

Wall Street's abuses. We need to put in place commonsense rules of the road. For too long, Wall Street fat cats gambled with our future and ran our economy into the ditch. North Carolina families I hear from every day paid the price. Why? Because Wall Street's protectors looked the other way while abuses ran rampant. We've seen what that means to Main Street and rural America—8 million jobs lost, \$17 trillion in hard-earned family savings—savings for retirement, college, for home buying—all wiped out overnight.

Today, we have an opportunity to say "enough." But the same folks who said "no" to helping out-of-work Americans yesterday are trying to say "no" to reining in Wall Street abuses today. I call on my colleagues to put aside their differences and put America before Wall Street, and join me in supporting the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

#### TOO MUCH RHETORIC—TOO LITTLE ACTION

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, over a month ago, the administration promised to send 1,200 National Guard troops to the border. But the troops still aren't there. Now the White House is saying it'll be another month before there's a "steep ramp-up" of the troops—and they'll be there only 4 months. And there'll be a complete ramp-down by June of 2011. And they'll be unarmed National Guardsmen.

You see, the troops aren't actually going to the border. There will be unarmed guards guarding computers 50 miles north of the border. And there'll be 1,200 troops but they all won't be there at the same time. That's like saying a store is open 24 hours but just not 24 hours in a row. What kind of border security plan is that? There is no sense of urgency to stop the violence and the killing along the border. Too much rhetoric and too little action coming out of the White House. Like my grandfather used to say, there's more thunder than rain.

And that's just the way it is.

#### HERE WE GO AGAIN

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, tell me it's not true. Republicans again are attacking Social Security. Yesterday, our minority leader indicated that he wanted sweeping cuts in Social Security. Sounds like déjà vu when the Republicans stood side-by-side saying "privatize Social Security." Can you believe that the Republicans are now standing with raising the age for retirees to get Social Security

to age 70? Can you believe there will be a means test that you won't be able to get Social Security if you earn a certain amount? Can you believe they want to take this money to pay for the Iraq and Afghan war? Can you believe they're fighting Democrats to not extend unemployment benefits? Can you believe that they are fighting us from creating jobs, as Democrats are doing, giving opportunities to small businesses.

I really can't believe it, Mr. Speaker. Here we go again—cutting our seniors again, raising the Social Security means test as a way of saving money. What are we going to do? Fight back as Democrats and stand with our seniors.

□ 1020

#### NO BUDGET? NO PROBLEM

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. You know, last week the House leader announced that Democrats will not craft a budget next year. Instead of going line by line to see what programs could be eliminated or reduced, they are ignoring the dire warnings of economists and continuing on their spending frenzy. No budget? No problem. Not enough money? No problem. They'll just raise taxes on the middle class, breaking their promise not to raise taxes on families earning less than \$250,000.

They need to produce a budget and stop the out-of-control spending that has pushed our national debt past \$13 trillion. I don't know what's worse, failing to produce a budget or how the Democrats already have resigned to the fact they will raise taxes on middle class families to pay for their wasteful ways. Americans want, need, and deserve better. Make a budget, cut spending for our freedom and for our future.

#### SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, for as long as I have been in Congress, I have worked on being a proponent of "bike partisanship," something that everybody ought to be able to agree on. That's why I have been appalled at the repeated attacks on cycling by the Republican leadership. The latest is for the second time, Republican Whip CANTOR has offered on the chopping block Safe Routes to School. You know, this is a program in 6800 schools across the country and has been requested by three times that number.

People know that children under 14, one-third of all their deaths occur when a car hits them when they're

biking or walking. In my old grade school on a very busy street, these grants have reduced crashes by 25 percent and pedestrian injuries by 34 percent. This is a commonsense program supported by people regardless of their party. When children can bike or walk safely to school, we won't be worried about 300-pound morbidly obese 6th graders and a second rush hour as people take their kids to school. And then all our families will be safer, healthier and more economically secure.

#### PRESIDENT OBAMA'S HANDLING OF IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a recent NBC News survey found that over half of all Americans disapprove of how President Obama is handling the immigration issue; an overwhelming 73 percent support imposing new fines on businesses that hire illegal immigrants; 71 percent support increasing border security by building a fence along the border and training more Border Patrol agents.

So it's no surprise that Republicans are viewed more favorably when it comes to enforcing the border. In fact, their survey found that only 26 percent of registered voters are likely to vote for a Democratic candidate who opposes the Arizona immigration enforcement law. The American people are not going to forget about the Obama administration's failure to secure our borders and enforce our Nation's immigration laws.

#### THE NATION'S BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to put aside partisan differences and begin in earnest to address our Nation's broken immigration system. Although we do not always agree on how to change the system, it is clear that we all agree that the current system is broken and in need of meaningful reform.

Yesterday I met with the President to discuss a way forward for immigration reform; and while comprehensive reform remains my priority, we cannot allow the perfect to become the enemy of the good. We must begin to address our immigration issues this year, improve our security at the borders. But piecemeal approaches at the State and local level only further complicates our Nation's immigration policy. We cannot and should not abandon our responsibility at the Federal level.

