that’s right on the Pacific Ocean. Then I went to Idaho and looked at the Idaho National Labs and the nuclear waste stored there. Today, we go to Massachusetts.

The point being, there is high-level nuclear waste stored all over this country, and a single repository at Yucca Mountain makes sense for all of the right reasons: it’s over 100 miles from the largest city; it’s in the desert; it would be underneath a mountain. There is no more safe, secure location.

Why are we not moving forward? Because this administration has decided not to spend the money needed to finish the final environmental study through the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

So where are our Senators on this position? I’ve been bringing this down to the floor through all these States. We need 60 votes in the Senate to secure America’s nuclear waste. Right now, through the States, based upon the States we’ve identified, there are 20 “yesses.” We’ve got about seven who are relatively new. We don’t know their positions. Of course, we have established five who are “noes.” There are some in the New England States that I mentioned:

SUSAN COLLINS voted for Yucca Mountain in 2002. OLYMPIA SNOWE voted for it in 2002. Senator KERRY voted against it. Now, Pilgrim is in the State of Massachusetts. Based upon his statement, I guess Senator KERRY feels that Pilgrim is a more safe and secure location than Yucca Mountain. SCOTT BROWN has no position yet. Senator AXOTTE has no position. Senator SHAHEN has no position. Of course, the Independent from Vermont has voted “no.”

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE EXTENSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE. Recently and even today, we’ve heard a lot from both sides of the aisle about the extension of unemployment insurance; but I think the voices that we need to be listening to are the voices of the American people. So, if you would indulge me, Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a letter from a constituent:

“Ms. Moore, I am writing you today to request that you pass the extension for unemployment insurance benefits. I am a single mom and experienced a layoff at my job this past summer. My benefits are about to run out, and I am still looking for a job. Last week alone, I applied to over 20 jobs online, and received only one call-back for an interview. I have $600 left to claim on unemployment, but I do not know what I am going to do. I pray every day that this extension will go through before the holidays. That is all I want for Christmas.”

“Being unemployed has left me with a sense of low self-worth. And I find that I cry all the time. I hope that my interview next week is successful. Nonetheless, I am trying to be proactive on the job hunt. I have a webinar scheduled today for successful interviewing skills. And I am hoping to apply those skills in my interview next week. I just want to get back in a place of mind that I will continue to receive the extension before the holiday.”

Sadly, this young woman is just one of 58,000 Wisconsinites who will lose benefits if we don’t extend the unemployment insurance. Of course, there are millions of stories like this across the country, hardworking Americans, Mr. Speaker, who just want the opportunity to have an opportunity.

And as the holidays approach, the harsh realities of our failed economy become more and more prevalent. I, along with all of my Democratic colleagues, have been calling for the passage of an extension of UI benefits for what seems like an eternity. Yet some people, both here and on the floor of this country, are attempting to steal the holiday cheer from hardworking Americans with these tortured rationales as to why they oppose these much and desperately needed benefits, while continuing simultaneously to work to ensure that the rich get richer through maintaining tax cuts.

The Unemployment Insurance Program serves as a lifeline for millions of unemployed Americans and their families, their children, who are now at the mercy of the worst job market since the Great Depression. Millions of hardworking Americans, nearly 2 million in just January alone and over 6 million in 2012, will be cut off from the emergency life-line of unemployment insurance unless Congress acts.

Mr. Speaker, these are Americans who have been laid off and are desperately searching for work. But the jobs just are not there. That is why we must pass the Doggett-Levin Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act. The Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act is just common sense, and it will continue the current Federal unemployment programs through next year. The extension of this act will not only strengthen the safety net for the unemployed, but it will, most importantly, promote economic recovery by preventing the loss of a half-million jobs.

Additionally, relieving insolvent States from interest payments on Federal loans for 1 year will help the States, including Wisconsin, which were forced to borrow funds from the Federal Government in order to pay for unemployment benefits for the thousands of unemployed or laid off.

Never, never before now has this been a partisan issue where Congress, controlled by either party, has denied this life-sustaining unemployment benefit. Right now we need a holiday miracle. We need a miracle to help these grinch grow hearts and vote immediately to extend the Unemployment Insurance Program.

To my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to come together this season and bring some holiday cheer back to the American people.

HONORING TOM MELLON

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the Bucks County Bar Association’s most ardent supporters, my dear friend, Tom Mellon. Tom is known by many around the country for his passion and commitment to the law, but he is known in the Bucks County area as a dedicated civil servant who has spent his entire life giving back to the community.

I’ve known Tom for many years, and although we come from different party backgrounds, it has never gotten in the way of our friendship. Our shared values have always trumped politics. First and foremost, Tom is a family man. He’s a loyal husband to Sara and a dedicated father to four sons. Thomas, Christopher, Henry, and David. Tom is also one of the friendliest people you will ever meet. He has a genuine personality and a warm welcoming demeanor, which have served him well throughout his career.

Tom always seems to carry with him an inner Irish spirit. From day one he has championed the underdog and the downtrodden, which is truly an admirable quality. Throughout the course of his legal career, Tom has been the David to many a corporation’s Goliath, taking on Big Tobacco, multiple pharmaceutical companies, and even global terrorists. He never waivers in his dedication to his clients or to his cause. His cases are taken not necessarily because he knows he can win, but because morally they are the right thing to do. Tom is truly an inspiration to many young, aspiring attorneys who want to change the world. He has been to me.

As Tom sees it, his life duty is to help those who have never had a chance. He launched his legal career representing the interests of victims of crime in the United States Attorney’s Office, and he has never looked back.

Today he continues his representation of the less fortunate, proudly serving as a trial attorney in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

After 9/11 Tom served as a lead counsel among a national consortium of attorneys who were retained by the families of the victims of the terrorist attack. In order to fund investigation into the involvement of Iran and al Qaeda. In 1999 Tom arranged for the first group of American lawyers to
visit Havana, Cuba, in order to better understand the culture of the land and the inner struggles of the Cuban people.

Currently Tom also serves on the board of directors of the Bucks Mont Habitat for Humanity, and has raised millions of dollars for the victims of Hurricane Katrina in Hancock County, Mississippi. As part of this mission, Tom has led over 100 attorneys and their family members on multiple trips to Hancock County to clean up the devastation and help rebuild.

Tom’s morals and decorum permeate every aspect of his life. His loyalty is unwavering and unparalleled, whether it be to family, friends, employees, or clients. His dedication to the community speaks volumes about who Tom is as a person. He is a kind, giving, unique individual, and I’m truly blessed to have called him a friend for so many years and to honor him today as he will be honored tonight at the Bucks County Bar Association.

WALL STREET VERSUS MAIN STREET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it’s no secret that Wall Street is rampant with cases of outright fraud, backroom deals and very, very special political access. Meanwhile, Main Street is pushing back hard against this tide by investing in our communities and struggling to create jobs so our economy can grow.

A steady series of probing news stories have begun to expose the depth of corruption that precipitated the Wall Street meltdown and why it is so hard for Main Street to recover.

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