my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make the investments necessary to help create a booming, clean-energy economy right here in the United States.

SOLDIERS OVERSEAS SHOULD HAVE THEIR VOTES COUNTED

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of concern with the recent news that one out of every four ballots requested by military personnel and other Americans living overseas may have gone uncounted in the 2008 election. These findings were released in a recent Senate hearing.

The report claims that of 441,000 absentee ballots requested, 98,000 were claimed to be lost. Over 13,000 were rejected because of missing signatures or failure to notarize. Another 11,000 were returned as undeliverable.

I agree with Senator SCHUMER that this system needs an overhaul. While serving our country overseas, our soldiers deserve to have their votes counted and their voices heard. We need to ensure there is sufficient time for ballots to reach them and have them fill them out and return them for inclusion for their vote to count.

The cornerstone of democracy, Mr. Speaker, is the right to vote. Those sacrificing to protect this right should be given every chance to participate in the electoral process.

REMEMBERING THOSE DEVASTATED BY IOWA FLOODS

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, one year ago today, I got in a plane and flew back home to Waterloo, Iowa, to a district and a State underwater. The railroad bridge in downtown Waterloo was torn down by the raging waters of the Cedar River, and my entire State went through the worst natural disaster in our State's history.

It is hard to believe that that much time has passed, but the work continues and the good, resilient people of Iowa continue to build, which is why Secretary Donovan is there today announcing the latest rounds of HUD assistance to help people get back on their feet and rebuild their homes.

I will be wearing next week, in the congressional baseball game, the jersey of the Anamosa Blue Raiders. Last year, this baseball team's entire field was under 10 feet of water, and it is a symbol of what happens when communities all over this country are devastated by natural disasters. That is why the work we do in this body is so important, and I continue to call upon people to keep in mind those who are devastated in a similar way in the years and days ahead.

KEEPING AMERICA COMPETITIVE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, American jobs are being threatened by new proposals to tax the earnings of American employers operating in markets around the world. We cannot forget that we are in a global economy. America cannot just be a participant in this global economy, but they have to lead in this global economy. In the middle of a downturn, it makes no sense to eliminate a tax incentive like deferral that American employers need to compete in a global marketplace and create American jobs at home.

Eliminating tax incentives like deferral would send U.S. jobs overseas and almost make it impossible for us to compete with China, India and Europe. Raising taxes on the earnings of U.S. companies discourages investments at home and increases the cost of employing U.S. workers. One of the largest employers in my districts, Microsoft, said last week that raising these taxes on their foreign earnings would force them to move thousands of employees out of the United States.

Congress must help to protect, promote and create jobs at home by encouraging American employers to invest and engage in new markets.

PROTECTING AMERICAN WORKING WATERFRONTS

(Ms. PINGREE of Maine asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, coastal communities across this Nation are in trouble. In Maine and in other coastal States, working waterfronts and the jobs they provide are quickly disappearing.

Working waterfronts include commercial fishing, boatyards and other businesses who need access to the water. Once these businesses close, once the waterfront stops supporting these businesses, history shows us they do not come back.

Recently, I introduced the Keep America's Waterfronts Working Act of 2009. This bill will help communities acquire permanent access to the water and develop programs to protect working waterfronts and the jobs they provide, the backbone of our coastal communities.

A report released this week, the ''State of the U.S. Ocean and Coastal Economies,'' coauthored by Professor Charlie Colgan from the University of Southern Maine, found that coastal counties contributed 42 percent of the national economic output in 2007, and working waterfronts are critical to supporting this economy.

We must protect working waterfronts and the jobs they provide. I would like to thank my colleagues for joining together to protect working waterfronts, and I look forward to working together to move this legislation through Congress.

RECOGNIZING DR. TERRY BRADLEY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to offer my gratitude on behalf of the people of the 21st Congressional District for the lifetime service of Dr. Terry Bradley. He is retiring from his position as superintendent of the Clovis Unified School District.

I have known Terry for many years as his Representative in Congress. His hard work and commitment to the students and faculty of Clovis Unified has always impressed me. Indeed, Terry's legacy is one that should be celebrated. During his tenure, he presided over faculty investments amounting to over $1 billion. These improvements, as well as his commitment to excellence, have made a real difference in the quality of education for the students.

While the parents and students of Clovis will miss him, Terry can leave his position with full confidence that Clovis Unified School District, a school district that has helped lead the valley into the 21st century, will continue to thrive for future generations.

WE MUST REFORM HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, the time has come to take decisive action on health care reform. We simply cannot afford to wait any longer. American families and small businesses have seen the cost of health care coverage steadily rise to the point where many can no longer afford to pay their premiums. We know that our system is broken when we have 46 million Americans, many of them in my home State of New Jersey, who are only one illness or one accident away from being wiped out financially.

As President Obama and the majority in Congress work to take our Nation in a new direction, we are firmly committed to making improvements in our health care system in a way which will reduce costs, preserve a patient's choice of doctors and plans, and ensure quality, affordable health care for all.

It is important that we promote wellness by investing in prevention and educating about healthy life choices. Health care reform is an issue that we can resolve if we work together in good faith for a solution. Just saying ''no,'' as some in Congress have chosen to do, will only worsen the problem.