AgJobs and the DREAM Act provides a path forward that can be an example

of how we can reform in a meaningful way that benefits our economy, provides a stable workforce on our local farms, and reduces the number of illegal workers in our country. We must act now, and I ask my colleagues to join me to pass immigration reform this year.

#### DEEMING A BUDGET ISN'T THE ANSWER

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, the American people are tired of more spending, more borrowing, more bailouts and more debt. And here we go deeming things again. Deem something, not budgeting. The Democrats' version of a budget means picking a dollar amount for this year without even looking at what the impact for the future is. We need a budget plan that guides spending decisions, but the Democrats are too afraid to even make a real attempt. Deeming things as a budget isn't the answer.

Republicans want to offer a budget that reins in spending, addresses the trillion-dollar national debt, and provides economic certainty for small businesses. In fact, some of us have co-sponsored the RSC budget that does that very thing. While others say that this plan is too extreme, it shows just how much Congress is spending beyond its means.

American families have to live within their means. Why should the government be any different? They want Congress to get serious and make the tough decisions that will get our spending problem under control. Our country can't afford for Congress to avoid hard decisions that we were elected to do. You can't deem things. You've got to do things.

#### RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, the disaster in the gulf has made it increasingly evident that we must reevaluate our Nation's energy policy to prioritize renewable energy sources and focus on a clean energy economy. It is unfortunate that it has taken a man-made tragedy of this scale to open our eyes to both the economic and environmental dangers of offshore drilling and our reliance on fossil fuels. In addition to ensuring that BP is held accountable for the damages done to the gulf coast community, we must take this time to refocus on clean energy policies to ensure that a catastrophe of this nature never occurs again.

Comprehensive energy reform will not only help protect our pristine

coastlines, but it will insist on ensuring that America stays competitive in the global economy. According to a new poll released by the Pew Research Center, the American people are now on our side and strongly support alternative energy production. Now is the time to launch a cleaner, smarter, more cost-effective energy future to protect our environment and create millions of clean energy jobs.

#### PASS THE COLOMBIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Yesterday, China and Taiwan signed the free trade agreement to open up markets, create jobs and strengthen their economies. You have to ask yourself, if these two bitter political rivals can work together to boost their economies, why isn't this Congress taking up the free trade agreement with Colombia?

Colombia's one of America's strongest allies. With our help, they've instilled rule of law, defeated the FARC terrorist group. They've created labor rights and lowered their crime rate, violence rate by 90 percent. For 3 years, this Congress has done nothing. Other countries have now moved in line ahead of us, and our U.S. farmers are losing their sales to Colombia. Congress does nothing. Venezuela has imposed a trade agreement on our ally Colombia. This Congress does nothing. It's time for Congress to take up and pass the Colombia Free Trade Agreement this year.

#### CONGRATULATING CHEF RICK MOONEN

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chef Rick Moonen on his impressive second-place finish on Bravo's Top Chef Masters competition earlier this month. Chef Moonen is donating his winnings to Three Square Food Bank in Las Vegas, where the \$22,500 prize money will fund the equivalent of 67,500 meals for southern Nevadans who are struggling with hunger.

I was pleased to join Chef Moonen this past April when he further demonstrated his commitment to fighting hunger by supporting the Weekends Without Hunger Act, a bill I introduced that will prevent low-income children from going hungry when they are away from school during the weekends and on holidays. We're honored to have a chef of Rick Moonen's stature as such a strong advocate for fighting hunger in southern Nevada.

So, again, I extend my congratulations to the chef and thank him for the

contributions he's made to our community. I am also proud to have his wonderful restaurant, RM Seafood, in District Three. And I urge all my colleagues to join us to support the Weekends Without Hunger Act.

#### AMERICA SPEAKING OUT

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today we're here on the floor of the House of Representatives talking about taxing and spending, jobs, and the needs of this great Nation. Yet today we will begin debating a bill which will further tax and cause fees of \$18 billion for consumers in the new banking bill, a banking bill that will collapse what is \$1 trillion worth of equity and other arrangements that can be made that today fund American businesses and keep small businesses alive.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's time that we change the direction that we're heading. Taxing and spending is something that the American people do not want or need for their future. The unemployment rate still stays near 10 percent. And since taking office in 2007, our Democrat friends have set a record for deficits, spending, and unemployment. The American people know this, and they are speaking out.

I encourage Americans to visit the Web site [www.AmericaSpeakingOut.com](http://www.AmericaSpeakingOut.com). "America Speaking Out" is an opportunity for Americans to have a say in their government.

□ 1030

#### LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, last evening I received a phone call from a friend from my congressional district who now lives here in the District. We spoke extensively, but painfully, about the pitiful action taken in this body yesterday.

We denied unemployment benefits to American citizens who, through no fault of their own, became victims of the worst recession in U.S. history. They lost their jobs.

This, for me, was a very, very low point. The Senate has failed to approve summer jobs for youth, as well as emergency TANF relief, temporary assistance for families in need.

Mr. Speaker, when I came to the Congress, I didn't sign up to make a mess but to make a difference. We are damaging the lives of men and women and, painfully, it is for political reasons. I went home last night ashamed of being in this body.