

For example, Lee Container Company in Homerville said that the new tax law has allowed them to purchase at least three machines a year and to fully amortize them, allowing their company to grow at a substantial rate.

Businesses like Lee Container and the large number of individuals in Homerville that they employ are a reason it was so important to pass the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

With the new tax law, businesses can employ more people, increase salaries, invest in their business and communities, and help our economy to thrive.

OUR NATION IS IN THE GRIP OF A GUN VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is in the grip of a gun violence epidemic; yet, even in the face of national tragedy, Congress has failed again and again to act.

On January 10, 2018, a student in Denison, Texas, fired a weapon that belonged to an adviser, thinking it wasn't loaded. That same day, a middle school student in Maplewood, Minnesota, fatally injured himself with a gun in a school bathroom.

On January 23, 2018, a 15-year-old student in Benton, Kentucky, opened fire with a handgun, killing two people and injuring 18.

On February 14, Valentine's Day, 2018, a 19-year-old gunman killed 14 students and 3 faculty members at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, using a semiautomatic weapon.

Two months into 2018, its tragedies are too numerous to list.

For too long we have allowed NRA's gun industry lobbyists to pick and choose our guns laws.

I say: No more.

Students across America are demanding Congress enact commonsense gun violence prevention, including universal background checks, limits on high-capacity magazines, and a ban on the sale of assault weapons designed not for a hunting field, but for a battlefield.

We must not fail them again.

RECOGNIZING CLINTON COUNTY'S MISS TEEN UNITED STATES AGRICULTURE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Haili Marie Frank from Mill Hall, Pennsylvania, who has been named Clinton County's Miss Teen United States Agriculture.

Haili is 16 years old and is the daughter of Eric and Clint Frank.

She is a 10th grader at the Sugar Valley Rural Charter School, where she is

a member of the National Honor Society and an officer in the school's FFA chapter.

In 2017, Haili competed in the FFA Creed Speaking competition, placing first in the county and second in the region, which qualified her for the State competition, where she came in 10th.

Haili loves animals and is a member of two 4-H groups. Over the past 7 years, Haili has exhibited pigs, goats, lambs, chickens, and rabbits.

Haili is also an accomplished archer and shoots with one of her 4-H groups. Last August, she competed in the archery competition at State Days in Rock Run, Pennsylvania, and placed second in her age division.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly congratulate Haili on being an outstanding role model for her peers and a representative for agriculture in Pennsylvania.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that my colleagues plan to speak in favor of Yucca Mountain tonight and once again attempt to revive the long-dead project that brings nuclear waste to my State of Nevada. They want to make Nevada's Fourth Congressional District, my home, my district, the dumping ground for the rest of the country's nuclear waste.

The Nevada delegation has raised a number of concerns about this project, including its location, which sits less than 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

Nevadans have strongly opposed the construction of this project.

As a State with no nuclear energy facilities, it is exceedingly unfair that Nevada is asked to serve as the dumping ground for the rest of the country's waste.

Rather than throw away millions more of taxpayer money to revive this shortsighted project, this funding could be better spent on infrastructure and job creation.

I will continue fighting tirelessly to ensure the Yucca Mountain project stays dead, and I urge my colleagues to join me in finding better ways to deal with the nuclear waste created in their States.

THE RUSSIAN BEAR IS HUNGRY FOR MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, AND UKRAINE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, after the fall of the Soviet Union, the Russian bear started roaming Eastern Europe with its hungry appetite to gobble and dominate politics and the Governments of Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine.

Each nation has had a portion of its sovereign territory occupied by the Napoleon of Siberia, Putin. His military is there, too.

I have been in each nation and talked to the speakers of each of the parliaments. Now the three countries are working together in a trilateral bond to thwart Russian interference and also improve their democratic processes.

For as it is written in Ecclesiastes: "A cord of three strands is not easily broken."

I also commend the Atlantic Council for their work with these nations in promoting democratic ideals, combating corruption, and increasing personal freedom.

The United States should encourage and support this trilateral union to prevent the hungry bear from eating up each nation and returning them to the old days of Russian oppression.

And that is just the way it is.

PI KAPPA ALPHA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor tonight to recognize and honor my fraternity, Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity.

I came from Alpha Omicron Chapter in Georgetown, Texas, Southwestern University.

Pi Kappa Alpha is an international fraternity, a values-based men's fraternal organization with more than 225 chapters across the United States and Canada, approximately 16,000 undergraduate members, and over 290,000 lifetime members.

In 2018, Pi Kappa Alpha celebrates its 150th anniversary from its founding on March 1, 1868, at the University of Virginia, when six young men joined together and resolved to form a fraternity for the establishment of friendship on a firmer and more lasting basis.

Their commitment to the high ideals of scholarship, leadership, and gentlemanly behavior remains strong to this day, which is the reason why I not only pledged my support to the fraternity, but why I support them today.

APPOINTING JUDGES TO THE FISA COURT

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States should have the power to appoint judges to the FISA Court. This would lead to a more ideologically diverse court, more transparency in oversight, and better FISA outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't just my argument. It is the argument of the gentleman from California, the ranking

member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; and this is the gentleman from California making that very argument on Russia Today.

Here, YouTube has actually had to say:

Russia Today is funded in whole or in part by the Russian Government.

So my question is this, Mr. Speaker: If it is good enough for a bill to be filed by the gentleman from California in 2013, and if it is good enough to talk about it on Russia Today, why is it not good enough to give President Trump the very same powers that he wanted to give to President Obama?

