

has now gone viral as people share its positive message about our country and our workers.

Trust me, Mr. Speaker, in America's heartland, we know about hard times. Our people have been through a lot these last few years. But that commercial has it right: We took a punch, but we're still standing. President Obama made a bet on America's workers and companies, and it saved thousands of jobs. It saved our industry. "This country can't be knocked out with one punch," Clint Eastwood says. "We get right back up again. And when we do, the world is going to hear the roar of our engines."

You can already hear that roar in Toledo. We're building Jeeps day and night. You can hear it in Lorain too, and in Sandusky, Avon Lake, Brook Park, and Parma. We're going to win this competition. We're going to win it with teamwork. And we're going to win it because we want it more. Gentlemen and gentleladies, start your engines.

SMALL BUSINESS MENTOR-PROTEGE PROGRAM

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. I hear over and over from small businesses that the one thing they need in these tough times is customers. And who is the biggest customer? The Federal Government. Each year, the government spends \$500 billion on Federal contracts, but only 20 percent is going to small firms. Small businesses create two out of every three new jobs. So for us to grow the economy, we have to give small businesses a bigger slice of the Federal contracting pie.

Today I am introducing the Building Better Business Partnerships Act. This bill will help small firms break into Federal contracting by making it easier for them to join mentor-protege programs. These programs partner small businesses with companies already contracting with government. It gives small firms a foot in the door so they can navigate the Federal process, get experience on a contract, and eventually win a Federal job of their own. And that means more work and a new customer for small businesses everywhere.

□ 1230

SHARED FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the middle class workers in Wisconsin and across the country who have unfairly been paying a higher tax rate than millionaires and billionaires.

Middle class Americans deserve to know that our tax system has not been rigged against them. Powerful special

interests have manipulated our Tax Code to ensure that the wealthiest Americans don't have to pay their fair share. These loopholes and special provisions have made it so that billionaire Warren Buffett's secretary pays a higher tax rate than he does. In fact, approximately a quarter of all millionaires pay lower effective tax rates than middle class families.

Yesterday, I introduced Paying a Fair Share Act, H.R. 3903, which would make the "Buffett rule" law and ensure that middle class workers do not pay higher tax rates than those earning more than \$1 million a year. I invite my colleagues to join me in taking this commonsense first step to strengthen middle class families and rebuild our economy with a commitment to shared responsibility.

H.R. 25, THE FAIR TAX

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

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, it's the Tax Code that brings me down to the House floor today. You know, if you care about special interest tax breaks in this town, there is only one bill in the U.S. House of Representatives that eliminates every single special interest tax break in the United States Code—every break, every exception, every exemption, every favor—and that's H.R. 25, the FAIR Tax, Mr. Speaker.

You know about the FAIR Tax. It's the most widely cosponsored, fundamental tax reform proposal in the entire U.S. House of Representatives. It's the most widely cosponsored, fundamental tax reform proposal in the entire United States Senate. And it is the only bill in Congress that solves every single special interest break. The only one. And it brings American manufacturing jobs back to America; puts the American manufacturing community on a level playing field with our foreign competitors, the only bill in Congress that gets that done.

Mr. Speaker, if you want to see more about it, you know you can see it at www.thomas.gov. You can see it at www.fairtax.org. It's H.R. 25, and it will save this American economy.

PAYROLL TAX HOLIDAY

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the party line from Republican leaders is that Republicans agree on a payroll tax cut holiday; they just need to find a way to pay for it. But Republican Members speak a different language. Georgia Republican PAUL BROWN told the press: "The payroll tax holiday is just a gimmick to get Obama re-elected."

That would be news to the average American family who will see its taxes increase by \$1,000 on March 1 without a payroll tax agreement.

The press reports a serious Republican split with only a 50/50 chance that Republicans can get their Members to agree on a payroll tax deal. Line that 50/50 Republican split up against their near-unanimous opposition to having wealthy and corporate taxpayers contribute one dime to deficit reduction.

I'll leave it to the Republican leadership to reconcile these issues and their caucus. Meanwhile, the clock ticks louder each day. Republicans have 22 days to make up their minds on whether every worker who draws a paycheck deserves a tax cut.

WELCOMING DELTA SORORITY TO CAPITOL HILL

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today Members of Congress and others will see a thousand women of color visiting all of our offices. They call themselves the Delta Sorority. Here the leadership is provided by Judge FUDGE as they come close to celebrating their 100th anniversary.

They have a legislative agenda, a community agenda, a civic agenda; and one of the things that they like to point out is that today we recognize the terrible epidemic of AIDS and HIV problems we have with blood. We hope that we learn to educate more people about the danger of AIDS, that we provide better treatment, and even better than that, that we avoid it by having preventive measures so it doesn't happen at all.

Also on their agenda is making certain that the payroll deductions for working poor people are extended, as is unemployment compensation, which is not only fiscally, but morally, the right thing to do, and that we pay our debts, pay the doctors who serve the aged.

DEMOCRATS READY TO WORK FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my Democratic colleagues ready to work for all Americans. Unfortunately, this no-show Tea Party Republican Congress, which worked only 6 days during the entire month of January, is once again refusing to do its job. You see, at the end of February, taxes will increase for 160 million middle class Americans unless the Mitt Romney Tea Party Republicans drop their incessant demands to cut taxes for millionaires and billionaires. I ask my Tea Party colleagues to stop holding the payroll tax cut hostage. We must protect unemployment insurance and fix the Medicare payment schedule so that seniors can see the doctor of their choice.

It's time for this Tea Party brinksmanship to come to an end, for