

and the Committee on Financial Services and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), I hereby report that I have signed an Executive Order with respect to Venezuela that takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13808 of August 24, 2017. The Executive Order prohibits, as of its effective date, all transactions related to, provision of financing for, and other dealings in, by a United States person or within the United States, any digital currency, digital coin, or digital token, that was issued by, for, or on behalf of the Government of Venezuela on or after January 9, 2018.

I have authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to take such actions, including promulgating rules and regulations and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the Executive Order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

DONALD J. TRUMP,
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 19, 2018.

POSITIVE IMPACTS OF TAX REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. FERGUSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share how the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is helping folks around the United States and throughout the Third District of Georgia.

In fact, over 400 major companies across our great Nation have announced bonuses, pay raises, and new investments in their businesses and communities that will offer benefits to over 4 million Americans. I am thrilled that a number of great Georgia companies are included in this; such as, Columbus, Georgia-based, Aflac and Total Systems Services; as well as companies like Home Depot, Carl Black, Yancey Bros., Cox Enterprises, SunTrust, and United Parcel Service, just to name a few. These are all major companies in my home State of Georgia that are making investments in their people and their industries so that they can better serve their customers, and it is paying big dividends.

It is always exciting to hear about these announcements from major employers around the State, but the benefits of tax reform are not just felt by employees at major corporations, they are being felt by the job creators here on Main Street and right here in Georgia's Third District. Two that I will highlight at some point tonight will be Shred-X in Griffin, Georgia, and Cus-

tom Truck and Body Works in Woodbury. Both of these businesses are expanding and hiring more workers, and this is a great story for the State of Georgia and the Third District. We are awfully proud of them.

The positive impacts of tax reform have been felt by millions more Americans just this month as the updated withholding tables took effect. As employers implemented these tables, Americans across the country have seen these tax cuts reflected in bigger paychecks. This means keeping more of your hard-earned money to spend as you see fit. I have long said that Americans know how to spend their hard-earned money far better than the bureaucrats here in Washington. I look forward to seeing how our economy continues to improve.

Mr. Speaker, our next speaker is my good friend PAUL MITCHELL. Representative MITCHELL has become a dear friend and does a wonderful job of representing Michigan's 10th District. I want to thank him for setting up these Special Orders to tell the truth about tax reform and how it is helping Americans.

In Mr. MITCHELL's district, people who are making the median household income will see a tax cut of just over \$1,500.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL).

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from West Point, Georgia, and I want to also thank the Georgia and Alabama delegations' Members who, as part of the Tax Truth Squad, have come here tonight to share examples of the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on their districts.

The last major tax reform was conducted 31 years ago. I believe many people, many businesspeople and workers, had simply given up on the idea that we would actually achieve what we achieved at the end of last year. In less than three months since the tax reform bill passed, as my colleague said, more than 440 companies have given a pay raise, bonuses, increased 401(k) contributions, or, in the case of utility companies, lowered their rates dramatically. In Michigan, rates will be lowered this year by \$400 million.

This number of 440 doesn't even include small mom-and-pop businesses on Main Street. At least 4 million Americans are receiving special tax reform bonuses, announced already this year, in 3 months. The direct bonus announcements have already passed \$4 billion. Small-business owners are showing unparalleled confidence in the economy as the optimism index reached record high numbers in February according to the NFIB Small Business Economic Trend Survey. Let me say that again: record high numbers, all as a result of what we achieved at the end of the year.

This optimism in economic strength is reflected in data recently released. Last month, the United States economy created 313,000 new jobs.

□ 1945

More importantly, 800 million people reentered the labor force who weren't trying to go to work. The unemployment rate remained the same at 4.1 percent, what most people call full employment. Equally important, wage growth over last year increased 2.6 percent; 2.6 percent already in terms of wage growth.

These are good things for Americans, for wage earners; and, as my colleague said, even more importantly, a good thing because they keep money in the pockets of workers and families to make decisions on what to do with their hard-earned money rather than depend on those of us here, frankly, in Congress or, worse, bureaucrats, to spend it for them.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all the Members of Georgia and Alabama as part of the Tax Truth Squad to put their stories forward tonight.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned before, one of the most important and recognizable companies in the Third District of Georgia is Aflac.

Aflac was one of the first companies to announce benefits to its employees. Shortly after Christmas, Aflac announced that they would increase their investments by \$250 million in the U.S., increase the company's 401(k) match for employees, and make a one-time contribution of \$500 to each employee's account. This is a long-term investment in Aflac's employees and into the United States economy. Our new Tax Code helps companies like Aflac to reinvest in their workers and their communities.

