

To build off this progress, in December we passed the Jobs for Main Street Act to create and save even more jobs at home, with targeted investment for highways, transit, and school renovations; the hiring of teachers, police, and firefighters; increased lending to small business; job training initiatives; and affordable housing.

Furthermore, to spur growth within small business, we passed the Small Business Financing and Investment Act to make it easier and more affordable for small businesses to get loans and access to capital, which in turn could save and create millions of jobs in this sector alone.

Mr. Speaker, while I am proud of the steps that this Chamber has taken to lift our economy, I know that our work is not done. We will continue to fight to create jobs until we find a solution to repair the damage left by the economic downturn of the last 8 years.

A DEAF GOVERNMENT ASLEEP IN DENIAL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, government's view of the economy could be summed up this way: "If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."

The American people are uneasy about their financial future. Taxing and borrowing and spending are out of control. Government is the problem. The people are frustrated.

We in Washington should listen to the people of America. They talked to us at town hall meetings. They got louder with their marches on Washington. The American people say stop the spending, cut up the credit cards. We should listen to America.

America is a representative Republic. That means the people talk, we listen. We implement their ideas. That is the way it works. Lately, the government dictates, the people comply. That is backwards, and it is arrogant.

In America, the people are the sovereign, not the government. We in Congress should make the government work for the people, work with them, not over them; stand by their side, not ride their backs. The people are talking, and their voices cannot continue to fall on a deaf government asleep in denial.

And that's just the way it is.

SUPREME COURT'S DECISION ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, among all of the potentially disastrous consequences of last week's Supreme Court decision on campaign finance,

one of them is a really cruel irony. Those of us who think we need public financing of Federal campaigns may now watch as taxpayer dollars actually are used for Federal campaigns.

AIG, which this Congress and our taxpayers bailed out to the tune of \$180 billion, may now be able to spend our money, your money, to actually influence Federal elections.

Not only that. We passed the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to regulate Wall Street, finally, after they brought us to the brink of disaster. We spent a lot of money doing that, taxpayer dollars.

The companies that were saved by those dollars can now directly advocate for the election or defeat of candidates for Federal office.

This is a disgrace. And, unfortunately, we still haven't acted sufficiently to put an end to the risky behavior of Wall Street. I hope the Senate will act and we can sign the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act into law before the Supreme Court destroys the country.

□ 1015

CBO REPORTS MORE STIMULUS STUMBLES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office announced that the cost of the President's spending plan has jumped another \$75 billion. Stephen Dinan at the Washington Times reported that "the country faces giant budget deficits for the foreseeable future and has the biggest debt problem it has seen since just after World War II."

On the heels of these reports, the President will deliver the State of the Union address and will present his agenda tonight. I hope the President will be substantive about tackling out-of-control Washington spending to promote bipartisan cooperation. I believe we need to freeze spending based on 2008 levels. The Washington liberal majority needs to explain the 85 percent spending spike in just 2 years. American families who are trying to stay financially afloat do not have time for any more stimulus stumbles. We need jobs, not more spending.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Congratulations, Coach Darrin Horn and the USC Gamecocks, for their 68-62 victory over number one ranked Kentucky.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, in the last Congress, with the last administration, President Bush came to Congress during the financial meltdown, along with Secretary Paulson, and asked for hundreds of billions of dollars. They said they were going to use it to buy bad debt from the banks. It was threatening to bring down our financial system. Did they use it for that? No. Instead, they started to use it to nationalize American companies. They bought automobile companies; they bought banks. They used the government to take over the means of production.

It now falls to us to break this socialist stranglehold on our country. The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act is one of the first steps. We ban future TARP bailouts. We require the companies pay into a fund. No longer will companies be bailed out by taxpayer dollars. I call upon the United States Senate to pass the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and for us to take additional steps to privatize these companies that the Federal Government now owns.

JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I introduced the Job Creation Act of 2010. The number one priority in America should be jobs and helping small businesses. My five-point plan is to provide tax relief for small businesses. Instead of writing off equipment over 5 years, have them write it off over 1 year and sunset it in a year or two. Eliminate capital gains tax on companies. There's plenty of capital. People don't have confidence in the administration; they don't have confidence in this Congress. But there is capital to invest. The small businesses need that capital to create jobs.

We're taxing unemployment benefits at 11 percent. That needs to stop. We need to sunset that. TARP funds, \$750 billion: we committed to the American people that would be paid back. They are paying back much of the funds. It needs to go to pay down the \$12 trillion debt. Also, we need to curb frivolous lawsuits. It's driving up health care, it's killing businesses, it's killing jobs.

I urge Members from both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE SCOOTER STORE

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

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my good friend, Representative LAMAR SMITH, to honor The SCOOTER

Store, a hometown business in our home State of Texas. They've been recognized by Fortune magazine as one of the top 100 places to work in America. Fortune magazine has recognized this excellent work environment for their employees, ranking The SCOOTER Store the 38th Best Place to Work in 2010. The SCOOTER Store was founded in New Braunfels, Texas, by Doug and Susanna Harrison almost 19 years ago. Today, they serve more than 460,000 people across 48 States and Puerto Rico, with more than 70 facilities and approximately 2,000 employees.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time they have been recognized. They were recognized 6 years ago. They're a company built on teamwork and good values. And this is why, Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to have the time to recognize The SCOOTER Store for their ranking as the 38th Best Place to Work in 2010 by Fortune magazine.

