

TEXAS SENATOR KAY BAILEY
HUTCHISON

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON has been a fighter for the State of Texas long before she came to the U.S. Senate. As a graduate of the University of Texas and the University of Texas Law School, she first served in Austin, Texas, in the House of Representatives. She then served as State treasurer, and then she made up her mind to become the first woman to ever represent the great State of Texas in the United States Senate.

Texans have been fortunate to have KAY as a feisty advocate for them. She's been a leader here in the Senate for almost 20 years. My grandmother used to always say that there's nothing more powerful than a woman who has made up her mind. Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON is one of those women. She is a leader and a role model for all of us. She will be missed.

Thank you, KAY, for your service to the great State of Texas and the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1220

PROTECTING CRITICAL PROGRAMS

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, critical initiatives that help the Chesapeake Bay will be among the hardest hit by sequestration. These programs, including the Small Watersheds Program, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and the Section 319 Program, provide much needed resources for on-the-ground restoration and conservation efforts in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

These programs are some of the most important tools we have for addressing pollution and storm water runoff in the bay. An 8 percent cut would cost thousands of jobs and exacerbate the already crumbling public water infrastructure that is so prevalent in Maryland and across the country, adding pressure to State and local governments to pay for Federal programs that have been slashed. As we all know, the budget process is entirely about choices. We must make clean water and clean air a priority. I urge my colleagues to protect these critical programs from reckless cuts that will destroy jobs and destroy the environment.

SEQUESTRATION IMPACT ON
ENVIRONMENT

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

Ms. CHU. Sequestration wasn't written to be good fiscal policy. It was

never intended to be policy, period. These automatic cuts would deeply hurt our environment. This Congress has already tried to roll back our strongest environmental laws. Now we're on the verge of setting a new low.

Sequestration could force the national parks and forests to turn away visitors. Our Forest Service, which fights wildfires, might not have enough money to put out all the flames. Agencies protecting us from harmful toxic waste may have difficulty going after our worst polluters. This is no solution to our deficit problems.

Now is the time for both sides to work toward a responsible compromise. As I said before, sequestration was never intended to happen, so let's not let it.

NATURAL DISASTER HELP

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, you can't walk two steps in this Capitol without getting into a discussion these days about the fiscal cliff. The fiscal cliff is comprised of a lot of very serious issues, but it is a metaphor. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of my constituents and hundreds of thousands of people in the States of Connecticut, New Jersey and New York are suffering as a result of a natural disaster which was anything but a metaphor. Hurricane Sandy devastated communities across those three States.

Traditionally, when our constituents were homeless, when they were hungry, when they were standing amidst the wreckage of their homes, they looked to this body for help and this body always said, yes, we will help. As we speak, there is a bill in the Senate that would provide that assistance to so many distressed constituents, Republican and Democrat, rural and urban. When that bill gets to this House, I urge my colleagues to remember that whether it was Hurricane Katrina or Andrew or the earthquakes of the west coast, we have always set aside considerations of the budget, or offsets, or whatnot, to do the decent and moral thing and help our constituents.

Let's do it again.

PAY AS YOU EARN PROGRAM

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, while the whole world is waiting to see whether the House Republicans say "yes" to extending middle class tax cuts, President Obama, on Friday, moved ahead with following through on a campaign promise to help people with student loan payments which are at record-high levels.

The Pay as You Earn program, starting next Friday, will accept applica-

tions to cap repayment at 10 percent of discretionary income. So, for example, an individual with \$30,000 in income and \$26,000 in debt will see their monthly payments drop from \$166 a month to \$110 a month.

Individuals can contact the U.S. Department of Education's Web site to apply for this assistance or call your Member of Congress. And while you're at it, tell them to extend middle class tax cuts, sign on to the Walz bill, and let's get away from this fiscal cliff.

Congratulations to the President for following through for young Americans to make sure that they're going to get needed help to pay for college.

PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT
EXTENSION

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I rise today to highlight the critical importance of extending the Production Tax Credit for wind energy, which expires this month. The Production Tax Credit is essential for energy independence, the environment, and public health; and it is critical for job creation and our economy.

The Production Tax Credit has helped to create good-paying jobs across the country, including 7,000 in my home State of Illinois. Because of uncertainty, the wind industry is hurting and job losses have already begun. The failure to extend the Production Tax Credit will result in the loss of 37,000 of the 78,000 American wind jobs. Those are not just numbers on a sheet of paper; they represent people and families and communities.

This is not a partisan issue. Eighty-nine percent of Americans, including 84 percent of Republicans, want more wind power. We must act to extend the Production Tax Credit for wind without delay. The American people can't wait any longer.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, impending budget cuts under sequestration pose a serious risk to America's leadership in a variety of areas. The one in particular that I want to focus on today is the serious risk to America's leadership on a clean-energy economy and to developing grid-scale energy infrastructure, made possible in part by the Production Tax Credit. These investments help to ensure our Nation's energy security and independence while spurring growth in a wind industry that supports over 70,000 jobs nationwide, including hundreds in Rhode Island.

Mr. Speaker, Rhode Island receives 7 percent of its State revenue from Federal grants that are subject to sequestration. Unless averted by Congress, it