Mr. Speaker, my next speaker is Mr. PALMER, who represents the Sixth District of Alabama. Households earning the district's median income would see a tax break of \$1,534.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER).

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for setting this up, and I thank the gentleman from Georgia for leading it.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the impact that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is having in Alabama's Sixth Congressional District.

Millions of Americans across the country are now reaping the benefits of tax reform in the form of higher paychecks, and my district is no exception. I would like to give just a few examples of how my constituents are using the additional money to benefit their families.

One woman from Mountain Brook noted that her employer was paying out bonuses of \$1,000 as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and that she will deposit that money in her health savings account.

Another woman from Trussville talked about how the savings would help with tuition payments for her two college-age daughters. The ability to help with tuition payments was a common theme among my constituents.

Another gentleman from Birmingham noted that his family used their larger paychecks to help pay for college and have placed additional money in savings.

A man from Hoover shared that he was able to make additional payments toward his mortgage principal, increase the amount he was contributing to his 401(k), and was able to take his wife out to dinner and a movie.

It seems the Tax Cuts and Jobs Acts may be having an additional benefit for marriages in a way we hadn't considered.

Finally, another gentleman from my district noted, and I would like to quote him here: "We now have an additional \$250 a month thanks to the tax plan. We love the crumbs."

That was the same message I got from a lady in our church who received a \$1,000 bonus from her company.

These are just a few of the numerous examples of the individuals and families in my district that continue to benefit from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. But the benefits don't stop there.

Regions Bank, which is headquartered in Birmingham, recently announced that they would be making a range of investments as a result of the tax cuts, including raising the minimum hourly wage in their branches to \$15 per hour, and that is without a government mandate. They are also contributing \$40 million to the company's charitable foundation and increasing their capital expenditures budget by \$100 million in 2018.

It is not just the big companies that are doing this. Smaller businesses are getting in on the act as well.

One small business in my district, Wadsworth Oil, sent a note along with their employees' paycheck letting them know that, as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, they would be getting cumulatively \$22,000 in bonuses.

Despite fierce opposition from those who wanted to maintain the broken status quo, Republicans in both Houses of Congress were able to deliver a significant win for the American people.

Going forward, we must maintain this momentum and continue to enact policies that strengthen our economy, create jobs, and increase the pay and benefits for American workers.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, as I said early on, we are seeing tremendous growth in businesses both large and small. Previously I highlighted a great American company, Aflac, but an example of a small company that is seeing the benefits of tax reform is a company called Shred-X in Griffin, Georgia.

Shred-X is a small business offering paper shredding and recycling services to approximately 3,000 clients throughout Atlanta and central Georgia, and they are using their tax savings to invest in their business. They are planning on buying a new truck and hiring a potential employee.

Now, for a company like Shred-X, that is a true small business that em-

ploys ten people, the addition of one truck and another employee makes a big difference. Shred-X owner Cade Joiner told me: "This is just one practical example of how tax reform is helping us here on Main Street."

It is really exciting to see our small-business owners really beginning to see the benefits of tax reform and beginning to see the benefits with their employees as well.

Mr. Speaker, my next guest is Mr. Buddy Carter. Representative CARTER has been an outspoken advocate for the benefits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. He represents a district where the median household income in the First District of Georgia will see an average savings of \$1,220.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I also thank him for his leadership in this area and for putting this together tonight. This is an important message that all Americans should hear and that all Americans will share in.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the benefits already impacting the First Congressional District of Georgia since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was signed into law.

A few weeks ago, I traveled the district and visited with businesses, with students, and with senior citizens to discuss how tax reform is helping them.

Nine Line Apparel, a business in Savannah, told me that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act allows them to give more to their employees, a small difference helping their employees to take vacations, buy Christmas presents for their children, and make it easier to provide for their families.

Lee Container Company in Homerville, which I visited a couple of weeks ago, said the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will enable them to purchase more equipment and grow their business.

I also had the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to visit with students at Savannah State University. I shared my excitement that, for upcoming graduates, job creation from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will generate high demand for employees, increasing wages and making the job search easier than it has been in years past. Needless to say, they were excited to hear this good news.

Mr. Speaker, the results from my trips around the district were encouraging, and I am proud we could pass tax reform benefiting all income levels, American businesses, and our whole economy.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will truly go down as some of the most significant tax reform this country has ever seen. It is certainly the most significant tax reform in the last 30 years.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will put money in people's pockets, will stimulate our economy, will create jobs. It is good for our economy and good for our country.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, as we go through tonight and begin to highlight some of the benefits of tax reform, we have talked a lot about a large business such as Aflac, a small business such as Shred-X, but this is having an effect on individual families as well.

