

while excusing the reprehensible conduct of many of the governments who would become our new partners, all while putting in the same compromise for future agreements.

Meanwhile, if the Supreme Court upholds the tenets of justice and equality that our Nation has always valued, LGBT couples across the country will gain the access to the same rights and protections that heterosexual couples expect and enjoy, and the children of those couples will have the confidence and the security of their family's relationship. I look forward to continuing my work with that.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 19 minutes remaining.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONOR THEIR MEMORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, on April 24, the arc of the moral universe will intersect with the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Many will bear witness to that intersection, but sadly, official recognition of the genocide by the United States Government will be conspicuously absent.

Let us review the facts. In 1915, more than 1.5 million Armenians were systematically annihilated by Ottoman-era Turkish authorities. Men, women, and children were massacred, deported, and condemned to death marches into the Syrian Desert, where they died of thirst and starvation—no final rights, no burial, an assault on the dignity of a dignified and proud people.

This indisputable tragedy of history has been acknowledged by innumerable scholars and historians, including the International Association of Genocide Scholars, the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, and no less than 53 Nobel laureates. The European Parliament and Pope Francis recently joined the chorus that honestly labels this horrific chapter of Turkey's history a genocide.

Hopelessly infected by the disease of denial, modern-day Turkish authorities have now made it clear they were never going to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the genocide with anything approaching candor, honesty, or the most minimal degree of self-reflection.

It heaps insult upon injury that they have chosen the genocide anniversary of April 24 to commemorate something wholly different, the 100th anniversary of the landing of British imperial forces at Gallipoli, a landing that actually occurred the next day, on April 25, 1915.

Turkey's treatment of the Armenian genocide is no surprise. It is a condi-

tioned reflex that has been codified into the laws of the state. In Turkey, anyone who uses the word "genocide" to describe the massacre of the Armenians is subject to criminal punishment under article 301 of the Turkish penal code.

Obviously, we should have dramatically higher expectations for our own country. That is the reason that, as a Member of Congress who has long supported a resolution to recognize the Armenian genocide, I have dreaded the prospect that the 100th anniversary would come and go without official recognition from either the United States Congress or the President of the United States.

I share the deep disappointment and sense of betrayal felt by the Armenian people and all who support their cause. It is lamentable that, on Capitol Hill, advocacy for recognition is being undermined every day by Turkey's intense lobbying campaign to block passage of the Armenian genocide resolution.

In the face of this, it is easy to be cynical and angry, but we should remind ourselves and be inspired that, on April 24, hundreds of thousands of Americans will defy the lack of official recognition with their own personal and heartfelt acknowledgment of the Armenian genocide.

In Turkey, there are brave citizens who, at great personal risk, condemn state authorities for their tragic silence. Ultimately, the voices of individual citizens have a special power to move the heart, in this instance, to bless the unmarked graves of 1.5 million Armenians whose own voices and spirits were trampled into the ground 100 years ago.

This year, I will resist the temptation to mark the anniversary of the Armenian genocide with anger and frustration at the lack of official recognition from those who should know better; rather, I will draw strength from the conviction that the arc of the moral universe will ultimately bend toward justice, toward the eternal memory of those who perished in this undeniable tragedy of history.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

STOP THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BUCK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN).

Mr. JORDAN. I thank the gentleman for this Special Order on an important subject, the Export-Import Bank. I was just going to start with retelling a story I told at an event not too long ago that I think is important.

The scenario that is going to play out, I think, all across the country later this afternoon, there is going to

be a guy who works second shift at the local manufacturing facility. He is going to go out, get in his truck to drive to work.

Now, remember, he is working second shift, which means he has got to miss some of his kids' Little League games, miss some of his children's afterschool activities.

He goes out to get in his truck to go to work, and he looks a couple of houses down, and he sees a guy sitting on the front porch, drinking a cup of coffee, reading the newspaper. He knows the guy can work, but won't work, and is getting his tax dollars.

He gets in his truck to drive to work, and he happens to turn the radio on. It happens to be the news hour. A reporter comes on and talks about the Federal Government's got an \$18 trillion national debt.