That is my question. I am waiting for an answer.

FIXING OUR BROKEN NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARSHALL). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by yielding to the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Mr. WALDEN.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the Environment Subcommittee, my friend, Mr. SHIMKUS, who has worked tirelessly—not just this year, not just last year, but probably since the first year he came to Congress—to try and find a permanent solution to the storage of nuclear waste in America. He has been a tireless worker in this endeavor, a smart worker in this endeavor, and a successful, so far, worker in this endeavor, as this bill passed out of the committee 49-4.

I rise tonight to address this pressing national need, and that is the importance of fixing our broken nuclear waste management program.

It was more than 35 years ago that the United States Congress made a commitment to communities throughout our Nation which host spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste. Congress, the Federal Government, agreed to assign the Department of Energy with the responsibility to permanently dispose of hazardous material, nuclear waste, by 1998.

There are many of those communities, like in the Tri-Cities in Washington State, co-located with the Department of Energy's Hanford site just up Columbia River, across the river from where I live and the people I represent. We have been DOE's partner to help win World War II at that site. It has maintained a nuclear weapon deterrent and powered our fleet of nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers.

Additionally, electricity consumers in many other communities have paid the Federal Government more than \$40 billion to develop, license, construct, and operate a nuclear waste repository. They have already paid \$40 billion to do this, and that was pursuant to the Nu-

clear Waste Policy Act, the law that Congress enacted. Yet rate payers have little to see for their investment because, I will call it political science, has deprived the public of the actual science to prove that nuclear waste can be safely and permanently disposed of.

As a consequence of this political interference, taxpayers and rate payers across the country are on the hook for DOE's inaction. The American people pay over \$2 million every day to temporarily store used fuel scattered throughout the United States. So it is up to us to fix this waste management program and stop this cost that will continue in perpetuity if we don't act.

Now, after hearing from dozens of expert witnesses over many years, the Energy and Commerce Committee developed and passed a bipartisan bill by a vote of 49-4. Mr. SHIMKUS led our effort in this measure.

This legislation makes targeted reforms to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 to set the Federal Government up to finally, finally, keep its promise.

Nuclear waste challenges have vexed policymakers for generations.

We, this Congress, have the chance now in a bipartisan way to successfully build a durable solution. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to achieve that goal, which brings about tonight's Special Order.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I just want to show something. This is a piece of glass. This is not actually nuclear waste. The Pacific Northwest National Lab, when I visited Hanford a little while back with Secretary Perry, gave me this because it is an example of what the liquid waste, the waste at Hanford, will end up being.

□ 1930

It will look like this in a big cylinder. It is glass. This is what would go to Hanford, and it would be stored safely when that occurs.

If we don't have a repository, these nuclear wastes, in their various forms, will sit around in various locations, not nearly as safe or secure as we can have with the kind of legislation fully enacted that Mr. SHIMKUS has led on. So I thank Mr. SHIMKUS for his leadership on this. And I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their encouragement, their participation, their counsel. We are going to get this thing done.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my chairman, the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN), who has actually been a pretty big leader in this issue because of Oak Ridge and the area that he represents.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be before the House of Representatives this evening, and I want to thank Chairman SHIMKUS.

When I came to Congress in 2011, I didn't know many people, and one

night I had the privilege of meeting JOHN SHIMKUS from the great State of Illinois. I told him I was from Tennessee, and we started talking. And right away we talked about Yucca Mountain. We talked about nuclear waste, and I told him that I was going to be representing a very special place: Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

So let me start by thanking Chairman JOHN SHIMKUS. He has been the hero for the Yucca Mountain project. He has worked tirelessly. He has seen this through the courts. He has seen it through the House. He has worked so hard. I thank him for his efforts.

Oak Ridge, Tennessee, it is a beautiful place. I represent the Third District of Tennessee: Oak Ridge, where we had the Manhattan Project, where we won World War II; Oak Ridge, where we won the Cold War; Oak Ridge, where we have worked tirelessly to build our Nation's nuclear arsenal, and today we are still advocating to do that, to keep America strong—great men and women.

But Oak Ridge, like many other places around the Nation—Savannah River, Portsmouth, Hanford—years ago, ladies and gentlemen, when we manufactured our nuclear weapons, we were not as safe and secure as we are today. There was an immediacy. There was a need during World War II to get the bomb built, and we did it in Oak Ridge, and it ended World War II.

But for years thereafter, we were not as safe at many of these venues. What does that mean? That means that legacy wastes were left in communities: sometimes in the soil, sometimes in the water, sometimes in facilities. And what that means is that the Federal Government has a duty to these communities to clean this waste up. And this waste has to go somewhere.

Now, Chairman SHIMKUS, and we have heard from Chairman WALDEN—for those of you who are listening tonight, they are authorizers. They authorize the law. I sit on the Appropriations Committee. That is the committee in Congress that authorizes the spending for this.

I am the chairman of the Nuclear Cleanup Caucus. That is how passionate I am about cleaning up nuclear waste not only in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Savannah River; or Hanford, but all over these great United States, because we owe this to the American people.

The Federal Government caused this problem; the Federal Government needs to clean this up. It is the ultimate, I think, in environmental advocacy. This is something that Republicans and Democrats, Members of the House and Members of the Senate, usually agree upon; and we have worked together in this very important caucus.

Why is it important that we pass the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017? Because, first of all, we owe it to the American people. The Department of Energy does a good job in cleanup, but this will revise their programs. It will give what Congress