

communities receiving recovery funds across my district to bring more transparency and oversight into the process.

I found significant progress has been made in bringing jobs to greater Arizona with 1,098 jobs created or saved in District One. Support to our State also prevented deep cuts in Arizona's education and public safety funding.

However, delays were reported on more than 40 percent of projects, despite the hard work of local officials. Our rural communities are finding the bureaucracy to be an obstacle.

I will continue working with local officials and Federal agencies to allow greater Arizona to take full advantage of the Recovery Act so they can create more jobs and get folks back to work.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The Chair will remind all Members not to traffic the well while another Member is under recognition.

#### THE NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, since 2007, our national debt has increased 39 percent from nearly \$9 trillion to more than \$12 trillion. This works out to be \$39,000 for every man, woman, and child in America just to pay off our country's debt. Now there is a push to increase our Nation's debt ceiling to \$13.9 trillion, despite warnings this increase will be harmful to the U.S. economy.

At a time of double-digit unemployment and with more than 2.6 million jobs lost since the so-called stimulus was passed by Congress, isn't it time we institute fiscally sound policies?

Over the last 11 months, the American people have seen unprecedented spending from Washington, D.C. They are certainly not impressed. They know any economic recovery starts with tax relief for working families and small businesses and fiscal discipline from Washington.

#### TRANSPARENT HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me say that when Democrats gather, good things happen for the American people. Our health care bill is a bill that will bring down premiums, save lives, and create a magnificent reform comparable to saving lives when Medicare was passed in 1965. It is only those who are scared and apprehensive and not ready to go forward for the American people that won't

allow us to move forward on the health care reform.

Just as when we gather together behind closed doors, Democrats, again, are promoting transparent legislation and creating jobs for Americans. We stand with the small businesses in providing them more resources and credits because they are the backbone of America. We realize that job training, and specifically a bill that I am offering that says that if you're unemployed and get unemployment compensation, you can be in a scholarship program that will train you for the jobs of the future.

The health care bill will be providing jobs on top of jobs: health care jobs, nursing, doctors, and physician assistants. Americans need jobs, and Democrats are not afraid to take the risks that are necessary to provide for them.

As we pass the appropriations bill, we are creating jobs for America, and, therefore, I'm asking my colleagues to assist and not cast about the fears of doom. We are moving this economy. We are helping health care. We are providing the opportunities for America. And I am glad to be a Democrat serving on behalf of the American people.

#### UNITED NATIONS SOVEREIGNTY

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, what is the proper function of the United Nations? Is it a forum for countries to come together to promote peace, security, and human rights? Or is it an independent entity that determines and establishes the law and regulations to govern member states?

General Secretary Ban Ki-moon has made it clear in recent comments that the U.N. Climate Summit in Copenhagen will not be successful unless a firm deadline for a legally binding agreement is in place.

In Copenhagen, the U.N. is advocating for U.N. bureaucrats with the legal power to regulate the actions of member states. We should not let the health of our economy rest on the collective decisions of a group containing antagonistic and autocratic governments who do not have the American people's interests at heart, let alone the interests of their own citizens.

Do we really want Burma, Iran, and North Korea and other despotic governments setting the rules that govern how American businesses operate? I certainly do not.

#### 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF MCALLEN MONITOR

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I, together with Congressman HENRY CUELLAR, rise to honor the McAllen

Monitor newspaper in McAllen, Texas, on its 100-year anniversary. Since its first issue on December 11, 1909, the McAllen Monitor has been a round-the-clock operation.

It began as a weekly newspaper. Its reporters recorded the events when McAllen became incorporated in 1911. The Monitor was there to record the history of the Rio Grande Valley and its people. The names of the pioneering families leave a roadmap all across the Rio Grande Valley, families like the Canales, the Guerras, the Lopezes, the Cuellars, the de la Garzas, the McAllens, the Youngs, the Closners, the Sharys, the Hinojosas, and the Bentsens.

Now a daily paper, the McAllen Monitor takes pride in telling the success stories of homegrown people who have become famous, from Narciso Martinez, el Huracan del Valle's accordion sounds to Kris Kristofferson singing and acting; from Bobby Morrow's Olympic Gold Medal to the distinguished political career of the late Senator Lloyd Bentsen.

The McAllen Monitor has covered the good and bad, the sad and the joyous news for 100 years. Congratulations to the McAllen Monitor on its 100-year anniversary.

□ 1030

#### DEMOCRATS' ABSURD AGENDA

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, some days ago, when we were discussing and debating and voting on the health care bill, I got a call in my office from one of my constituents. After we had spoken for some time, he said, I have a confession to make. He said, I voted for President Obama because I thought that he would bring us together and that there was hope. But then he said these words, But I did not vote for this madness.

What did he mean? I guess maybe he was talking about a health care bill that's going to cost more money, going to raise taxes, and not going to take care of all Americans. I guess he was talking about a cap-and-trade bill that will put a burden on every single American. I guess he was talking about a proposal that comes to us that says, oh, we have a huge deficit and we're going to work our way out by spending more. And I suppose he may have been here to hear one of my colleagues just a moment ago who said, When Democrats meet behind closed doors, they come out for transparency. It seems absurd, perhaps because it is.

#### JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the 111th Congress has made historical progress