

and Pedestrian Safety and Roadway Enhancement Act. My bill, which has 34 bipartisan cosponsors, will make roads safer for both older drivers and pedestrians by implementing recommendations from the Federal Highway Administration's Older Drivers Handbook.

I urge all of my colleagues to honor Older Americans Month and the contributions of their older constituents by joining me in the fight for their safety and mobility.

□ 1215

VOTE ON EURO-TARP

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, older Americans care most about their children and grandchildren, and this Congress is mortgaging their children and grandchildren's future. All across this country, families are struggling to balance their budgets. Businesses are doing likewise, and it means laying people off, tightening their belts in order to balance budgets. And instead, what is this Congress doing? Continuing to borrow and spend beyond our means.

Americans are also suffering from bailout fatigue. When you think about the last 2 years, we've bailed out Wall Street, GM, Chrysler, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac; and now the Obama administration is proposing \$8 billion for Greece and over \$50 billion for the European Union, which has been borrowing and spending beyond its means. And yet, America is following in these same footsteps.

Mr. Speaker, we need a budget. And just last week, my friend Congressman PENCE and I introduced a resolution asking for this Congress to take a stand in opposition to U.S. tax dollars being used for the bailout. We cannot afford a too-big-to-fail strategy on a global level. The only thing too big to fail is America itself. We owe it to the American people to have this vote.

PROTECTING SECURITY

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

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, my district makes most of our Nation's intelligence satellites. I have served on our key security committees, and I devote enormous attention to helping develop legal and operational strategies to keep our country safe.

The Obama administration understands that security and liberty are not a zero-sum game. We will either get more of both or less. We must capture or kill high-value targets, which this

administration is doing in far greater numbers than did the Bush administration. But we must also live our values. Most important among them is the principle that the rule of law applies to all.

Tomorrow, my Subcommittee on Intelligence and Terrorism and Risk Assessment will hold a hearing to examine how the Internet is used by terrorists to train, recruit, and plan attacks inside the country and what the U.S. Government should do about it. It is the third in a series of hearings on violent extremism.

The Internet is a forum for free speech and global commerce, but the dark underside of that is it can also be a forum for violence and global terror. As difficult and controversial as this subject is, we need to find the right ways to intercept those who would do us harm. Developing a strategy around the Internet has to be part of that equation, and so does protecting security and liberty.

WHERE'S THE BUDGET?

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, if we talk about national security and intersecting those who do harm, the first thing we ought to talk about in this Congress at this time is where's the budget. As the budget chairman has said, if you can't budget, you can't govern. That was 4 years ago.

Taxpayers have to pay their taxes every April 15. Congress was supposed to have a budget April 15. Not since 1974 when the Budget Act was written has the House failed to even consider a budget.

And the budget that we need to consider needs to deal with deficit spending, deficits of \$1.4 trillion, \$1.6 trillion, and a trillion dollars every year added to the Nation's debt and to our kids' and grandkids' future. The budget being put forward by the President doubles the Nation's debt in 5 years and triples it in 10. This is unsustainable. We will look like Greece. We will look like Spain.

The budget-busting deficit that's being created is horrible for our kids and grandkids. It will not be good for this country's security. It is awful for our children's future. Let's get a budget that reduces wasteful Washington spending.

DISBAR BP FROM GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. It is impossible to talk about BP without getting angry

about the broken promises, the buck passing, and the brazen profiteering. But I want to channel that anger into something productive and add one more "BP" to the mix: Be proactive.

This week, I will introduce an amendment to the Department of Defense reauthorization bill that would call on the Secretary of Defense to consider disbarring BP from government contracts to sell the American military its products. Disbar BP.

We hear that the cleanup may take years or may last forever. We hear calls for investigations that can go on for years or may last forever. But rather than look backwards and figure out what went wrong and who should pay, let's be proactive and take steps this week to ban permanently from Federal contracts the serial abuser of the American trust.

I urge you to support my amendment to the DOD reauthorization when it is debated and ban BP from Federal contracts.

COMPETITION IS KEY FOR COST CONTROL

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. When it comes to addressing the budget, competition is key. This principle applies to everything from produce to clothing items to defense procurement.

As the House considers the National Defense Authorization Act this week and an amendment impeding competition between fighter engines, it is important that we keep the merits of this principle in mind in order to continue to protect thousands of jobs and save taxpayers billions of dollars. History shows that competing fighter engines significantly reduce program costs while improving safety, reliability, and contractor responsiveness.

Controlling costs, spurring innovation, and accelerating weapons systems readiness and performance are just a few major reasons why we must continue the F-136 program. Without competition, we would rely on a single engine, which could lead to unnecessary operational risk and the potential for grounding of the entire fleet if a glitch is found. The F-136 prevents this troubling scenario.

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

AMERICAN JOBS AND CLOSING TAX LOOPHOLES ACT

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will consider the American

Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act. This legislation is another step in our efforts to create jobs and keep our economic recovery on track. The bill will help communities build schools, roads, and other important infrastructure projects putting people to work now.