RONALD AND GLENDA KRONGOLD'S WORK WITH ISRAEL BONDS

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I rise today to recognize two outstanding Americans, my good friends, Ronald and Glenda Krongold, constituents of my congressional district. For decades, the Krongolds have dedicated themselves to the safety and security of our democratic Jewish State of Israel, including through their leadership in the National Israel Bonds Campaign. Ron served as vice chairman and chairman of new leadership.

Their work on Israel bonds has contributed greatly to Israel's thriving economy and its booming scientific, technological, and entrepreneurial sectors. Ron's expertise has also benefited our home State of Florida. He played a pivotal role in the negotiations of the Trade Understanding between our State of Florida and Israel, signed by then-Secretary of Commerce for Florida, Jeb Bush.

Ron and Glenda, for your dedication you have the appreciation of this House and of countless Americans and Israelis. Thank you for your work. Keep it up.

FREEDOM FROM FOREIGN-BASED MANIPULATION IN AMERICAN ELECTIONS ACT

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. I rise today to urge Congress to overturn the Supreme Court's ruling last week that allows corporations to buy Federal elections. Yesterday, I introduced the Freedom from Foreign-Based Manipu-

lation in American Elections Act, which will prevent foreign-influenced companies from buying U.S. elections. Should a Chinese corporation decide U.S. copyright policy or civil rights law? Should Saudi Arabia have a say on American energy policy? How about Venezuela? Should Hugo Chavez have a voice in American elections? These are the questions we must ask if the Supreme Court's decision is allowed to stand.

The Court's decision flies in the face of a century of precedent keeping corporations out of elections. By giving corporations the same rights as individuals, the Court is handing corporations a blank check to decide elections instead of letting the voters do it. I urge my colleagues to join me in saying "no" to this decision and "yes" to democracy.

THANKS TO THE MINNESOTA RED BULLS

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say welcome home to a group of Minnesota heroes, the National Guard's 34th Infantry Division, known as the Red Bulls. Many of the Red Bulls have begun arriving home from their most recent tour of duty in Iraq. These brave Minnesotans have played a very crucial role in transitioning security responsibilities from American troops to the Iraqi forces, as well as leading more than 1,000 new reconstruction projects to help the Iraqi people. The 1,200 soldiers that are now returning home come from more than 275 communities in Minnesota and represent the American spirit of selflessness, sacrifice, and service.

I had the chance to personally meet with some of the Red Bulls when I visited Iraq not too long ago. I was humbled to see their selfless work that they accomplish every single day. Today, I'm thrilled to see them returning home from Iraq safely to their friends, to their families, and to a State that is especially grateful for all that they do.

ECONOMIC CLIMATE FOR JOB GROWTH

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

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, we have asked the American people to do a lot over the past year in order to work together to rebuild our economy. Tonight, we await the President's words to see how the country will move forward to continue to put people back to work and make reforms necessary to jump-start our economy. I applaud the

President for putting a freeze on all nonsecurity discretionary spending for fiscal year 2011, because as the American family tightens its belt, so must Congress. I would encourage the President to continue to call for increased fiscal responsibility in Congress, and I will do my part in ensuring that we spend responsibly to protect the people of my district.

I joined several of my Blue Dog colleagues in a letter led by Congressman PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania to call for a spending freeze earlier this month and will continue to look for ways that we can continue to hold ourselves fiscally accountable for PAYGO and other budget cuts. My predecessor in Congress used to say that we here in Congress can't create jobs, but we can create an economic climate for job growth and development to boost our local economies. That should be our primary goal in 2010.

A RETURN TO BALANCED BUDGETS AND JOB CREATION

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, according to a poll released this week by CNN, nearly three out of four Americans think that much of the money spent in the so-called stimulus plan has been wasted. I agree. Should we be surprised that a bill chock-full of earmarks and pet projects did nothing to inspire confidence among Americans? And with a record drop in real estate sales, a languishing stock market, and an unemployment rate remaining above 10 percent, should we blame them? The CBO just offered that after only 1 year in total control, Democrats more than tripled the annual deficit, from \$408 billion to \$1.4 trillion. These are not the changes Americans voted for.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the idea of a spending freeze, this country needs more than just window dressing. It needs to return to balanced budgets and a real focus on job creation.

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. ENGEL. Tonight, when our President gives his State of the Union Address, I'm going to listen very intently. I know that he's going to talk about creating jobs, improving the economy, lowering unemployment, and also health care reform. Let's rally behind our President. The people sent us here to work together in a bipartisan fashion. Let's not talk about what is best politically for this party or that party, let's look at what is best for the American people.