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CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, most Americans this week felt as though they were living on the North Pole. There was a condition called "the polar vortex" that became part of our common vernacular. Normal routines were disrupted. Schools closed, water mains ruptured, car batteries failed, and, tragically, weather-related deaths went up. So it didn't take long for conservative commentators to offer this cold weather phenomenon as proof that the planet isn't warming, that this is all a hoax or some left-wing liberal ideology.

But the fact is that scientists have told us that the real and measurable decline of Arctic sea ice that is the direct result of warmer weather and climate change is creating this polar vortex that allows weather conditions that normally remain fixed over the Arctic to spin out of control. They slip south and they subject us to Arctic-like weather conditions.

Now, this is a fact that we need to recognize and do something about or weather conditions are going to become far more common and far more severe.

ONE OF THE BEST BCS CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES EVER

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

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, this past week, the college football season culminated in one of the best BCS Championship games ever played when the Auburn Tigers took on the FSU Seminoles.

Even though I am a resident of Florida, I am a graduate of Auburn and was, of course, rooting for my Tigers.

I want to commend Auburn's coach, Gus Malzahn, for taking Auburn from worst to first in the SEC and leading his team to play for the national championship game. His efforts were nothing short of incredible. He made believers not only of his players, but also believers out of all of us. He showed us that persistence, discipline, self-confidence, and faith in God will lead to success, both individually and as a team.

I also want to congratulate my friend, Coach Jimbo Fisher of Florida State. Coach Fisher is not only a great coach, but he obviously married well because his wife, Candi, is also an Auburn alumna.

While my heart is always in Auburn, my hat goes off to the Florida State Seminoles for a well-earned victory. Congratulations.

THE WAR ON POVERTY

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate a milestone in our Nation's history. Fifty years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson stood before Congress and declared an unconditional war on poverty.

As we reflect on this war, I am inspired by the progress we have made in 50 years. We have expanded economic opportunity, and we have made the American Dream a reality for millions. But this is not enough. Recent events, like allowing unemployment insurance to expire, remind us that the war is not over.

Even though our economy is recovering from a recession, 10.9 million Americans are still struggling to find work. Meanwhile, 16 million children live in poverty. And now the 1.3 million Americans who lost unemployment insurance have no means to provide for their family while they look for work.

This cannot continue. No child should go to bed hungry, and no family should struggle to keep a roof over their heads.

Fifty years ago we started a war, and yes, we have won many battles. But it is time to win the war, and we must start by making sure that Americans can continue to meet basic needs as they pursue their dreams. So I urge my colleagues to stand with me and extend unemployment insurance.

THE PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT

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

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight yet another of the unintended consequences of the Democratic health care law.

Because of the employer mandate in ObamaCare, our volunteer fire departments and emergency response organizations are at risk of having their volunteers be considered employees and are, therefore, being forced to choose between retaining those volunteers and using their precious resources to comply with this mandate or cutting those volunteers and the vital services they provide to our communities.

As I have heard from people in my district, Cattaraugus County Office of Emergency Services, the impact would be absolutely detrimental to critical services in rural areas like Cattaraugus County.

I ask Congress to fix this unfair burden on our emergency volunteers and support H.R. 3685, the Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act, introduced by my good friend, Representative LOU BARLETTA.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIKORSKY AIRCRAFT COMPANY

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the 90th anniversary of the Sikorsky Aircraft Company, one of the lynchpins of our State's advanced industrial base, a pillar of our national defense, and the world's premiere helicopter manufacturer.

Ninety years ago, Russian-born inventor Igor Sikorsky opened the Sikorsky Aero Engineering Corporation for business on Long Island. Since then, the history of this pioneering company has been a string of firsts.

Sikorsky built the first practical helicopter, the VS-300, in 1939. Five years later, a Sikorsky vehicle performed the first helicopter combat rescue in history, saving soldiers in Burma during World War II. In 1945, a Sikorsky helicopter took part in the first-ever civilian helicopter rescue, rescuing survivors from a sinking vessel in Long Island Sound. And in 1957, Dwight Eisenhower took the first Presidential ride in Sikorsky-made Marine One, long one of the defining symbols of the American Executive.

Today, in my State of Connecticut, Sikorsky continues to build the best helicopters in the world, including the Black Hawks so critical to our national security, and to move the technology of rotor-powered aircraft forward.

To UTC leadership and the almost 16,000 hardworking men and women of Sikorsky, congratulations on this anniversary, and here's to many more.

WE CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this country has 10.9 million people out of work, many of whom have been out of work for over 6 months. We can't wait any longer. Families want to work. They want a job that will allow them to put food on the table, take family vacations, and save for their children's education. And \$300 a week just won't cut it.

As we speak, the President has a permit on his desk, one that has been ready to sign for almost his entire tenure in office. The Keystone XL pipeline is a rare project supported by labor, business, and the hardworking taxpayers of this country, and one that has been studied and dissected more than most.

This project is ready to go, and, with the stroke of a pen, Mr. President, you can create 40,000 good-paying, stable jobs across this country that American families want and deserve. All they need is your signature.