They have got this program that gives money to favored and connected corporations. One of these companies went bankrupt and cost the taxpayers a ton of money.

He hears all that, and he remembers what he saw on the front porch of his neighbor's house. Guess what, this guy is ticked off, and he has every right to be.

At the same time he is driving to work, there is a lady driving home from work. She teaches second grade at the local elementary school, and she has busted her tail all day long helping her students.

She views her job as a teacher as a mission field, trying to help her students get the skill set they need to start on their path to achieving the American Dream. She has worked hard all day long.

She is driving home, happens to have her radio on, happens to be tuned in to the same station where the same reporter comes on and talks about the Federal Government with an \$18 trillion national debt, this program that gives money to favored corporations, connected corporations. This one company went bankrupt, cost the taxpayers millions of dollars.

She hears all that as she pulls into her driveway on the same street, sees the same guy sitting on his front porch, drinking coffee, reading the paper. She knows he can work but won't work, and he is getting her tax dollars. Guess what, she is just as mad as the second-shift worker, and she has every right to be.

Now, our job, as Members of Congress, is to remember people like the second-grade teacher and the second-shift worker and fight for things they care about. Here is one: they care about this concept that goes on in this town, where connected companies get special deals with their tax money, and they want that to stop.

We now have a chance to do that, to start the process of stopping the corporate welfare, and that is what Mr. BUCK's Special Order hour is all about, stopping the Export-Import Bank from continuing the corporate connectedness, the corporate cronyism, and the corporate welfare.

Our job is real simple. All we have to do is nothing, something Congress is usually pretty good at doing. All we have to do is not reauthorize this Bank, which loans out billions of taxpayer dollars, puts billions of taxpayer dollars at risk, and helps connected corporate entities who got every lobbyist in this town hired to fight for their cause, at the expense of second-grade teachers and second-shift workers.

Let's not reauthorize this thing. Let's show those people we are actually fighting for them. Then once we do that, then we can actually also get into the social safety net, reform that, require work for able-bodied adults, treat taxpayers with respect, help people trapped in our social safety net system get to a better life.

We can reform it all, but let's start with those connected companies with the high-paid lobbyists getting the special deals.

One other thing I will add before turning it back over to the gentleman from Colorado, who is doing such a great job on this issue, and my good friend from Virginia, who is going to speak as well on this issue and doing a great job, this thing is not only bad because it loans out money, puts taxpayer money at risk, it is corrupt.

Just last week, Mr. Gutierrez, a long-term employee at the Ex-Im Bank, was indicted on bribery and fraud charges, bribery and fraud charges that go clear back to 2006.

For 7 years, he was scamming people, taking taxpayer money, helping himself, taking bribes from companies benefiting from the Export-Import Bank.

Last week, at the first hearing we have had on this issue this Congress, we had the inspector general at the Export-Import Bank say this—and I will close here. He said there may be more indictments in the Gutierrez case. More importantly, he said there may be indictments in the 31—that is right—31 open fraud investigations that the Ex-Im Bank and the Department of Justice are currently investigating.

Now, if that is not enough reason to get rid of this thing, I don't know what is. It puts taxpayer money at risk—corruption, fraud, 31 open fraud investigation cases. Everyone knows it is bad.

All Congress has to do to end it is not a darn thing. For goodness sake, maybe even Congress can accomplish that.

Mr. BUCK. I thank the gentleman from Ohio, and I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BRAT).

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to follow my fellow Congressman from the great State of Ohio and follow our leader, KEN BUCK.

I am an economist who has been working on international trade policy and economics for more than two decades. I support free trade and equal treatment under the law. I oppose special privileges.

Everyone likes free money, and that gets to the crux of this issue, and I

want to go real slowly over this issue because everyone knows there is no such thing as free money or a free lunch. Every economics student learns that in their first course in economics.

Let's just be real clear on that one point and take our time. If you get free money, right, if a corporation gets free money or you get free money, that is good for you, and you are going to hear a lot of people up here saying: Hey, this hurts business, this hurts my company because I am getting free money.