I have heard from people all over Georgia's Third District who are telling me that it is having an impact in their paychecks, and that is helping their families.

Robert from Thomaston wrote in to my office to say that he had checked his check, and he had more money in his retiree account statement on his military pension because of tax reform, and this is helping him meet his monthly financial goals.

Erin from LaGrange told me that she has \$132 more in each paycheck. She said, while it may not seem like a lot to some, it is her money and every little bit helps.

These are just two of the millions of Americans who are seeing larger paychecks because of comprehensive tax reform.

Mr. Speaker, if anyone is not sure if tax reform is helping them, I want to encourage them to check their check, see how much more money they are saving each and every month.

Mr. Speaker, my next guest is the distinguished gentleman from Georgia's 12th District, Mr. RICK ALLEN. Mr. ALLEN represents a very broad swath of the eastern part of our State. The median income family in his district will receive a tax savings of \$875 a year thanks to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Augusta, Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman for doing this tonight and for giving me the opportunity just to give you some news from the other side of the State.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the significant impact that comprehensive tax reform has had on Georgia's 12th District.

As a businessman, I bring a different perspective to the Halls of Congress. During my tenure in Congress, I have been focused on three goals: grow the economy, get folks back to work, and reduce the size and scope of the Federal Government.

Like me, President Trump is a businessman; and under his leadership, we are getting our economy back on track. Nothing can compare to the effect that tax reform is having on jump-starting our economy and expanding small businesses and creating jobs.

Over the past few months, I have had the opportunity to meet with several small businesses as I have traveled across Georgia 12 to discuss how tax reform is making real changes for them and their employees.

I would like to share the story of Georgia Tire Company, a 72-year-old business located in Vidalia, Georgia.

In 1946, two brothers, after World War II, decided to buy a small gas station.

One of their sons, Rusty, began working alongside his father and uncle during the summer of 1965, and then began working full time at the family business in 1972, with a third generation of workers not far behind. Now they are known as a reputable business selling tires across the district and providing automotive repairs in Toombs County.

The Moses family has built their business through hard work; treating customers fairly; a little bit of luck; and, most importantly, through their employees, who are treated like part of their family.

When I had the opportunity to speak with Rusty Moses about the success of his family business, he told me that his employees are hardworking, honest, law-abiding people, but high taxes and complex laws continued to stifle their income. Mr. Moses promised his employees that if the tax laws were changed, they would share in the business tax savings through performance bonuses and salary increases. Thanks to tax reform, this promise has become a reality.

Georgia Tire Company has seen an increase in take-home pay, and it plans to issue employee bonuses at the end of this fiscal year.

There are so many family businesses like Georgia Tire Company that are truly the lifeblood of our communities. Before tax reform, these businesses were struggling to make ends meet and unable to provide their employees with well-earned benefits.

Don't just take my word for it. There are more than 4 million Americans who have already seen the positive impacts of tax reform, just like at this tire company.

With Congress and the President working hand-in-hand, we have made great strides. I can't tell you how happy I am to see our local businesses thriving in the new American economy, growing this economy, and giving all Americans the opportunity to have a good job.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my fellow colleagues and President Trump for their support of comprehensive tax reform for all Americans.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for those great words.

As I mentioned earlier, another great company in the Third District of Georgia is a company called Total System Services, as we refer to it, TSYS.

Right in Columbus, Georgia, TSYS is a major credit card processor and employs thousands of people in our area. Because of tax reform, they were able to give their employees a bonus, and, just as importantly, they have been able to invest in their business to grow at a more profitable rate and continue to return the benefits to the community.

I have heard a lot of folks talk about tax reform being just crumbs, but to middle class Americans in my district, if you talk about crumbs, it is not about tax reform.

Tax reform is making a difference in middle American lives every single day. It is helping families make their ends meet—they are going on the vacation that they have worked so hard for—or to invest in their home.

These tax cuts are making a difference. Companies like TSYS, that are returning these benefits to their employees and making investments in their business, are continuing to do their part to make this Nation the most competitive place in the world to do business.

Mr. Speaker, I now call on my colleague from Georgia, Representative LOUDERMILK. Representative LOUDERMILK represents Georgia's 11th District. The median household income in his district will see an average savings of \$1,780.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK).

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Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I especially thank my good colleague and friend from West Point, Georgia, for managing this hour so that we can share, really, the excitement that we are seeing back home for what adding a little bit of money in the people's paycheck is doing.

Mr. Speaker, I have often contemplated what transformed America from an enthusiastic ragtag rabble that had this idea of freedom into the strongest economy, the freest Nation, and the strongest military in the entire world?