In my district, we will see benefits in places like Los Osos and El Rio, which have long been in need of sewer systems. The Build America Bonds program extended in the bill will help advance clean energy efforts like geothermal power projects that will provide electricity for Santa Barbara County.

Mr. Speaker, our economy is still in very rough shape, a result of the reckless actions on Wall Street and little to no oversight by the previous administration. But we are making progress.

Last month, the economy created nearly 300,000 new jobs, a stark turnaround from the 700,000 jobs being lost at the end of the Bush administration. This change comes in large part because of the tough, smart choices we have made to cut taxes and invest in our people. The legislation coming up this week is another of these efforts to keep us on the road to full recovery.

I hope all my colleagues will help support this bill and help build a stronger America.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST GRANT WICHMANN, U.S. ARMY

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

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, there are many heroes from Colorado who have fought and continue to fight in the global war terror. Today, I rise to pay tribute to one hero in particular: United States Army Specialist Grant Wichmann of Golden, Colorado.

Specialist Grant Wichmann graduated from Golden High School, where he was an athlete, avid soccer player, and a snowboarder. Although one of his friends had been killed serving in Iraq, at the age of 24 he enlisted in the United States Army. When his father tried to talk him out of enlisting, Specialist Grant Wichmann said he could not sit by while others die protecting him. This is a true indication of the kind of courage Grant Wichmann possessed.

On March 12, 2010, while assigned to combat outpost Bari Alai, Afghanistan, Specialist Grant Wichmann's unit was attacked by enemy forces using small arms fire. During the engagement, Specialist Grant Wichmann was gravely wounded and ultimately succumbed to his injuries while at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Specialist Grant Wichmann is a shining example of the United States Army service and sacrifice. As a former mem-

ber of the United States Army and as a retired Marine Corps Reserve officer, my deepest sympathies go out to his family and all who knew him.

DEFENSE REAUTHORIZATION BILL

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

Mr. HOYER. Ladies and gentlemen, we will soon bring to the floor a defense authorization bill that invests in our most important security needs: disrupting terrorists networks, countering nuclear proliferation, strengthening international cooperation to defeat the Taliban, preparing the Iraqi Government to stand on its own, and investing in the needs of our troops and their families.

This bill builds on Democrats' strong defense record. Under President Obama, we have killed or captured some of the highest ranking leaders in al Qaeda—many more than we did under the last administration—and the Taliban; laid out a clear way forward in Afghanistan; disrupted terrorism with the full resources of our intelligence community and justice system; and increased funding for human intelligence collection, cybersecurity, and security for our skies, our ports, and our borders.

This bill offers us a chance to improve on the flawed record of the Bush administration, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

CONGRESS' FAILURE TO PASS A BUDGET

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

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, across the country, countless families and small business owners are making the tough decisions needed to weather this difficult economy. Many may have hoped to put off for another day the choices they were forced to make, but the American people realize the path to renewing our economic prosperity comes through courage and sacrifice. They also realize the difficult work must start today.

It is a dereliction of public duty for this Congress to deliberately fail to pass a budget. More than a year ago, the American people ignited a national debate about the future they see for the country. They have demanded that Washington get spending under control and spend taxpayer money wisely. It is shameful that here in the people's House, the Democrat majority's avoiding that same debate. We are failing our children by failing to produce a budget. It is time to get our priorities straight and our fiscal house in order.

Mr. Speaker, let's join this debate taking place around the country and

begin to make the tough choices the American people expect from their leaders.

“YOU CUT” OR “CUT YOU”?

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if you tuned in to last week's episode of YouCut, then you may recall that Republicans resorted to a legislative trick in an attempt to cut much needed funding from the Temporary Aid to Needy Families program. This cut would have been another break for the rich at the expense of the poor instead of providing financial support, job training, and child care subsidies to lower-income families with children. Fortunately, this measure was defeated.

This week, Republicans seek to stall the important business of the House yet again with a new list of proposed cuts.

While the YouCut program has been touted by Republicans as a partnership with the American people, a more fitting name for the program would be “CutYou,” because it can hurt everyday Americans while doing little to cut the Federal deficit.

What Republicans fail to mention is that the YouCut program is inherently selective and, therefore, biased. Neither online nor cell phone voters are able to vote to save a program rather than cut it. Further, the YouCut program conveniently targets only those who have Internet access and cell phones, which disproportionately leaves out both the poor and the elderly.

I will talk a little bit more about “CutYou” later on this evening.

COMMENTS ABOUT SPENDING

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, folks in America's First District have a lot to say about spending, the debt, and the deficit, and I'd like to share their comments.

Chris from Warrenton says, Please cut Federal spending. This issue can't be put off any longer. It's not time for us to be able to afford these fancy Federal programs, and we have to get on the track of reducing spending now. The American people get it. Dealing with the debt and deficit should be a top priority. Cut spending. No one has ever spent their way out of debt.

Elizabeth from Williamsburg says, Fix the budget. Stop spending what we don't have.

Scott from Yorktown says, The U.S. taxpayers are on the hook for billions.