

clean drinking water. Rather than bringing up my bill, the Families of Flint Act, which would provide relief to those folks back home, who should be able to depend on their Federal Government when they are at their moment of greatest need, the Republican-led Congress is not only recessing but is recessing a day early—a day in which we could have taken up legislation to help the people of Flint. We could have taken up legislation to deal with the Zika virus. We could have taken up legislation for commonsense gun safety policy.

This is what the Congress is charged with doing. This is our job. We should be here on the floor of the House doing it. I am pleased to be here with my colleagues, who are ready to go to work in order to deal with these big problems that our country faces.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, I was proud to join with a bipartisan group of my House colleagues yesterday in introducing H. Con. Res. 144, recognizing the 75th anniversary of the American Tree Farm System.

The American Tree Farm System is operated by the American Forest Foundation. It is the largest and oldest sustainable forestry program for forest owners. The program was created in 1941 in order to engage and support landowners to ensure the health and safety of the forests, especially in facing wildfires in the Western States.

This resolution commends the work of tree farmers and volunteers across the Nation who have participated in the program over the past 75 years, especially their investments in time, manpower, and personal funds to further sustainable forestry practices.

Mr. Speaker, family forest owners own the largest share of forests in the United States. These forests provide for Americans well beyond their properties, as they help to maintain clean water, clean air, wood supply, wildlife habitat, jobs, and recreational opportunities. Programs such as the American Tree Farm System help these forest owners continue to steward our lands and protect those benefits.

ZIKA-RELATED MICROCEPHALY CASE IN HARRIS COUNTY

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Zika is here, and Congress is not doing its job.

Yesterday, health officials in Houston, Harris County, Texas, diagnosed

an infant with microcephaly, which is a birth defect that causes a severe underdevelopment of the brain and a long list of health problems. This is the first documented case of Zika-related microcephaly in Texas. Unfortunately, it is one of the many tragedies that will continue if we fail to act.

Zika poses a grave and unprecedented threat to our public health. It is time Congress fulfills its constitutional and moral duty to protect the health and welfare of our people. It is an appalling disservice to the American people that we are not yet providing resources to combat this virus.

Congress' reluctance to provide funding is attributed to a distorted sense of fiscal responsibility. The fact of the matter is that their reluctance is putting the health and lives of the American people at risk, and inaction now will only be more costly in the long run. We are delaying medical research for a cure for Zika. We are delaying funding for our communities to fight Zika. We need to work with a sense of responsibility for the health and welfare of our Nation and approve the funds that are necessary to prevent Zika from spreading in our country.

HONORING UTAH'S OLYMPIANS

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

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor all Olympians but, especially, the Olympians who are heading to Rio from my home State of Utah.

My family and I hardly ever watch TV. We have lost the remote control for months at a time and no one has really cared, but, every 4 years, we do look forward to watching the Olympic Games on television. Part of the reason it is fun for us is that we realize the enormous commitment, strength, and courage it takes to become an Olympic athlete, and we realize the endless hours of training and sacrifice that will, hopefully, lead to their success.

I am extremely proud of the Utahns who have earned their spot on Team USA: Devery Karz for rowing, Jared Ward for track and field, and Jake Gibb for volleyball. Others will be added to the Olympic team in the next few weeks.

We should all look to these Olympians as examples of hard work and dedication. They may not be guaranteed medals in Rio, but to all of us Americans, to Utahns, and others, we view them as champions. I wish them all good luck, and I wish them success and safety. My family and I will find the remote control, and we will be cheering for them this summer.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is sad that people are leaving this Chamber with much unfinished business, such as action on Zika, threats to drinking water, and the most important for me is the failure to take any action to stem the epidemic of gun violence that takes three to four Americans' lives every hour.

Whether it is from domestic violence, mass shootings like in Orlando or Dallas, suicide, there are multiple causes, but there are things we can do to make a difference.

There ought to be no more anonymous gun purchases. We need universal background checks. People who are too dangerous to buy a plane ticket should not be able to buy an assault weapon. And the outrageous prohibition that Congress has on doing research from the CDC on gun violence ought to be abolished.

These provisions are overwhelmingly supported by the American public and, indeed, gun owners themselves. There is no excuse for us leaving early today, for us to be gone tomorrow, for us to be gone for the next 7 weeks.

Maybe the people who are getting out of town should just be gone from the next Congress.

A BETTER WAY

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my colleagues in the House for passing the Zika bill and sending it to the Senate, and I hope that the Senate Democrats will at sometime put that bill on the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise today as an advocate for "A Better Way." This blueprint put forth by Speaker RYAN and my colleagues in the House Republican Conference is our vision for a more confident America.

We have a framework that is a better way to free millions from poverty, a better way to make America strong and safe, a better way to create an environment for Americans of all walks to experience true economic growth and opportunity, a better way to govern by returning to the rule of law outlined in our Constitution, a better way to lead healthy and productive lives by replacing a failing ObamaCare with a healthcare system that works for the American people, and a better way to pay for essential government services by creating a simpler, fairer Tax Code.

As we dream of an America with a future that outshines our blessed past, I urge my colleagues to embrace this vision, work to see its proposals implemented, and leave to our posterity evidence of our good stewardship of this most portentous responsibility.

INACTION

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission