

enable Congress to better eliminate excessive Federal regulations that hamper small business, job growth, and productivity.

When Federal agencies overregulate small business owners, it forces them to spend extra time and money and manpower completing endless paperwork instead of growing their businesses and creating new jobs. In small business forums and small business walks I have held throughout the year in the Hudson Valley of New York, excessive regulations were cited by small business owners as one of the major problems they are facing. And every small business spends \$7,000 per employee per year on regulatory compliance costs.

Let us help small business remain vibrant and strong, not overregulate it. Let us pass the CURB Act.

TRIBUTE TO LATE GOVERNOR BILL DANIEL

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Bill Daniel, a former Governor of Guam, who passed away on Tuesday at his home in Liberty, Texas.

Governor Daniel was a close family friend whose legacy has left an indelible imprint on the people of Guam. He served as Guam's Governor from 1961 to 1963 and was appointed to the post by President John F. Kennedy. He resigned to allow Manuel Guerrero, his friend and protege, to succeed him as Governor.

Governor Daniel was a gifted and hands-on leader who adopted Guam as his second home. During his tenure, the Navy security clearance requirement for persons traveling to and from Guam was lifted. The University of Guam was elevated to a 4-year institution. Our visitor industry took root, and our agricultural program was upgraded.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his daughters Ann, Susan, and Dani, and the entire Daniel family.

A TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS STEVEN WILLIAM FREUND

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a courageous hero of the war on terror, Private First Class Steven William Freund.

Steven Freund of Pleasant Hills, Pennsylvania, attended Thomas Jefferson High School, and he loved to hunt and fish and do just about anything outdoors. He joined the Marines and served in Iraq for 6 months, already escaping two separate roadside bombs. It was dangerous there, and he knew that, but he strongly believed in and was dedicated to America's mission.

But on May 23, Private Freund made the ultimate sacrifice for his mission and the Nation he loved. He was tragically killed by a third roadside bomb while riding in a Humvee conducting combat operations outside Fallujah.

Private Freund is survived by his father, Steven Freund, his brother Mark Menzietti, sister Angela Menzietti, cousins Matt Freund, Jason Eiben and Justin Eiben, and his aunt Donna Eiben of Pittsburgh, who was his legal guardian.

His funeral was a solemn, but beautiful, service that I attended, along with many friends and family. After the funeral, he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with combat cluster in a graveside ceremony.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for this entire body when I express the deepest condolences to his family on behalf of a grateful Nation. Semper Fi, Private Freund.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has been consumed with giving tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans, and it is time we look at some of the average Americans and facts about the minimum wage.

Congress has not raised the minimum wage since 1997. The minimum wage is now at its lowest level in 50 years adjusted for inflation. Does anyone really believe it is possible to make even the most basic ends meet on \$5.15 an hour? A minimum-wage worker working full time all year will earn just \$10,700. It takes a full day's pay for a minimum wage earner to pay for one tank of gas today.

6.6 million people will benefit from a rise in the minimum wage. Eighty-six percent of Americans support the rise in a minimum wage according to a Pugh poll in December of 2005. It is time this Congress listened to the American people and minimum-wage workers, and it is time that we act.

LINE ITEM VETO IS A COMMONSENSE SOLUTION

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today we will be debating the line item veto. Now, if you ask my constituents, this is an issue that doesn't need much debate. Giving the President the ability to cut wasteful spending should go hand in hand with fiscal responsibility.

Since coming to Congress 1½ years ago, it has become crystal clear to me, as it was to President Reagan, that Washington doesn't have a revenue problem; it has a spending problem.

The line item veto is a commonsense solution. Greater transparency to the earmark process and backing it up

with a 2-week window for Congress to ratify the President's actions will allow us to address unnecessary new spending, one of the biggest long-term challenges of the Federal budget. Mr. Speaker, when we use tools to cut wasteful spending and work toward achieving a balanced budget, the beneficiaries are hardworking American taxpayers. If we truly stand for fiscal restraint, we must pass the line item veto. I call on all of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, to support this commonsense, positive move to provide greater responsibility to the budget process.

THIS COUNTRY NEEDS A NEW DIRECTION

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the Bush economy continues to be unfriendly to America's workers. Earlier this month, we learned that employers added only 75,000 jobs to their payrolls in May, about half of what we need just to keep up with normal growth in the labor market. Wage growth was disappointing again in May, continuing a pattern in which workers cannot get ahead of rising costs in gasoline, housing, health care, and on education for their children, even though their productivity keeps growing.

The benefits of economic growth under President Bush are showing up in the bottom lines of companies and in the pockets of shareholders, but not in the paychecks of America's workers. Mr. Speaker, this country needs a new direction.

LONE STAR VOICE: DONALD DOIRON

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, in the border security debate, those that want to allow more illegals in this country just changed the definition of words to make it politically correct to accept illegals. But American citizens are not fooled. Donald Doiron of Nederland, Texas, writes to me:

"Since hearing the plan for treating illegals as guest workers, I have now undergone a complete reversal in my understand of the proper meaning of words. I used to believe that the definition of guest is one that is invited. Now I am told this is no longer correct.

"For instance, if a burglar breaks into my home, he really becomes a guest who is only working for a better life. Because he broke in for that reason, I must accept the obligation to provide him a job, health care, education, transportation, and living quarters for him and his family. I feel so much better now."

Mr. Speaker, no matter how one puts the political spin, it is still illegal to

enter the United States without permission. What part of illegal do the anarchists that want lawless borders fail to understand?

And that's just the way it is.

SLOGANS DO NOT REPLACE SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, if there is one thing we have learned from the Republican Congress in the last 6 years, it is that slogans do not replace solutions.

On immigration, House Republicans talk a lot, but there is no action after 6 years. They thunder about immigrant families; but when it comes to forcing big business to comply with our immigration laws, they have raised the white flag. Under the Republican leadership from 1999 to 2003, work-site enforcement of immigration laws were cut back 95 percent. In 1999, the Federal Government prosecuted 182 employers for hiring illegal aliens. In 2003, that dwindled down to just four.

The Republican leaders have also raised the white flag on border security, voting against implementing the 9/11 Commission recommendations. With all their hot rhetoric about terrorism, you would think they would at least provide support for homeland security programs. But they have waved the white flag here, too, cutting \$48 million from Customs and Border Security Protection. They want to run a single-issue campaign on immigration on which they haven't done a single thing. The Republican Congress has a 6-year record of failure. Hot rhetoric has not masked failed results.

Mr. Speaker, one thing is clear: when it comes to addressing real immigration challenges facing our Nation, the Republican Congress is all hat and no cattle. It is time for a new direction. It is time for results.

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AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R. 4973, FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet the week of June 26 to grant a rule which would limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 4973, the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2006.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment to the Rules Committee in room H-312 of the Capitol by 12 noon on Monday, June 26, 2006. Members should draft their amendments to the text of the bill as reported by the Committee on Financial Services.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that

their amendments are drafted in the most appropriate format and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5638, PERMANENT ESTATE TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 885 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 885

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5638) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the unified credit against the estate tax to an exclusion equivalent of \$5,000,000 and to repeal the sunset provision for the estate and generation-skipping taxes, and for other purposes. The bill shall be considered as read. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 885 is a closed rule providing 1 hour of general debate in the House on H.R. 5638, the Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act, to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill and provides that the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, in 2001, Congress acted in a bipartisan fashion to gradually phase out the death tax and eliminate it by 2010. However, if Congress does not act to extend this relief, in 2011 small business owners and family farmers will once again be assessed the full

death tax up to the maximum 2001 rate of 55 percent.

The death tax is a form of double taxation, and frankly, Mr. Speaker, it is simply unfair.

The last thing families in central Washington and across the Nation should have to worry about when a loved one dies is losing a family farm or business in order to pay the Internal Revenue Service. But sadly, that is the situation many hard-working families could face if a permanent and workable solution is not agreed to.

H.R. 5638, the Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act, would provide estate and gift tax relief to America's small business owners and family farmers. Specifically, the bill would increase the exemption from \$1 million to \$5 million per person, indexed for inflation, and it would lower the amount of taxation on estates.

The bill would also provide tax relief for gifts given during a person's life. Currently, gifts given when a person is alive are taxed more than gifts given through a will or death. By reunifying estate, gift and generation-skipping transfer taxes, we give individuals greater flexibility to give gifts during their life rather than at death.

I am also pleased that this legislation creates a new 60 percent deduction for qualified timber capital gains through 2008. In my State of Washington, there are 8.5 million acres of privately owned forests, and the forest parks industry is the State's second largest manufacturing sector.

However, the current Tax Code puts our timber industry at a distinct disadvantage against international competition by subjecting corporate timber and forest product industries to a significantly higher income tax than their overseas competitors. Included in the underlying bill is a provision that lowers the timber tax and supports an industry that provides good jobs in many rural communities, while strengthening its international competitiveness.

Mr. Speaker, last year I, along with 271 other Members of the House, supported a measure that would permanently and fully eliminate the death tax. While permanent elimination of this tax is what I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides to accomplish, this relief measure is a step in the right direction.

The Rules Committee reported House Resolution 885 by a voice vote last night. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my Republican colleagues for providing the American people with