worked in a very cost-effective way to have a safe work environment.

Their commitment to our communities in the Fifth Congressional District has been everything. It will be sorely missed. I will be there this week to pay tribute as they close the plant and finish their job operations this Friday and to wish them well and all of God’s blessings as they move on in life; and with the knowledge that they have done.

We owe them our eternal gratitude. Mr. Speaker, our city and country are mobilizing as never before.

The day after the terrorist attack at ground zero I saw not only the devastation but the determination in all New Yorkers and Americans to rescue, rebuild—and repay the terrorists in calculated, just, multi-national strikes at them and those who harbor them.

We’re getting back to work to rebuild Lower Manhattan and to keep our economy strong.

From the bottom of my heart I thank my colleagues for their swift support for the $20 billion we’ve approved to rebuild.

I’ve never seen this Congress more united or more determined.

The airline bill passed last Friday was also a boon to New York.

It included funds to support the victims and their families. And it helped keep planes flying into New York.

Today we will make this airline initiative more comprehensive by passing legislation that supports airline workers who were laid off through no fault of their own.

The impact of this tragedy is being felt far beyond ground zero.

New York City’s second largest industry is tourism.

Right now restaurants are empty. Hotel rooms are vacant and Broadway shows are closing.

Yesterday morning I met with Don Winter, a Chamber of Commerce President.

He said small businesses in particular are being devastated and that they pass under the radar screen of many relief efforts.

Last week to help address this problem and bring people back to New York Congressman Richard P. Neal and I introduced the “I Love New York Tax Deduction Act”.

For the next year it would allow individuals to deduct from their income taxes up to $500 and families up to $1,000 for spending money in NYC restaurants, lodging and entertainment outlets whether or not they itemize their taxes.

And Americans who have lost their jobs or retired from their jobs would be eligible for this deduction. All they would have to do is come to New York and help our economy by enjoying all that our city has to offer.

Right now, tourism is patriotism. 3,000 New York City hotel workers have already lost their jobs.

The City’s 300,000 food service workers are facing heavy layoffs.

Eleven current Broadway productions have closed.

I think it’s important that we as a country remember both this tragedy and the extraordinary human response that is fundamentally American.

Even as the ground-zero cleanup continues I’ve been assured by Ken Holden, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Design and Construction, that fragments of shells of the Twin Towers which landed in the ground like daggers in our heart will be preserved for the purpose of creating a national monument. A reminder of the day our lives turned upside down. And how we have come together as a city and nation.

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