

the way. Stop helping. You don't have the answers, just get out of the way.

If folks go, as you have gone, Mr. Speaker, to jobs.gov, they see this House's effort to get government out of the way. And we've been successful. We were successful in passing the repeal of the President's health care bill's 1099 provision that burdens small businesses, and the President signed that bill. We've been successful in passing three free trade agreements, and the President has signed. As we know, we have manufacturing surpluses with every nation with which we have a free trade agreement.

But the work still has to be done, Mr. Speaker. There are jobs bills languishing in the Senate. We call them the "forgotten 15"—15 bills that the Senate could pass tomorrow to get government out of the way and get Americans back to work.

Two pockets we have, Mr. Speaker, the American taxpayers' pocket and the pocket that contains the job-killing regulations that we can repeal today. Let's choose correctly, Mr. Speaker—let's get jobs.gov, let's get this agenda done.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, the President recently came before the people's House and asked "whether, in the face of an ongoing national crisis, we can stop the political circus and actually do something to help the economy." Well, Mr. Speaker, House Republicans agree circus time is over. And that's why we have passed 15 jobs bills that remain stuck in the Senate majority leader's inbox.

One of those jobs bills is the Keystone XL pipeline that imports oil from Canada and will create over 340,000—let me say that again—340,000 American jobs by 2015, 27,000 of those jobs in my home State of Texas, while bringing in new revenue, all without costing the taxpayer one single dime.

When the Keystone XL pipeline is fully operational, we will get more oil from Canada than we currently import from Saudi Arabia. Replacing OPEC oil with Canadian oil increases our energy security. And if we increase our energy security, we increase our national security.

If we do not seize this opportunity, China will gladly take the oil from Canada that the Canadians want us to have. While the President tours the Nation promoting a new half-trillion-dollar stimulus plan, approval of the Keystone XL pipeline remains stalled.

Mr. Speaker, the President can jumpstart our economy and stop the political circus by approving the Keystone XL pipeline. The ball is in his court.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL). The Chair recognizes the

gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, everyone knows that Washington isn't very popular right now, and a big reason why is that too often our leaders make decisions that lack common sense. When we need to cut spending, Washington finds a way to spend more. When we need to create jobs, Washington piles on new regulations that put Americans out of work. When we spend billions of dollars to create a safe, permanent storage facility for our country's nuclear waste, politics gets in the way, and that facility is shut down.

Like millions of Americans across the country, I'm tired that politics is getting in the way, and I'm looking to bring some common sense back to this Republic.

And as you know, Mr. Speaker, there's no better example of putting politics before country than the case of Yucca Mountain. Yucca Mountain is a multibillion-dollar project that was supposed to be the solution for storing our country's nuclear materials. Ratepayers in States like South Carolina, ratepayers like my constituents, have poured billions of dollars into the development of Yucca Mountain as a nuclear repository.

Mr. Speaker, this administration needs to understand that America runs by the rule of law, and depositing our nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain is the law of the land. This administration does not get to make willy-nilly decisions to benefit supporters without congressional approval. And when Congress spoke, in the National Waste Policy Act, it made Yucca Mountain the law of the land.

I was deeply disappointed when the Presidential candidates were recently asked about Yucca Mountain. I was astonished that these good folks would echo the failed rhetoric of Senator HARRY REID. And I would remind all the Presidential candidates of the Federal Government's promise to construct a long-term storage facility for the legacy weapons materials temporarily being stored in South Carolina. And I would remind them that this is the law of the land. I suspect that many South Carolina voters, including myself, will expect to hear the Presidential candidates' plan to solve this problem during their next visit to the Palmetto State.

□ 1110

But let's talk about the states' rights aspect of this. Where is South Carolina's right to be rid of this waste? This is a federally created problem, the residual waste of our Cold War weapons programs. Whole towns in my district were relocated by the Federal Government to create the Savannah River site. I'm not saying that we don't want the Savannah River site to continue the important nuclear nonproliferation work of the Nation. And I commend NNSA's recent announcement con-

cerning the conversion of some of the plutonium material into mixed oxide fuel for commercial reactors. What I am saying is that the Nation needs to do right by South Carolina and fulfill the promise to take care of the radioactive waste and get it out of our State.