The flip side of that free money is someone is paying the tab for that. Guess who that is, that is you. That is the public. That is the taxpayer. You are footing the bill for this free money that falls out of heaven up here, working through special interests and corporate cronies.

□ 1330

The Export-Import Bank provides cheap, below-market credit to certain exporters. "Below market," that means the market system is not working, and something has jumped in to distort free markets. Below market is just a fancy way of saying "disguised subsidies."

Subsidized exporters and their foreign customers like the goodies. For example, Boeing and its airline customers in the United Arab Emirates, India, South Korea, Chile, China, Ethiopia, and Turkey, among others, appreciate U.S. taxpayers helping to subsidize their planes, or any other good you want to name.

So at first, the Export-Import Bank just looks like a bank that is helping our firms export. But then go and look at the size and the bottom line of the foreign firms who are offering these products more cheaply to their customers, the folks we export to. That is the issue.

Banks in this country also like this program since they get lighter regulation on U.S. Government-backed loans and related products. That is a good thing. But, again, the backstop is you, the taxpayer. If this system ever fails—and we have just seen failure of a massive order with the financial crisis of 2008. And who paid the bill at the end of that failure? The taxpayer. You are the backstop for any failure.

Whenever you hear someone say, Hey, I am getting low interest rates—what a great deal. The low interest rates are being paid for by you; and the risk, which is just as important and is easy to hide, is also being borne by you, the taxpayer.

So the Export-Import Bank does not advance the public interest. Export-Import imposes real costs on you, the American consumer, taxpayers, and other businesses through risk, market distortions, and misallocation of resources.

Let me bring a little economics into this. Export subsidies don't—do not—increase net exports, and there is plenty of economic literature to support this claim. Sure, subsidized exports in-

crease. Of course they do. But unsubsidized exports—the folks without the deal—drop, and imports increase in response. So someone is getting a benefit, but there is always someone else that is not receiving the benefit, that is being harmed by this free money out of heaven.

As the Government Accountability Office noted in a study on Ex-Im's jobs claims: "Additional exports may result in jobs shifting from one firm to another, without an increase in total employment."

Let me read that again. The study claims: "Additional exports may result in jobs"—that is what we care about up here—"jobs shifting from one firm"—who loses them—"to another"—who has the free money—but "without an increase in total employment."

I think that is what Americans care about. I think you care about increasing total employment, and this program does not accomplish that goal.

What is true for employment is also true for production in general and for net exports, which are all part of our GDP.

These economic outcomes are driven by major macroeconomic factors. These are the things we should care about. These are the things that really do improve our economy: worker productivity, United States capital stock, our business climate, and how much we save or borrow. Those are the fundamentals that we need to improve if we want to do better in the rest of the world. And we should also include the United States education system in the mix as well. The Export-Import Bank doesn't change any of these fundamental market drivers. It just benefits some at the expense of the rest of us.

America is supposed to embody free enterprise and equal opportunity for all people—equal opportunity. "Equal" means equal, no special deals for anyone. Getting ahead shouldn't require having friends in Washington, D.C.

Besides, how can we address the entitlement crisis and the legitimate welfare issues we have on the domestic front, as the gentleman from Ohio, JIM JORDAN, just noted, and other domestic reforms if we can't even tackle a narrow corporate welfare program?

I will just close by drawing another comparison with the great financial crisis we had in '07-'08. Fannie and Freddie had a network across 50 States. It was almost a shadow Congress of power that even Members of Congress didn't want to go up against because they were so powerful.

And what happened as Fannie and Freddie helped to generate mortgages to people who could not pay their mortgages; right? Subsidized rates—is it sounding familiar? Subsidized rates to folks who didn't have incomes, liar loans, and utter financial collapse starting in the housing sector, spreading over to the financial sector, all too good to be true, all free money falling from heaven, just like I am describing here with the Export-Import Bank.

And at the end of the day, who paid the bill? You did, the American taxpayer.

So the Export-Import Bank is building the same infrastructure throughout the country. They are going State by State by State, Member by Member by Member, saying: Hey, you have companies who really need this special deal. They like the deal.

We have shown, I have shown: it is good for them, but it is not good for you.

These special interest subsidies need to end, starting with the end of the Export-Import Bank.

