

unprecedented degree, despite clear opposition and legal barriers.

In fact, in 2012, the Supreme Court condemned EPA's practice of using the law to persecute farmers and ranchers with absolutely no proof or due process offered to these landowners.

Again, early this year, the Supreme Court shut down EPA's ongoing attempts to exempt their actions limiting property rights from traditional challenges, one of our Nation's most fundamental rights.

This is not a fight over clean water; it is a fight about Federal control. The creators of this law never intended for bureaucrats to have control of nearly every ditch, puddle, or pond they can get their hands on, while trying to regulate everyday activities like plowing, explicitly exempted under the law. Yet we continue to see this administration use their own very imaginative interpretations to harass property owners.

It is certainly unfortunate we have to pass additional legislation to require bureaucrats to stay within the law, but that is what we will do. I have an amendment in the appropriation bill just passed that will help do that and rein it in.

YET CONGRESS HAS DONE NOTHING

(Mrs. LOWEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, in the face of extraordinary suffering, we are not asking for extraordinary courage from Members. We are asking for commonsense measures most Americans support.

Thousands of children in Flint have been exposed to lead, yet Congress has done nothing. Over 4,000 Americans have been infected with Zika ahead of peak mosquito season, yet Congress has done nothing. Gun violence in America is an epidemic, killing over 30,000 Americans each year, yet Congress has done nothing.

It is cowardly to return to our constituents for 7 weeks without action. It is cowardly for this majority to run from our responsibilities because they are scared of the NRA when Americans consistently live in fear of gun violence.

This House has done nothing to address these real, widespread concerns. We should not recess without taking action for the American people.

ST. THOMAS MORE

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

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, on June 22, it was the feast day of St. Thomas More. I was unable to get to the House floor that day, so I am going to tell you a little bit about him today.

Sir Thomas More was known in the early 1500s as a Renaissance man who

was an English lawyer, author, social philosopher, and a statesman. More is most notably known for his opposition to King Henry VIII's separation from the Catholic Church and refusing to acknowledge King Henry as the supreme head of the Church of England.

Thomas More was later convicted of treason and lost his own head in 1535.

St. Thomas More was canonized in 1935 by Pope Pius XI and was hailed by Pope John Paul II as the "heavenly patron of statesmen and politicians."

At a time when our country faces deep partisan divides, let us look toward St. Thomas More for guidance and strength. In the words of St. More, "When statesmen forsake their own private consciences for the sake of their public duties, they lead their country by a short route to chaos."

LET'S REVIEW THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN RECORD

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, well, as the House Republicans flee town, let's just take a minute to review their record: no budget; no vote on gun violence measures; no Zika funding; no Flint, Michigan, fix; no VA appeals overhaul; no long-term FAA reauthorization; no Voting Rights Act.

But, wait, they did do a few things. They voted to make our air and water dirtier, to degrade our environment, to interfere with a woman's healthcare choices, to roll back ObamaCare, to reinstitute discrimination in our laws. They even voted to screw elephants and polar bears. They also voted to waste millions of taxpayer dollars on hours of meaningless hearings.

So I say, Mr. Speaker, don't underestimate the American public. You can run, but you cannot hide.

GIVE THE PEOPLE A VOTE ON THE ISSUES

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I have three bills that I am a cosponsor of—reasonable bills. One is to stop suspects on the terrorist watch list from acquiring firearms; one is to require universal background checks so that we are sure that the people who do buy firearms are psychologically capable of doing so; and another bill to study the health impacts of gun violence in America.

All across my district, I have received many, many, many calls. From the streets of Dorchester and South Boston and the North End in the city of Boston to the historic cities of Quincy and Brockton, the city of champions; from the beautiful towns in the north of my district, like Norwood and Dedham and Walpole and

Westwood to the south shore towns of Scituate, Abington, Hingham, Cohasset, and Hull, it is pretty near unanimous in my district. And the people that I represent would like to have a vote on this issue.

I think that is our job, that is our duty, and we should get to the business of taking up these bills and giving the people of the United States a vote on these issues.

AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE ACTION

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, the American people are demanding action to keep guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them. Instead, the people's House has been adjourned without a single vote on commonsense, life-saving legislation.

We need to be voting on legislation that expands background checks to keep dangerous people from getting these deadly weapons.

Mr. Speaker, this commonsense, bipartisan legislation is supported by 80 percent of the American public. Give us a vote. It is past time for House Republicans to stop ignoring their voices. Instead of taking real action, Republicans are playing games with a toothless NRA bill that does nothing to keep our communities safe.

Whether it is the Flint water crisis emergency, Zika threats, or gun safety, the American people deserve action, not just thoughts and prayers and moments of silence and 7 weeks out of session. The political gamesmanship won't stop the bloodshed, won't bring clean water to Flint, or prevent the Zika virus from spreading.

Mr. Speaker, let's actually do something. Let's do something to secure our children, our families, our Nation. We should do our job, but, once again, Congress is missing in action.

CONGRESS ADJOURNS WITHOUT ACTING ON URGENT NEEDS

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, this do-nothing Congress is adjourning for 7 weeks without acting on our urgent public health needs: gun violence, Zika, and the Flint water crisis.

Republicans have bent to the will of the gun lobby and refused to consider bipartisan legislation to prevent gun violence.

Republicans have refused to sufficiently fund our response to the Zika virus and, instead, used this crisis as a way to advance their anti-choice agenda.

And Republicans have failed to address the long-term damage done to the children of Flint by lead-poisoned water. We should be working to fix our