Yucca Mountain is a geologically stable location; it's the right location for the job. It doesn't get much rain, it's in the middle of nowhere; and when it does rain, the arid climate evaporates the water. But let's take, for instance, that it may rain a lot one day. For leakage to happen at Yucca Mountain would require that little bit of water that doesn't evaporate to transpire through a thousand feet of granite-like rock. And then it's going to get to our concrete vault, and inside that concrete vault are stainless steel canisters. So the water erodes and transfers through a thousand feet of granite rock, through the concrete, through the stainless steel, and it comes in contact with radioactive glass, glassified material that it's got to erode. And then the water has to transfer that material through more stainless steel, through more concrete, through another thousand feet of nonporous rock, down to an aquifer that is a closed system.

This is why Yucca Mountain is the right place to do the job. No one thinks that rolling fields next to a river that is a water source for two States, as it is at Savannah River site, is a long-term answer to nuclear waste disposal. The sooner we recognize this, the sooner we can deal with the real problem.

Now the Department of Energy's blue ribbon commission is circulating a draft report on the future of America's nuclear waste, including the nuclear waste currently being temporarily stored at the Savannah River site. The Savannah River site can only be a short-term home for this waste. The best long-term outlook for the waste of this sort is in a deep geological site, hence the need for Yucca Mountain. The waste stored at Savannah River site can be processed for a number of purposes, but ultimately this waste needs to go deep underground.

Mr. Speaker, I urge representative Lee Hamilton and General Brent Scowcroft, the cochairs of the blue ribbon commission, to reconsider their draft report to include Yucca Mountain as the long-term disposal site that Congress mandated.

Americans have already given billions of dollars to the State of Nevada for the construction of a safe, long-term storage site for nuclear material. President Obama and Senator REID shouldn't be able to have it both ways; Nevada must either rebate the billions of dollars already spent on Yucca Mountain or stand out of the way and allow the facility to open for business. It would create jobs in the State of Nevada. South Carolina has unfairly carried the burden for storing nuclear material for decades already. It's time for this waste to move on.

May God continue to bless America.

GOP JOB-CREATING AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, when I go home every weekend and talk to my constituents, there are two things that they ask me repeatedly: What can be done about jobs, and what can be done about energy prices?

My constituents understand the colossal failure of the Obama stimulus bill. My constituents understand that government can create jobs only for more government bureaucrats. And those bureaucrats will have to justify their existence by creating more regulations that will kill more private sector jobs.

The liberal Democrats in Congress keep asking for a Republican jobs bill. Well, Mr. Speaker, we have passed at least 15 jobs bills. We have them outlined on this card, as my two colleagues before me talked about, and they are shown on jobs.gop.gov. We've passed at least 15 jobs bills that will help the private sector do exactly what Americans are asking us to do, which is to create jobs through growth in their businesses and allowing new businesses to form.

The liberal elite keep buying into the failed theory that government will create millions of jobs. The reality is that unless we provide the private sector with an environment that is conducive to job creation, jobs will be hard to come by.

Mr. Speaker, I remember the cost of a gallon of gasoline when President Obama was sworn in, it was \$1.85. Today, it is at least \$3.45, an 86-percent increase—and it was a 100-percent increase until very recently. Republicans have addressed this with legislation that increases American energy production, provides us with energy security, and lowers our dependency on Middle Eastern oil.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans listen to the American people. We are acting to provide business owners and entrepreneurs the tools that they need to create jobs and at the same time reduce the cost of energy. We have advanced legislation that will help our constituents in these two very important ways: by helping businesses and their communities hire people, and by reducing the cost of energy.

But what has happened to legislation that will put Americans to work and lower energy costs? Democrat intransigence. The Senate has had these bills for months now and has failed the American people by refusing to take action. Senate Democrat Majority Leader REID recently said: "It's very clear that private sector jobs are doing just fine." This failure to accept the reality that the job-killing, anti-growth policies of this administration and the liberal elites are the key contributors

to the 9.1-percent unemployment rate that continues to be in the United States.