Mr. BUCK. I thank the gentleman from Virginia.

I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. I thank the gentleman from Colorado for the opportunity to rise and speak on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I have some serious concerns about the future of the Export-Import Bank, particularly with this administration.

In the past, the Bank has been used to push extreme environmental policies from the President to guide how it awards their loans. We all know that the President has declared a war on coal; and through his administration, he is doing everything he can to prosecute that war on coal. We have seen the EPA and other departments in this administration, through regulation—not through Congress, but through regulation—attempt to shut down the coal industry and bankrupt the coal industry. The President, himself, said his goal was to bankrupt the coal industry. This, of course, along with the Export-Import Bank, is hurting coal companies and costing American jobs as they try to compete in the global market.

I know that American coal has been hurt because the Export-Import Bank has awarded loans in countries that do not have to adhere to President Obama's leftwing environmental regulations. They don't have an EPA in many of these countries, yet we are financing deals there. Our current President has proven time and again he will use any means necessary to circumvent Congress and the Constitution to promote an agenda the American people just don't want.

So let me give you some specifics on the Export-Import Bank and some of their investments:

For example, in 2013, the Export-Import Bank approved a loan in the amount of \$694 million in financing for U.S. equipment to develop an open-pit iron ore mine in Australia. The mine is owned by the wealthiest woman in the country of Australia. Do you really think she needs U.S. tax dollar support for this project?

According to public officials, unions, and the Iron Mining Association, these subsidies threaten to displace nearly \$600 million worth of U.S. iron ore exports and cause a reduction of approximately \$1.2 billion in U.S. domestic sales.

The Wall Street Journal recently highlighted a \$641 million deal the Export-Import Bank made with a Turkish company to build a new fuel-producing plant. According to the CEO of Valero, a company that exports American diesel and gasoline to foreign countries, "The new Turkish refinery will be a direct competitor of U.S. refineries in the global market." "It takes away potential export markets."

Valero, I might mention, has operations in my district, in my State, and in many other States throughout the country.

Lastly, according to The Heritage Foundation, the Export-Import Bank made a \$500 million deal with a copper mine in Mongolia that competes with excavations in Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Nevada, and Montana.

The American people elect Congress to write the laws and make the laws, not the President. The President is the executive branch. He needs to figure this out. The executive branch enforces laws. They don't make the laws. That is what we do here in the legislative branch. The American people gave Republicans majorities in both Chambers to put a stop to the President's radical agenda.

One other concern I would like to point out is I don't believe the government should be in the business of picking the winners and the losers. Private investors, you, when you choose to shop, individuals, can pick who you want to support.

We have a vibrant and highly functioning private banking system. We should let them determine which loans are made to which companies. When the Federal Government inserts itself into the process, you end up with a system where Washington special interests drive decisionmaking, not free market principles. The Export-Import Bank has become the competitor to this private capital and investment.

And I am a conservative. I believe I support Federal policies that encourage free enterprise and entrepreneurship, not to enter the arena as a competitor to the private sector. The Federal Government should not be in the business of picking winners and losers. Let's let the marketplace decide who wins and loses. This is the way free markets are supposed to work.

What has made America great are the traditional values, hard work, and free markets. The ability to create jobs in this country, that is what has made America great.

We support businesses. Those businesses that create jobs, they have raised more people out of poverty—the businesses and the jobs they create have raised more people out of poverty than any other government program can or ever will.

So I wanted to bring these concerns to the attention of the American people and this body. This is a serious issue that may or may not come before Congress. If we don't act at all, the Bank expires; and it is clear from what

I have detailed here, there are serious concerns with moving forward with the Export-Import Bank.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this issue.

Mr. BUCK. I thank the gentleman from West Virginia.

Bribery, corruption, and fraud, throughout my tenure as a State and Federal prosecutor, I saw all of these evils and more. I am disappointed to say that the words I once used to describe white-collar criminals can now be used to define a federally funded entity.

The Export-Import Bank, or, as some know it, the Ex-Im Bank, has taken advantage of our free market system. An institution that once stood for economic growth, prosperity, and global expansion now stands as a symbol of greed, a pillar of crony capitalism.

