OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $17,490,047,622,577.60. We've added $6,863,170,573,664.60 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendously positive impact the American Red Cross has on my congressional district.

Earlier this month, my constituents in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions of New York endured disastrous levels of flooding. Upon finding their homes severely damaged, hundreds of people sought refuge at local Red Cross shelters.

I had the opportunity to visit the areas in Yates County hit hardest by the storm and was humbled by the outpouring of care and support provided by the Red Cross. As it has done countless times in the past, the Red Cross responded immediately to provide critical resources and assistance to our friends, families, and neighbors who were affected by the damaging floods. With the help of the Red Cross, these communities were able to pull together to support each other and overcome the challenges caused by the flooding.

Since its founding in 1881, the Red Cross has consistently provided excellent care and relief to those who need it most. Throughout wars, famines, and natural disasters, the staff and volunteers from the Red Cross put themselves on the front lines to help the victims of these tragedies through their times of need. Each year, the American Red Cross responds to over 70,000 catastrophes all over the world, providing emergency relief to those impacted. In addition to providing temporary housing, warm meals, medical assistance, and emergency blood supplies, the Red Cross deploys mobile response units to help ease suffering during disasters.

I thank the staff and volunteers of the American Red Cross for serving as "real heroes" in our community, our country, and throughout the world. I commend their dedication to ensuring the safety and well-being of each person in need, especially in New York's 23rd Congressional District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes:

1. Moran Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.
2. Blackburn Amendment No. 14 to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.
3. Blackburn Amendment No. 15 to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.
4. Bonamici Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.
5. Rohrabacher Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.
6. Holding Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.
7. Massie Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.
8. Southerland Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.
9. Ellison Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.
10. Grayson Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.
11. Duffy Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.
12. Garrett Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.
13. King (IA) Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.
14. Meadows Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.
15. Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this measure.
16. Final Passage of H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I want to thank my colleague from California, Representative HUFFMAN for his leadership on this issue. I also want to thank Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH for working with us on this important amendment.

West Coast fishermen are in a tough spot, and in a very unique spot. Unlike other regions of the country where fishermen had their buyouts funded by taxpayers, our fishermen took on the loan willingly and knowing they would have to pay it back. And they are paying it back—but at an interest rate that is two points above prime and therefore costing them 5 percent of their landings.

Representative HUFFMAN, Representative HERRERA BEUTLER, and I are working to legislatively refinance this loan. In fact, today, that refinance bill passed out of the House Committee on Natural Resources and it has already passed the Senate Committee. But it's going to take some time to implement.

West Coast fishermen are facing increased observer costs. We are transitioning to electronic monitoring, but that's going to take time—too much time in my opinion. But until electronic monitoring is adopted by the Council and NOAA, fishermen will have to pay for 100 percent observer coverage—which can be as high as $350–$450 per day.

And now, fishermen are bearing an additional cost—$2.4 million this year to help pay for the management of the fishery—known as the "cost recovery fee." West Coast fishermen are willing to pay this fee. They knew the fee was coming. But, right now, with the mounting costs of the buyback loan, the observer costs, and pending trailing amendments that will make the fishery more economically viable—this additional financial burden is too much.

This amendment would provide one year of relief to West Coast fishermen. It would mean the difference for many fishermen of selling their boats and trying to find a different livelihood in already distressed coastal communities, or staying in business.

This amendment is bipartisan. It does not score. And it might not seem like a lot of money to people in this body, but it's a huge deal for my fishermen, their families, and small businesses that depend on the fleet to make a living. I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, due to a family obligation, I was absent for rollcall votes on May 29 and May 30, 2014. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall Vote 243—Pompeo Amendment—Eliminates all funding for the Economic Development Administration and transfers the savings to the Spending Reduction Account—"no."

Rollcall Vote 244—McNerney Amendment—Increases funding for the COPS program by $3 million (intended for the Technology Grant Program), reduces the Census Bureau by the same amount—"aye."

Rollcall Vote 245—Brindenstine Amendment—Increases funding for NOAA—Operations, Research, and Facilities by $12 million (intended for weather research), reduces the Census Bureau by the same amount—"aye."