

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional organization in Erie, Pennsylvania on their 35th anniversary of service to our community.

SafeNet is an agency of dedicated professionals and volunteers working to end domestic violence against women, men, children and the elderly by providing shelter, counseling, legal advocacy and education. SafeNet helps victims find support through a wide range of programs, working closely with hospitals, schools, law enforcement and the courts to increase awareness and understanding of domestic violence.

For 35 years, SafeNet has brought hope and help to so many people in my region. Through their public education campaign, Unmasking the Faces, SafeNet is showing us all that victims of domestic violence can overcome their experiences and become strong survivors and active members of our community.

On behalf of all the families in my region, I extend my thanks and congratulations to SafeNet on their 35th anniversary and offer my support in their mission to put an end to domestic violence.

CARTEL EXTORTION

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, violence continues to seep across the Mexican border. Narco-terrorists continue to take shots at our Border Patrol from across the Rio Grande River. Drugs and human trafficking continue as our outmanned, out-financed and outgunned law enforcement agents continue to struggle against this violence.

But how is this for a new wrinkle in the drug cartel threat? Law enforcement officials in Texas indicate that the drug cartels may have opened up a protection racket on the American side of the border. Reports show that Hispanics living on the American side are now paying protection money to the drug cartels. These Mexican cartels are threatening harm to their relatives on the Mexican side of the border. If they have relatives in Mexico, pay up or they will be hurt, or worse.

The narco-terrorist extortion racket is just another example of crime coming into America from across the border. People who say that organized crime threats crippling Mexico don't affect Americans are living in Neverland.

And that's just the way it is.

DEMOCRATIC PRO-GROWTH AGENDA

(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, while Democrats work to help our country

return from the Republican recession, our top priority is to create jobs and restore responsible fiscal policies that support the middle class.

The key part of our pro-growth agenda is helping small businesses. Small businesses are indeed the economic engine, creating two-thirds of the new jobs over the past 15 years. The role of small businesses is especially important as we strive to create jobs and move this economy forward. With the right resources and the right opportunities, small businesses can respond quickly with opportunities that create jobs.

Democrats have already enacted eight tax cuts for small businesses, including tax credits, payroll tax holidays, incentives for capital investments, and other measures to help small business thrive. We passed these measures despite strong opposition from House Republicans and will continue our fight for small businesses despite their votes against the small business community.

SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I was reminded again last night why our effort to help small businesses makes sense. I was at the Alliance to Save Energy and I gave an award called the Andromeda Award to a company called O-Power. It is a small company that has developed a way to help Americans save energy, and they have been spectacularly successful. They found a way, if you share information about what your neighbors are doing, you can reduce your energy costs dramatically.

This company is growing rapidly and doing well, but these small companies need access to capital, and we are proposing plans to make sure that they can get access to capital in our efforts to increase small business lending. If we do that, these small businesses are going to thrive. We've got to get out of the gate to compete with China when it comes to clean energy and efficiency. If we pass these bills, we will. Let's keep going with small business lending.

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SMALL BUSINESS JOBS AND CREDIT ACT

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, small businesses are the backbone of America's economy. More than half of American workers are employed by small businesses. In fact, 99.7 percent of businesses in the United States employ fewer than 500 people.

When I talk to small business owners in south Florida, I'm always inspired by their entrepreneurial spirit and

their tireless work ethic. It's for that reason, and it's no surprise, that 97 percent of American exports to other nations comes from products made by small businesses.

I've been a Member of Congress for exactly 5 months this morning, and the one fact in common for each of these 150 days has been that Republicans have inexplicably blocked tax cuts and better credit for America's small businesses. Every day that goes by without the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act is another day during which small business owners put off investing in new equipment, avoid hiring new workers, and see opportunities to expand pass them by.

It's time to pass this critical legislation so that small businesses can get back to doing what they do best—growing America's economy.

MAKING PRODUCTS IN AMERICA

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I have the high honor and responsibility of representing the Swanningson family from Kaukauna, Wisconsin. Here you see Tony and his wife, Sherry; his son, Corey; and daughter, Kayla.

Tony wrote me this note recently when his company, Appleton Coated Paper, was having problems selling paper because of illegal paper being dumped into our country by China.

"Congressman Kagen, I've been a paper maker for 18 years, and I am grateful for the opportunity to provide for my family that the industry has given me. In 2009 I lost my job, through no fault of my own and through no fault of my company, Appleton Coated. My job was stolen because somebody broke the law, and that's not right. The dumping of foreign paper into the United States from companies that are subsidized by their own governments creates a marketplace that seriously threatens my family and countless other families throughout the United States."

We're going to make it in America when we begin making things here in America as well. We need to balance our trade deals and push back against illegal paper being dumped into our domestic market by China.

DON'T CUT TAXES FOR MILLIONAIRES

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, our Republican colleagues are constantly reminding us that the administration last year said that unemployment would not get to 8 percent if we passed our Recovery Act. Well, that remains to be seen. But let's talk about a projection that they made some years ago that they don't want to talk about, and