The reality of that is the freedom that this government and the rights that were given by God that we protect has given to the American people. When you think about the innovation that has come from America, innovation that has changed the face of the world, most of it came from here because of the freedom that we have.

Now, if you go right down the road here to the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum, you will see a testament to that freedom in that building where two bicycle mechanics from Ohio were able to accomplish to what, for centuries, scientists and engineers couldn't accomplish, because they had the freedom.

We have taught our children in this Nation to dream big. In America, you can accomplish anything that you want to dream. But in the past couple of decades, we have squelched the dreams of these kids because, as we have put out the fire that we tell them they can have in America, we are quenching that fire with wet blankets of bureaucracy and obstacles.

But I want to share with you a story from back home. It was a letter I received from a young man, a 14-year-old, thanking me for the tax reform bill, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which put more money in the back pocket of his parents.

You see, he had a dream. He dreamed of being a pilot. He wanted to be a

pilot. But I can tell you, as a pilot myself, that is a difficult thing to accomplish. Not only is the training difficult, but it can be very expensive.

But he wrote me this letter thanking me. Because of the bonus that his dad received from his company because of the corporate tax cut, and the money that they are going to save because of the individual tax cuts, his parents are using that money to ensure that he gets flight lessons at 14 years old. He is accomplishing a dream because we removed government out of the way.

And one thing, quite frankly, is we need airline pilots. Up here, we start looking at what government programs we can put in or incentives to get people to fly, when all we have got to do is get out of the way and let our children, once again, dream big. That is all that we are doing, is getting us out of way.

When you look at Georgia, the results have been astounding. Even Home Depot, which is headquartered in my district, is investing \$50 million to train 20,000 tradespeople to fill the gap.

With this closing, Mr. Speaker, let me bring up that the number of jobs that we have available in this Nation is about equivalent to the number of people we have unemployed. We need to continue to get out of the way.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia's 11th District. The gentleman is right, if we get the Federal Government out of the way, great things happen.

As I mentioned earlier, another small company that is now doing big things as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is Custom Truck & Body Works in Woodbury, Georgia. This small company creates specialty vehicles for first responders. They had been hoping to grow their business, but they felt hampered by a burdensome Tax Code. After tax reform passed, they were finally able to move on with a building expansion, able to hire new workers, and give their current employees additional benefits.

I got to see the impact on this business firsthand on a recent visit to their facility in Woodbury, Georgia. Everyone was excited about the company's growth, and it really brought home, for me, the difference the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was already making in the Third District of Georgia.

Next is my colleague from Alabama, Congressman MIKE ROGERS. Congressman ROGERS represents Alabama's Third District. We are neighbors along the Georgia-Alabama line, and the median family household in his district will see a tax cut of almost \$1,000.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from Georgia for leading this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is having in east Alabama and across America.

After working under an outdated Tax Code for over 30 years, businesses and

families from the Third District of Alabama and the entire country are feeling some relief. From bigger paychecks to bonuses and raises, many companies in the U.S. have already distributed over \$4 billion in bonuses.

In my district, Russell Lands in Alexander City distributed \$500 bonuses to each of their 500 employees as a direct result of the tax overhaul.

Three companies in Columbus, Georgia, which is right across the State line from my district, have already rewarded their employees because of tax reform, including, as you have heard earlier, Aflac, Synovus Financial, and Total System Services. This is putting more money back in the pockets of some of my constituents right across the State line in Russell County.

Regions Bank and Protective Life in Birmingham, Alabama; Cogent Building Group in Point Clear, Alabama; Overseas Hardwoods in Stockton, Alabama; and DTI and Xante in Mobile are other companies across our great State that have been giving bonuses to their employees.

I am proud of Ben Russell of Russell Lands and the other companies I mentioned leading the way on this important front.

Because of the tax reform, over 4 million workers have already received a bonus or a pay increase across our great country. These bigger paychecks and bonuses can help families save for their kids' school or help pay for a new household appliance. It helps with making a car payment or paying off student debt.

This extra money represents opportunity. At a time when every penny counts, I am proud to see tax reform is giving hardworking Americans more money to take home to their families.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama for his remarks and for taking the opportunity to share some of the great things that are happening just across the State line to our neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons that tax reform was so important to me, and one of the things that I campaigned so hard for is growing up in a community where we lost our manufacturing backbone, where we lost our job base.

We saw families just begin to lose everything. They began to lose their homes, their cars, their small family businesses. We saw a generation move away from our communities to look for better opportunities because the jobs simply weren't there.

