

remarks in debate are properly addressed to the Chair and not to a viewing audience.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2017, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Mr. REED (during the Special Order of Mr. ROE of Tennessee), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-95) on the resolution (H. Res. 287) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2017) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin our remarks today which will focus on our Make It in America agenda, the agenda that we put together to put the American people back to work to really support manufacturing, and we are going to have a good discussion about that.

I would like to yield first to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) who has some important remarks to share.

Ms. SEWELL. Thank you so much for yielding.

I rise before you today to discuss the recent disasters, natural disasters, that have affected families, businesses and communities across this Nation. In the aftermath of such disasters, there must be a shared commitment to rebuilding communities across this Nation.

My thoughts and prayers are with the people of Joplin, Missouri, who suffered the most recent wrath of nature. We in the Seventh Congressional District of Alabama suffered massive devastation during the April tornados. Nine out of 12 counties in my district suffered tremendous damage. These pictures only show part of the story. Homes were destroyed. Schools, churches, businesses, and communities were destroyed; and many of my constituents lost the lives of their friends and loved ones.

I want to thank the President and the First Lady for visiting my district and seeing the devastation firsthand. Mr. President, you told us then that you had not seen such devastation before. You also said that you would make sure that we were not forgotten.

Thank you, Mr. President, for your commitment to rebuilding Alabama. I want to thank your administration for responding so quickly.

Within hours, FEMA administrator Craig Fugate was on the scene to sur-

vey the widespread damage. The emergency disaster declaration and the major disaster declaration were approved within hours.

I also want to thank Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and SBA Administrator Karen Mills for traveling to my district days later.

As a result of the April tornados, 67 lives were lost in my district alone; and in the State of Alabama, 238 people lost their lives. I want to extend my deepest condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. I want to thank all of the first responders who were on the scene to help so many of the victims.

I also want to thank the volunteers who continue to work tirelessly to restore the lives of families who lost all that they had. The destruction and loss of lives has been absolutely heartbreaking. But out of this tragedy, we will triumph. We will recover, rebuild, and restore our communities. We will be better and stronger than before. I am inspired every day by the resilience that my district in the State of Alabama and the people have shown. Neighbor helping neighbor.

The response by the State and local government has been tremendous. I want to thank Governor Bentley of Alabama for his leadership and timely response. The coordinated efforts of my local mayors have been amazing. I would like to thank Mayor William Bell of Birmingham, Mayor Walt Maddox of Tuscaloosa, Mayor Cunningham of Geiger. Your leadership and tireless efforts have been commendable.

I also would like to commend the Alabama Emergency Management Agency under the leadership of Art Faulkner. I would be remiss if I did not mention the incredible support and help of my colleagues within the Alabama delegation.

What we have learned is that what affects one of us indeed affects all of us. Together, I know we will work to rebuild Alabama.

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentlewoman, and I know we all stand in strong support of the work that is under way in your district and all across this country and our hearts and prayers continue to go to the families who have suffered such tragic losses during those terrible, terrible incidents. We compliment the first responders and the mayors and all those you have recognized tonight.

I would like now, Mr. Speaker, to turn to the agenda that we announced several weeks ago that involves really comprehensive pieces of legislation to really support American manufacturing.

Our country has a proud tradition of making things. We built the world's strongest middle class because, in large part, so much of what the world needed, we made here in America. And for millions of Americans, our tradition of making things here has been a source

of opportunity and great pride. Today, with millions of Americans still out of work and with an economy which is still struggling, it's time to draw from that tradition to build a positive, job-creating agenda.

The American Dream used to mean something, that if you put in a hard day's work you could expect good American wages, benefits, and a better life for your family. It meant that when products said "Made in America," people knew that they were getting the highest quality manufactured goods money could buy. It's time working Americans used our strength in numbers to reclaim the American Dream. Working people deserve a voice at the table; and if we lose that voice, we will lose what our grandparents fought so hard to leave us.

We should start with manufacturing. The number of Americans involved in producing goods is still near its lowest point since World War II. Manufacturing is central to our economy. The National Association of Manufacturers tells us that manufacturing stimulates more economic activity than any other sector. It's time we started expanding opportunity and stopped shrinking the middle class.

So this effort is to really understand that we have to start making things again, that manufacturing matters. My friend, Mr. GARAMENDI, certainly our leader in this Make It in America agenda, is someone who has spoken so passionately and so forcefully about our ability again to lead the world in making goods so that we can start shipping goods that are made in this country all over the world. Instead of exporting jobs, let's export American-made goods.

I tell my constituents—I hear from them all the time—go into a store and try to find something made in America. It's almost impossible, and it doesn't have to be that way. We still have the best workers in the world, we still make the best products in the world, and what we need are good public policies that support American manufacturing, that support job growth in American manufacturing to give fair trade and tax policies that give American manufacturers a fighting chance to compete in a global economy and efforts to be sure that our trading partners like the Chinese stop cheating and play by the rules and are held accountable when they do.

So we put together an ambitious agenda to really make things again in this country. Because when we make things in America, families can make it in America.

We have a series of bills we want to talk about tonight, but think of those days when you would go into a store and you would pick up an item and it said "Made in the USA" and the kind of pride we felt because we knew that was a product that was made well, built well, that would stand the test of time, and we could sell it all over the world. We can do that again.