It does not take a trained eye to see that the Ex-Im Bank is exactly what is wrong with Washington today. This 80-year-old institution we once trusted to expand our "Made in America" brand to every corner of the globe has failed to live up to its charter and has, instead, morphed into something else.

The Bank does not maintain or create jobs. It does not support small businesses as much as its supporters would like you to think. It does not level the playing field for U.S. exporters. It is not even a good deal for taxpayers. The Ex-Im Bank has become more like a train with no conductor at the helm, running faster and faster, heading straight off the tracks. As so often happens when accountability is slim and punishment is nonexistent, the Ex-Im Bank has become a breeding ground for corruption, cronyism, and fraud.

If you think I am wrong, even President Obama agreed with me back in 2008. Before he ascended to the White House, Mr. Obama said that the Ex-Im Bank was "little more than corporate welfare." The President is also on record saying:

There should be a level playing field for U.S. exporters, allowing them to compete based on the quality and price of their goods and services, rather than on the quality of any officially supported financing.

You know, Mr. President, the great thing about the Internet is those words never go away, no matter how much you change your tune.

At best, the Bank is handpicking winners and losers. At worst, Ex-Im Bank is corruptly accepting bribes, crookedly steering funds to favored foreign companies, and chilling the market for our homegrown companies.

Take, for instance, Delta Air Lines. Delta is suing Ex-Im Bank because it feels that it is being cheated out of many of its former routes. The airline is on record saying that foreign competitors aided by American taxpayer-funded loans from the Ex-Im Bank can now charge less per flight because they have purchased Boeing aircraft at cheaper prices than our own American companies can.

□ 1345

The American taxpayer is subsidizing foreign airlines that compete with other American airlines.

Speaking of Boeing and the Ex-Im Bank's corrupt practices, following Delta's suit, Congress mandated that the Bank perform economic impact reviews on all large deals. Take one guess who helped Ex-Im craft these rules. Boeing. This company received 65.4 percent of the bank's taxpayer-backed financing to help sell their jets to foreign companies, putting domestic airlines like Delta in a bind. How can Ex-Im justify its claims of leveling the playing field and supporting small businesses with these practices?

It only takes a quick glance at Ex-Im's leadership to see how we got to this point. The Daily Caller found that fully half of Ex-Im's own advisory committee members led businesses that directly benefited from Ex-Im financing during their term. Five more members had Ex-Im funding reach their organizations before joining the advisory committee. And most disturbing of all, if we can have something more disturbing, is that the current advisory committee chair is former Democratic Governor Christine Gregoire of Washington State—Washington State, which receives 43.6 percent of the bank's total funding. I invite you once again to take one guess at what company is headquartered in Washington State. Yes, you guessed it: Boeing.

Mr. Speaker, if this is not bad enough, between October 2007 and March 2014, there were 124 investigations linked to corruption surrounding the Ex-Im Bank. This includes some 792 separate claims involving more than \$500 million. The Ex-Im inspector general also revealed last week that 31 other Ex-Im Bank employees are currently being investigated for fraud. That brings us to nearly 40 Ex-Im employees who have already been investigated or are currently being investigated for fraud.

During an Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing during the week of April 15, the Export-Import Bank's inspector general revealed that four senior-level Ex-Im employees were relieved of their duties last summer. These employees were allegedly steering taxpayer-funded loans to favored companies in exchange for cash payments and other kickbacks. A former Congressman is sitting now in Federal prison until 2023 on bribery charges linked to Bank practices. Another former Ex-Im employee was indicted in the same scheme for soliciting and accepting \$173,500 in bribes. The list goes on and on. How can we justify allowing a Federal agency to continue to operate in flagrant disregard of the law?

Mr. Speaker, the most recent of these cases features a former Ex-Im loan officer, Johnny Gutierrez. You may remember Mr. Gutierrez as one of the four Ex-Im employees I mentioned before. He has the dubious honor of being the first of these four to be formally

charged with bribery by the Department of Justice. He allegedly accepted cash bribes 19 times between 2006 and 2013 to help direct taxpayer-backed loans to a Florida-based construction equipment exporter, Impex Association. Mr. Gutierrez was apparently very good at his job. He secured between \$1 million and \$5 million to finance Impex Association projects in both Mexico and the Dominican Republic in June 2007. Similar guarantees were also promised to Jamaica and the Turks and Caicos. It is clear this is, unfortunately, not an isolated incident.

