Flagstaff, was severed during catastrophic floods that followed the fire. In our case, a lawsuit wasn't necessary, but it took my team and the city over a year to persuade multiple agencies to allow for repairs. Last month, I took the first sip of water out of the repaired infrastructure with Mayor Jerry Nabours.

Our communities shouldn't need their Congressman or a lawsuit to make basic repairs to infrastructure. The Federal Government should work with us, not against us, to preserve western water supplies.

FISCAL CLIFF

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, our country faces a critical financial deadline in just 19 days. While Democrats are offering solutions to raise revenue and cut government spending, the House Republican leadership still refuses to take action on something we all agree on—extending middle class tax cuts.

We need to give middle class families in my home State of Rhode Island and across our Nation the certainty that they will not see a tax increase at a time when they can least afford it. I've heard from hundreds of Rhode Islanders who want to know why we don't have a deal already. I've heard from seniors who want us to protect Social Security, working parents who want us to extend tax cuts for the middle class, and those still struggling to find work who rely on unemployment insurance to make ends meet.

It's time for the Republican leadership to work across the aisle to reach a deal that strengthens the middle class and responsibly addresses our debt.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT AND THE LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN

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

Mr. POMPEO. Today, I rise to talk about a bird, the Lesser Prairie Chicken. Actually, it's not about the bird; it's about jobs. I happen to represent Cassoday, Kansas, the American capital of the Lesser Prairie Chicken.

The Environmental Protection Agency and this administration are about to do great harm to the bird but, more importantly, present great risk to energy exploration all across America. They want to put the Lesser Prairie Chicken under the Endangered Species Act. The impact of this decision will be enormous on our burgeoning domestic energy industry. Millions of public acres could be closed to exploration, and a labyrinth of bureaucratic nightmares awaits any investor foolish enough to explore land that might be home to even one Lesser Prairie Chicken. The uncertainty that listing this

bird would create will discourage investments where they are most needed in our country.

It's time to find a practical, realistic solution to protect our environment and spur economic growth, but manipulating the Endangered Species Act and exploiting the Lesser Prairie Chicken is simply wrong.

INQUIRY INTO THE MURDER OF PATRICK FINUCANE

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, hours ago, British Prime Minister David Cameron told the House of Commons that a report he commissioned acknowledged there was a "shocking level of state collusion" into the murder of Attorney Patrick Finucane in Belfast in 1989.

I appreciate Prime Minister Cameron's recognition that the agents of the British state were involved in the murder of Pat Finucane and his apology to the family, but I will continue to be a strong and outspoken advocate for a full, open, and transparent public inquiry into the case of British collusion in the murder of Pat Finucane. It is the only way to get to the truth and the only way we can convince the public that one of the most controversial murders during the Troubles has been thoroughly investigated.

I have known Geraldine Finucane and her family for more than two decades. Their campaign for justice and truth has been honorable and remarkable. The killing of Patrick Finucane was a dark stain in the north of Ireland, which has not gone away by today's report. The British Government agreed to conduct a full inquiry into the murder at Weston Park, and they should honor that commitment, as Prime Minister Enda Kenny of Ireland has suggested today as well.

As we've seen many times before during the Irish peace process, whether it was the Birmingham Six, the Guildford Four, or Bloody Sunday, the truth eventually emerges. Pat Finucane's family deserves to know the whole truth. That is why we will continue to demand that the British Government hold a full public inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane.

STOP FOREIGN AID TO TUNISIA

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the 3-month anniversary of the terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya, where four Americans' lives were tragically lost, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens. To date, none of the terrorists have been brought to justice. In fact, in the months following the attack, the Tunisian Government blocked the FBI from interviewing the

only known detained suspect in the attack, a Tunisian man named Ali Harzi. The FBI team has been there for 5 weeks, and they will not make him available.

Since January 2011, the U.S. has given more than \$320 million in taxpayer dollars to Tunisia. I rise to ask that all U.S. aid to Tunisia be immediately cut off, in light of the country's blocking the FBI's attempt to investigate the attack and interview Harzi.

Why are we giving any sort of aid to a country that has proven at this time it is no friend or ally of the United States? Why are we not doing everything in our power to investigate the events in Benghazi that killed four Americans?

Should Secretary Clinton fail to cut off aid to Tunisia, I will take legislative action to cut off the aid.

RECOGNIZING JEH JOHNSON, GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE DEFENSE

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Jeh Johnson, general counsel of the Department of Defense.

In navigating a wide range of important legal issues, Jeh has been an invaluable partner to the House Armed Services Committee over the last 4 years, and he is respected by Members on both sides of the aisle. Over the last 4 years, Jeh has advised the committee on numerous national security challenges, including cyberwarfare, counterterrorism operations, the legal boundaries of the conflict against al Qaeda and its affiliates, sensitive intelligence matters, and detainee operations worldwide. Jeh was integral to our efforts to reform military commissions—where those accused of planning and executing 9/11 attacks will be prosecuted. He has regularly testified before Congress and provided briefings on the Don't Ask, Don't Tell law and policy, efforts to combat sexual assault in the military, changes to the combat exclusion policy, the membership of the Joint Chiefs, and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq.

There has been no shortage of very difficult and very controversial issues. Jeh has always approached them intelligently and professionally and served this country, the President and Congress well.

