enough agents to investigate major white collar crime like the financial crisis. There are moments when I do wonder if the FBI has the will to prosecute; but still, today, the FBI has nowhere near enough special agents or forensic experts to properly investigate the levels of corruption that we know occurred.

Frankly, the Congress has shorted the FBI—some might say purposely—of the resources it needs to do the job. I have until, which I invite my colleagues to support, H.R. 3050, the Financial Crisis Criminal Investigation Act, authorizing an additional 1,000 FBI agents to aggressively investigate the kind of fraud that has destroyed the economic future of millions of our people and that has upset the global financial system.

Back when we had the S&L crisis in the 1980s, we had 1,000 agents. Do you know how many were working when this thing ever started? Forty-five. The others had all been reassigned to terrorism. We’re only up a little over 200 agents now investigating white collar crime. Think about that, America. Why do you think these financial wrongdoers are in jail? Frankly, this Congress has not taken its responsibility to investigate seriously.

Despite the robust public reporting of misdeeds on Wall Street, it has not been until the MF Global case, one of the top 10 bankruptcies in this country, that Congress has shown some mild interest in the magnitude of the inquiry required. In November, we got an inside look into the stunning misdeeds of a blunder—outright thievery that occurred at MF Global in the days before it declared bankruptcy. The total amount missing from private accounts has fluctuated over the years. As much as $1.2 billion could be missing from private customer accounts.

Congress is finally having hearings on this subject tomorrow, and we’ll see how seriously an investigation is pursued. It is time that the public have a right to know on what specific dates throughout 2011 money from customer accounts was wire-transferred in order to meet MF Global’s margin calls.

The Speaker pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak today about the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny, or the REINS, Act.

This bill, which I have cosponsored, restores accountability to the regulatory process by requiring an up-or-down vote in Congress and the President’s signature on any new major rule before it is enforced on the American people.

Over-regulation. Mr. Speaker, is devastating our economy and hindering job growth. Of the current administration’s new regulations, 200 are expected to cost more than $100 million each. Seven of those new regulations, however, will cost the economy more than $1 billion each. At the current pace, the current regulatory burden for 2011 alone will exceed $105 billion.

And the Federal Government has created more than 81.9 million hours’ worth of paperwork this year alone, costing employers $30 billion just in compliance. It’s no wonder a recent Gallup Poll found small business owners citing “complying with government regulations” as “the most important problem” they face.

Nebraskans have not been immune to the reams of red tape being handed down by Federal regulators. Just yesterday it was reported the city of Grand Island, Nebraska, population 51,000, will be saddled with a $3.2 million compliance and enforcement cost for new Federal emissions regulation. This EPA Cross-State Air Pollution Rule was finalized June 1 and will be enforced January 1.

But this is only one example. There are additional, even more costly rules and unworkable timelines coming down the pike, all of which mean a much longer winter for Americans struggling with high energy costs.

But it doesn’t stop there. Recently, the Department of Labor proposed a new regulation that would restrict youth involvement in agriculture work. Yes, Mr. Speaker, anything from milking cows and feeding calves to hauling and detasseling corn would come under fire under the Department’s current rule.

Everyone agrees the safety of these young people and workers everywhere is of the utmost importance; but by allowing such heavy-handed thoughtless regulation, we are missing out on exciting opportunities for youth growth. These jobs, often seasonal, teach young people responsibility and the value of hard work; and they’re able to earn a little spending money in the process.

I am also a proponent of the Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act of 2011, H.R. 1633, which the House is slated to consider later this week. This bill would prevent the EPA from regulating farm dust, or the type of dust which naturally occurs in rural areas.

Farmers and ranchers already are subject to strict Federal and State regulations to control dust. It makes no sense for the EPA to impose costlier requirements on top of the existing regulations. While the EPA has backed off without legislative action, nothing certainly prohibits the agency from regulating farm dust in the future.

During a time of economic hardship, keeping the door open for additional regulatory overreach is not the answer. Actually, I’m often reminded of a meeting I had in southeastern Nebraska with representatives from a Federal agency, good people they are. One of them said it had been more than 20 years since he’d ridden on a gravel road.

For me, this meeting certainly emphasized the disconnect between Washington and rural America. These are only a few examples of the regulatory burden and uncertainty facing Nebraskans who recognize economic growth ultimately depends on job creators, not regulators.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support commonsense regulatory reform like the REINS Act.