It only gets worse, Mr. Speaker. In 2009, former Democratic Congressman William J. Jefferson from Louisiana was convicted of accepting bribes from U.S. telecom company IGATE and a Nigerian company in exchange for selling access to Ex-Im Bank employees. Jefferson was even videotaped receiving \$100,000 at the Ritz-Carlton hotel right across the river in Arlington. When Federal investigators raided Jefferson's house, they discovered over \$90,000 in cash stashed away in his freezer. This does not even take into account the former Ex-Im employee, Maureen Scurry, who was indicted for accepting \$173,500 worth of bribes to help the Nigerian company.

I don't know about you, but when an internal poll shows that only 42.1 percent of your employees think the organization's leaders maintain a high standard of honesty and integrity, and only 50.2 percent of employees believe they can disclose violations of the law without fearing for their jobs, there is something terribly wrong.

It is time for a change here in Washington. The Ex-Im Bank is the perfect example of what happens when a single agency is allowed to pick winners and losers. For too long, Ex-Im employees have been accepting falsified documents, failing to record applicants' eligibility, and forging mandatory checks on applicants' financial integrity. There is a systemic sickness poisoning this agency with greed and corruption. It must be stopped, and it must be stopped now.

This battle may be hard. But it is one I feel deep down that we must fight. We cannot allow this corrupt agency to continue picking winners and losers, laughing in the face of our laws and degrading our free market principles. The Ex-Im Bank is a portrait of exactly what is wrong with Washington today, and it is finally time for a change. That is why I ask you to join me on June 30 in allowing this pillar of crony capitalism to expire once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

RECOGNIZING THE BELL STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM UPON WINNING ITS 13TH CONSECUTIVE SCIENCE OLYMPIAD STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Under the Speaker's announced

policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional group of students, teachers, and parents of the Bell Street Middle School Science Olympiad Team, which just won their 13th consecutive Science Olympiad State championship. Let me repeat that: the 13th straight Science Olympiad State championship, a remarkable group of parents, teachers, and students.

The Science Olympiad program is one of the premier science competition programs in the Nation, which for the past 31 years has been dedicated to interscholastic academic competition that provides a series of individual and team events requiring the knowledge of scientific facts, concepts, processes, skills, and science applications. They provide constantly changing challenges to nearly 7,000 teams across all 50 States that allow for students to be exposed to a variety of career choices while meeting practicing scientists and life-changing mentors.

The Bell Street Middle School in Clinton, South Carolina, began competing in this competition in 1986. The Science Olympiad team here was founded by three exceptional teachers: Dr. Rosemary Wicker, Dr. David O'Shields, and Michael Mack. Mr. Mack and Dr. David O'Shields still work in the school district today, and Dr. O'Shields is the superintendent of Laurens County School District 56. He continues to be a part of the team and coaches the Bell Street Middle School Science Olympiad.

Many of the Bell Street Science Olympiad alumni have gone on to be extremely successful in the fields of science and technology. One example is Elizabeth Humbert, who went on to obtain a master's degree in geology at the University of Tennessee and later went on to help manage mastodon excavation at the Paleontological Research Institution in Ithaca, New York. She also participated in the Hyde Park Mastodon Project, which was the discovery of the most complete mastodon to date. She has spent countless hours working in outreach to students through helping to build the Museum of the Earth and through an outreach position at Cornell University for NASA, through which she helped build the STEM internships across the State of New York for underrepresented students.

Today Elizabeth is living on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia, developing a class for upper elementary school students on their regional ecology and geology. When asked about her love for science, Elizabeth states: My building block, my love for learning, my discovery that I could do what I found interesting, dates specifically back to Bell Street Middle School and to our Challenge classes, to enjoying the freedom and the open-ended research it offered and to Science Olympiad and the connections it created.