The one thing I always noticed about Jeh is he liked coming over and talking to Congress, which is not always the case in the executive branch. He recognized the importance of the relationship between the legislative branch and the executive branch. He has served our country very well.

I wish him well in private practice and thank him for his service.

TEXAS SENATOR KAY BAILEY
HUTCHISON

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON has been a fighter for the State of Texas long before she came to the U.S. Senate. As a graduate of the University of Texas and the University of Texas Law School, she first served in Austin, Texas, in the House of Representatives. She then served as State treasurer, and then she made up her mind to become the first woman to ever represent the great State of Texas in the United States Senate.

Texans have been fortunate to have KAY as a feisty advocate for them. She's been a leader here in the Senate for almost 20 years. My grandmother used to always say that there's nothing more powerful than a woman who has made up her mind. Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON is one of those women. She is a leader and a role model for all of us. She will be missed.

Thank you, KAY, for your service to the great State of Texas and the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

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PROTECTING CRITICAL PROGRAMS

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, critical initiatives that help the Chesapeake Bay will be among the hardest hit by sequestration. These programs, including the Small Watersheds Program, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and the Section 319 Program, provide much needed resources for on-the-ground restoration and conservation efforts in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

These programs are some of the most important tools we have for addressing pollution and storm water runoff in the bay. An 8 percent cut would cost thousands of jobs and exacerbate the already crumbling public water infrastructure that is so prevalent in Maryland and across the country, adding pressure to State and local governments to pay for Federal programs that have been slashed. As we all know, the budget process is entirely about choices. We must make clean water and clean air a priority. I urge my colleagues to protect these critical programs from reckless cuts that will destroy jobs and destroy the environment.

SEQUESTRATION IMPACT ON
ENVIRONMENT

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Sequestration wasn't written to be good fiscal policy. It was

never intended to be policy, period. These automatic cuts would deeply hurt our environment. This Congress has already tried to roll back our strongest environmental laws. Now we're on the verge of setting a new low.

Sequestration could force the national parks and forests to turn away visitors. Our Forest Service, which fights wildfires, might not have enough money to put out all the flames. Agencies protecting us from harmful toxic waste may have difficulty going after our worst polluters. This is no solution to our deficit problems.

Now is the time for both sides to work toward a responsible compromise. As I said before, sequestration was never intended to happen, so let's not let it.

NATURAL DISASTER HELP

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, you can't walk two steps in this Capitol without getting into a discussion these days about the fiscal cliff. The fiscal cliff is comprised of a lot of very serious issues, but it is a metaphor. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of my constituents and hundreds of thousands of people in the States of Connecticut, New Jersey and New York are suffering as a result of a natural disaster which was anything but a metaphor. Hurricane Sandy devastated communities across those three States.

Traditionally, when our constituents were homeless, when they were hungry, when they were standing amidst the wreckage of their homes, they looked to this body for help and this body always said, yes, we will help. As we speak, there is a bill in the Senate that would provide that assistance to so many distressed constituents, Republican and Democrat, rural and urban. When that bill gets to this House, I urge my colleagues to remember that whether it was Hurricane Katrina or Andrew or the earthquakes of the west coast, we have always set aside considerations of the budget, or offsets, or whatnot, to do the decent and moral thing and help our constituents.

Let's do it again.

PAY AS YOU EARN PROGRAM

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, while the whole world is waiting to see whether the House Republicans say "yes" to extending middle class tax cuts, President Obama, on Friday, moved ahead with following through on a campaign promise to help people with student loan payments which are at record-high levels.

The Pay as You Earn program, starting next Friday, will accept applica-

tions to cap repayment at 10 percent of discretionary income. So, for example, an individual with \$30,000 in income and \$26,000 in debt will see their monthly payments drop from \$166 a month to \$110 a month.

Individuals can contact the U.S. Department of Education's Web site to apply for this assistance or call your Member of Congress. And while you're at it, tell them to extend middle class tax cuts, sign on to the Walz bill, and let's get away from this fiscal cliff.

Congratulations to the President for following through for young Americans to make sure that they're going to get needed help to pay for college.

PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT
EXTENSION

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I rise today to highlight the critical importance of extending the Production Tax Credit for wind energy, which expires this month. The Production Tax Credit is essential for energy independence, the environment, and public health; and it is critical for job creation and our economy.

The Production Tax Credit has helped to create good-paying jobs across the country, including 7,000 in my home State of Illinois. Because of uncertainty, the wind industry is hurting and job losses have already begun. The failure to extend the Production Tax Credit will result in the loss of 37,000 of the 78,000 American wind jobs. Those are not just numbers on a sheet of paper; they represent people and families and communities.

This is not a partisan issue. Eighty-nine percent of Americans, including 84 percent of Republicans, want more wind power. We must act to extend the Production Tax Credit for wind without delay. The American people can't wait any longer.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, impending budget cuts under sequestration pose a serious risk to America's leadership in a variety of areas. The one in particular that I want to focus on today is the serious risk to America's leadership on a clean-energy economy and to developing grid-scale energy infrastructure, made possible in part by the Production Tax Credit. These investments help to ensure our Nation's energy security and independence while spurring growth in a wind industry that supports over 70,000 jobs nationwide, including hundreds in Rhode Island.

Mr. Speaker, Rhode Island receives 7 percent of its State revenue from Federal grants that are subject to sequestration. Unless averted by Congress, it