This is yet another step toward increased accountability, improving the regulatory process, and providing certainty for job creators in my home State of Nebraska and in States all across this country.

The Speaker pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the violence rages on in Afghanistan. Earlier this week, suicide bombers struck in three different cities, in each case targeting Shiite worshipers who are observing a religious holiday.

The death toll is at least 63, according to a news report; and a Pakistani extremist group has claimed responsibility for the attacks. The Times told The New York Times: “We saw 30 or 40 people on the ground missing arms or legs.” Another said the Kabul
Mr. Speaker, because it's the right thing to do and because it's the best way to protect America, let's bring our troops home and make the transition to SMART Security. And let's do it now.

REGS AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. BERG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BERG. Mr. Speaker, as I talk with North Dakotans, it's clear we're all frustrated with Washington. ObamaCare is a disastrous law that 70 percent of North Dakotans do not want. Unemployment remains unacceptably high, making it clear that President Obama's government stimulus did not work. Washington bailed out Wall Street while Main Street continues to suffer. And Washington persistently fails to uphold its responsibility to balance the budget.

Meanwhile, the Obama administration continues to pursue overreaching regulations that create more redtape and uncertainty for North Dakota's families, farms, and small businesses. These burdensome regulations threaten job creation, and they are the biggest challenge facing our economy. We need to take serious steps today to halt the Obama administration's regulatory overreach.

That's why I announced my REGS Agenda: Reduce the redtape; Empower the States; Grow the economy, and Stop President Obama's overreach.

This agenda is the result of talking with North Dakotans and learning about the impact of senseless regulations on North Dakota's farmers, ranchers, and small businessmen. During my recent regulations tour, I spoke with energy providers who are concerned about the EPA's regional haze requirements that added new costs. And I heard how the new EPA regulations on gas generators could cost a North Dakota school district a quarter of a million dollars. This cost is not because they are using generators more than allowed, but the EPA said the supply doesn't like which hours they're using it.

The REGS Agenda is also the product of feedback I've received from North Dakotans at 10 public town hall hearings I've held this year and through the countless emails, letters, and phone calls. The message was clear: Washington is not the solution, it's the problem.

To get our economy moving again and our country back on track, President Obama and his leaders could learn a lot about how we do things in North Dakota. The REGS Agenda is also the product of legislation I've been working on. Last month, I introduced a bill that would rein in the Obama administration's Federal takeover of the State regional haze management, which threatens to create more business uncertainty and stifles job creation. It will also increase the already costs for American families and small business. And today, I will proudly vote in support of the REINS Act, which is a much-needed measure to rein in this regulatory overreach.

But this agenda is not simply the sum of this past year; it's also a path moving forward to rein in the overreaching, out-of-touch government regulations that burden small business, farms, and ranches each and every day. I will continue to add to this agenda to fight against the job-killing regulations that threaten small businesses' ability to create jobs and grow our economy.

The number one thing we can do to get our economy back on track, to give business owners the confidence and the tools to create jobs, is to rein in President Obama's overbearing regulations. They're burdening job creation, and it adds more cost and more redtape. Through the REGS Agenda, I'll continue fighting to bring regulatory relief to the American people.

VOTER SUPPRESSION LAWS

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, first let me take a moment to thank the gentlelady from Ohio, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, for her fearless and tireless leadership in protecting our democracy and the bedrock, of course, of our country, and that is the right to vote. She has done an amazing job keeping us very focused and pointed with all of the information we need to try to address this a big problem.

Once again, I am here today to sound the alarm because, make no mistake about it, the fundamental right to vote which is at the heart of our democracy, it is under attack. Republican legislators and governors are proposing partisan laws that require voters to show government-approved photo IDs before voting.

Now, I came to this floor years ago after the stolen Presidential elections in Florida and how to protest the results of those two elections that were filled with voter suppression. It worked for the Republicans before, and so legislators in 42 States on this map of shame have doubled down on these strategies to make it harder for certain communities to vote. These proposals would disenfranchise 21 million Americans. That's over in 10 eligible voters in America who do not have adequate identification. Now, how in the world, for example, would my 100-year-old aunt get her birth certificate to prove who she is to get a government ID to vote? She wouldn't know where to start, nor how to pay...