The liberal Democrats keep pushing for what is almost a carbon copy of the failed Obama stimulus that cost the taxpayers almost \$1 trillion without having the slightest positive impact on unemployment and the economy. Now President Obama and the liberal elites are asking to do it all over again—more spending, fewer jobs.

The administration wants to continue to pick winners and losers and fund unproven technologies that cost the taxpayers billions with little or no return. One shining example—if that's the way you want to look at it—is the Solyndra fiasco. The administration acted like a venture capital firm and squandered half a billion dollars, leaving the taxpayer holding the bill.

Mr. Speaker, while the liberal elites in the House and Senate keep thinking that the private sector—the job-creating sector—is doing fine, House Republicans will continue to craft and pass legislation to help job creators, to lower energy prices, and to improve the economy. And I encourage Americans to learn about this on their own through jobs.gop.gov.

CALLING ON THE SENATE TO PASS JOBS BILLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, this House has sent numerous jobs bills to the Senate in an effort to get our Nation back to work.

I want to call particular attention to the 3 percent withholding repeal legislation I authored, which passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support just last week. This legislation will help many small businesses create more jobs, and the Senate should act on it without further delay. The House-passed bill would eliminate a burden on job creators by repealing a tax that requires government agencies to withhold 3 percent of all payments for goods and services.

As someone who comes from a small business background, I can attest that although this provision does not take effect until the end of next year, it hurts job creation now because businesses look several years ahead when they are deciding how to invest. It is not surprising that over 150 businesses, health care, education, and local government groups support passage of this legislation. In addition, over 400 Members of the House of Representatives have voted for it, and President Obama has endorsed it, as well as Representative BLACK's associated cost-saving measure.

Instead of waiting for more stimulus bills that face bipartisan opposition, the Senate should work with the House to pass jobs bills like this one that is supported by both parties.

□ 1120

There are already 15 jobs bills passed by the House that are being delayed unnecessarily, and 3 percent withholding repeal joins those forgotten 15 in waiting in our U.S. Senate and by our Senate colleagues. The House version of this repeal continues to have strong bipartisan support.

The Senate has heard from job creators just as we have about the need for this legislation, and they should work with us in passing commonsense jobs bills, starting with the repeal of the 3 percent withholding tax.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) for 4 minutes.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm the author of one of the bills sitting in the Senate, the "forgotten 15." This is a bill that will instantaneously create 20,000 jobs and spin off a potential 100,000 to 200,000 additional jobs and put us on the path to energy security. I'm talking about the pipeline bill, the Keystone XL pipeline.

Now, that bill was passed on a massive bipartisan vote, 279-174, one of the best bipartisan showings of nonsuspension bills. It was placed on the Senate calendar on July 28. We held a press conference asking the Senate to take it up. We sent a bipartisan letter to the majority leader asking him to place it on the calendar for vote.

This bill just simply set a timeline for the President and State Department to make a decision. Then, it was November 1. We sit here on this day, November 4—I think it's the 4th—and the President just said 2 days ago to a local Omaha TV station anchorman that he'll make a decision in a few months.

Well, I would encourage the Senate to take up this bill; change the date, obviously, maybe to December 1 or December 15 or December 31. But the reality is this permit for this pipeline is 1,142 days old. That's double the record time for any other transcontinental pipeline—double.

Yes, there is a political storm about environmental safety. This trans-Canadian pipeline has been studied more than any other pipeline. The environmental assessments say this is the most secure pipeline ever designed and has little to no impact to the environment of the sand hills of Nebraska and the underlying aquifer.

Now, since all of the studies have shown there's little to no risk to the environment and pipelines remain the safest way to transport oil to our United States refineries, this puts us on a path to energy security. In fact, the 700,000 barrels that come from our friend Canada offset the oil we import from Venezuela. And even the Department of Energy said that this will almost offset all of OPEC oil. I think that secures our Nation.