

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2010

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, June 8, at 9:30 a.m.; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that time, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of S. 782, the Economic Development Act, under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be a rollcall vote on the Tester amendment tomorrow at approximately 2 p.m. That amendment will be subject to a 60-vote threshold.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order following the remarks of Senators MORAN and ISAKSON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, while awaiting the arrival of Senators ISAKSON and MORAN, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JOB CREATION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, on Friday of last week, the U.S. Department of Labor released a dismal update on our Nation's economy. Not only did our Nation's unemployment rate rise to 9.1 percent, but the number of Americans looking for work increased to 14 million, and those who have been jobless for at least 6 months climbed 45.1 percent.

It is clear the current economic policies are not working in our favor. In fact, I suggest they are working against us, creating an environment of uncertainty and hampering job growth in America. When the message coming from Washington, DC, is more taxes, more regulation, and more intrusion in the free market system, it is no wonder businesses are not hiring additional workers.

Americans are looking for leadership to get our economy back on its feet so they can find a job and provide for their families. In a recent survey, 90 percent of Americans said the economy is in bad shape and, by a margin of 2 to 1, Americans said our economy is on the wrong track. I couldn't agree more. Changing the course of our economy will require Washington, DC, changing its course.

Instead of creating barriers to job growth, Congress and the Obama administration should be implementing policies that encourage job creation. History shows that sustainable economic growth starts with the private sector. So Congress and the administration have a responsibility to create an environment where businesses can flourish and start hiring again, and that starts by pursuing a series of pro-growth policies.

First, in my view, Congress must rein in government regulation and stop passing burdensome mandates that come at the expense of that job creation. As I tour manufacturing plants and other businesses in my home State of Kansas, owners often ask: What is the next thing coming from Washington that will put me out of business? Jobs in this country are undercut with each new government regulation because it drives up the cost of doing business, erodes our global competitiveness, and limits the access to credit that businesses need to grow. Rather than hiring new employees, businesses are spending their resources on complying with these burdensome regulations and costly mandates—from the EPA's effort to regulate carbon to the mandates imposed by the new health care law.

According to the Small Business Administration, the smallest businesses—those with less than 20 employees—spend 36 percent more per employee than larger firms to comply with Federal regulations. That is roughly \$10,585 per employee to comply with all Federal regulations, and very small firms are burdened even more per employee.

Small business, as we know, is the backbone of the American economy. Those businesses employ half our private sector workers and have generated 65 percent of new jobs over the last 20 years. So it makes no sense to drive up their operating costs with additional government regulations because that leaves them with fewer resources to hire new workers.

Second, Congress can spur economic growth by replacing our convoluted

and burdensome Tax Code with one that is fair, simple, and certain. When businesses know what to expect, they can better plan for future expenses and will invest in their companies, grow, and hire new workers.

Unfortunately, Congress is often too shortsighted when it comes to tax policy. A 1-year or 2-year extension of tax cuts does not give businesses the certainty they need to plan for that future. Employers have to make decisions about the future of their business today, and given the fact that their taxes will rise in the near future, they are reluctant to hire new workers or expand their business. If we are serious about creating jobs in this country, we have to give our country's job creators the ability to plan for the future and a Tax Code that encourages investment.

Third, Congress must open foreign markets for American manufactured goods and agricultural products. Across the country, thousands of Americans depend upon exports for jobs, including more than one-quarter of all manufacturing workers in Kansas. By increasing our Nation's exports, we will create jobs and opportunities for all Americans without raising taxes or increasing the Federal budget. We should be exporting our manufactured goods and agriculture products, not our jobs.

Unfortunately, trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea, for example, have been stalled for 4 years, and each day that passes, we risk losing more of our market share to our competitors. During this delay, Colombia has moved forward on trade deals with Canada, Chile, the European Union, Brazil, and Argentina. On July 1, a pending agreement between the European Union and Korea will go into effect. We cannot afford to sit on the sidelines while other countries continue to move forward in their trading relationships with our trading partners.

Together, the trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea are worth an estimated \$13 billion in U.S. exports. The agreement with Korea alone is worth \$11 billion and would create an estimated 70,000 new jobs for Americans.

It is past time for the President to send Congress implementing language for these trade agreements so we can open more markets for American goods and agricultural commodities. When American businesses are given the opportunity to compete on a level playing field for these markets, they will succeed and more jobs will be created here at home.

Fourth, the United States, to remain competitive in the global market, must develop a comprehensive energy policy that allows for ample energy supply that is both affordable and reliable. Rising gas prices and recent events in the Middle East have again demonstrated the importance of having access to a reliable energy supply. Higher energy prices are not only threatening