



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014

No. 46

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC.

March 24, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRED UPTON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

THE STATESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, JOB FAIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week it was my pleasure to attend a job fair at Mitchell Community College in Statesville, North Carolina. The job fair was cohosted by the Statesville Chamber of Commerce; and both Mitchell Community College president Dr. Tim Brewer and Chamber president David Bradley and their staffs are to be commended for making this important event hap-

pen and making these job opportunities available to jobseekers in the local community.

As a former community college president, I am aware of the important role these institutions play in providing workers with the opportunity to improve their skills in order to meet the demands of employers.

Mitchell Community College and the Statesville Chamber of Commerce both played large roles in ensuring that Statesville remains a dynamic economic center within the Fifth District of North Carolina.

More than 40 companies were represented at last week's job fair. About 500 jobs were available, spanning a broad range of skills, abilities, and compensation levels. The organizers offered a resume workshop to help applicants make a first good impression.

I would like to take a few minutes to recognize just a few of those who helped make this event a success and who spend every day making the economy and community of Statesville run.

Gina Shumaker is a graduate of the Mitchell Community College Back to Work program, and now she is giving back to her work with Workforce Carolina. Gina spends every day matching jobseekers with opportunities. She was at the job fair looking to fill 197 positions, and I commend her efforts to help individuals get back on their feet.

Goodyear; I also had the opportunity to talk with Joe Wegmiller, who is the plant manager for the Goodyear manufacturing plant in Statesville. This facility has been manufacturing tire molds in Statesville since 1995. I have had the opportunity to tour the facility, and it is a key employer in the Fifth District.

Doosan; Doosan Portable Power specializes in making generators, air compressors, and other light construction equipment. This company is headquartered in Statesville and brings more than 100 years of manufacturing

experience to bear on the task of providing quality equipment for construction and other industrial uses. We are proud that they call Statesville home and grateful for the opportunities they provide to members of our community.

ASMO in North Carolina employs more than 350 people in Statesville. This company produces blower motors, power seat motors, power window motors, electric power steering motors, and other assemblies for auto manufacturers.

Mr. Speaker, at last week's job fair, a common refrain among employers is that they have had a hard time finding individuals with the skills needed to fill available positions. This reminded me of H.R. 803, the SKILLS Act. This bill would reform and reorganize our broken Federal workforce development system.

There is bipartisan agreement that the current Federal workforce development programs are not meeting the needs of America's jobseekers, many of whom were in attendance at the Statesville job fair last week.

In his 2012 State of the Union address, the President asked that these programs be reformed, and Republicans in the House went to work and passed the SKILLS Act, which would streamline 35 ineffective and duplicative programs, including 26 identified as being ineffective in a 2011 GAO report.

The SKILLS Act empowers job creators, such as Goodyear, Doosan, ASMO, and many others that were looking to hire in Statesville last week. The SKILLS Act would allow local businesses to help steer workforce development resources toward fields that are in demand right now. This bill passed the House over a year ago. I call on our colleagues over in the Senate to act on this vital piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this House will maintain its focus on creating an environment conducive to economic growth and job creation. We have passed more

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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