I know that every single job is important. So every time that we are able to do something in this great Nation to create the environment, where this is the best place on the planet to do business, and we can grow jobs, it is good for our communities; it is good for our friends; it is good for our families; it is good for our neighbors. It makes our community stronger.

One of the things about tax reform that is so important to remember is

not simply about lowering the rates, but it is about helping American families, because now companies are now making decisions based on their employees and what is best for their bottom line, not arcane provisions that exist in the Tax Code.

So every time that I hear someone from the other side say, "All we did was give a tax break," I think it is being disingenuous. I think, quite candidly, it shows a lack of willingness to dig down into what this tax reform is really about; and that is changing how American companies operate so they can be very competitive on the world stage, so that they can make this place the greatest place in the world to do business and hire more of our friends and our family members, your neighbors, in the best-paying jobs on the planet.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to call on my colleague from Georgia's Seventh District, Congressman ROB WOODALL. Congressman WOODALL is on the Budget Committee, on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and on the Rules Committee. I thank Congressman WOODALL for his leadership on those committees. I thank the gentleman for the opportunity that he has spent with me as a freshman guiding me along the way. I know that the folks back home truly appreciate his efforts, because, as a result of tax reform, families making the median income in his district receive a \$1,866 increase in their paychecks as a result.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia's Seventh District (Mr. WOODALL).

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, you know that he may call himself a freshman, but Mr. FERGUSON—Dr. FERGUSON has made his weight felt around here since day one. He ran on a commonsense platform that said: Dadgummit, let's just go and get something done. Let's go and make a difference. Let's stop fussing about it. Let's start doing something about it.

He has developed a reputation as a doer, and I am proud to serve with him. I appreciate him putting together this opportunity tonight.

Mr. Speaker, we talk about tax reform as if it is a line item somewhere. The truth is that it is a feeling. It is a collective sigh of relief that has gone on in every single congressional district represented here.

We have all gotten those calls. I got one just the other day, Mr. Speaker, from a father whose adult daughter had fallen on hard times and has a tough time making the bills work. As someone who had been strapped for the last, 6, 7, 8 years, he was trying to figure out how he was going to help his daughter make the bill balance when he wound up with \$1,000 bonus from one of our local employers. It came at exactly the right time to make a difference in his family's life.

It is that collective sigh of relief that better days are coming tomorrow than we had yesterday. I have heard it from the biggest companies in the district and I have heard it from the smallest companies in the district.

The Home Depot is a proud Georgia company. My friend, Mr. LOUDERMILK mentioned it is headquartered in his district. We have got about seven stores in my district and a distribution facility in our district. Mr. Speaker, \$1,000 bonuses from The Home Depot went not to their upper-level management employees, but to their rank-and-file hourly employees at the store. That is real money in somebody's pocket back home. Now, that's just the kind of company that Home Depot is.

We remember that during the economic crisis, when folks were cutting back on everything to try to make the books balance. They kept that program going on Saturday mornings, where you could come out with your kids, where you could build a birdhouse together, where you could build a train together, where you could come together as a family. Even when you didn't have enough dollars to go to a ball game, you could come to your local Home Depot and be present with your children. That is the kind of company they are.

Same thing with UPS. My friend from Georgia knows, UPS has a proud tradition. We won them over from Connecticut. Years ago, Oz Nelson made that decision. Folks in UPS brown, 1,700 employees in my district, are getting bonuses because UPS now has more money to go around.

Now, all the money didn't go into bonuses. Let's be clear, it didn't. UPS put \$5 billion in their pension fund.

Mr. Speaker, how many times have we talked about pension funds being underfunded in this country and wanting somebody to do something about it?

UPS got some extra dollars and they put those dollars in the pension fund for their employees.

They announced last month, Mr. Speaker, 14 additional 747 purchases. Now, Boeing is not headquartered in my district, but if you live in Washington State or you live in South Carolina, the news that 14 more planes are going to be purchased means something to those families, to those suppliers, to those subcontractors.

Four new 767s being purchased as a result of extra money that wasn't coming to the Federal Government that is, instead, being reinvested.

My friend from Georgia said it best: companies are now, for the first time in a long time, making decisions based on what is best for them, for their customers, for their employees, and for their communities.

Mr. Speaker, we can argue about what kind of public policy we should have, but can't we agree that one where we are prioritizing people and communities first is one that we can all be proud of?

I was pleased to support the bill. I am pleased to be down here with my friend from Georgia tonight talking about the impacts. I am grateful both to the Chair, Mr. Speaker, and to my friend from Georgia, for your leadership on this tax reform issue, for making it possible.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia's Seventh District for his remarks. Well said.

Mr. Speaker, as I close out tonight, I first want to thank all of my colleagues who joined us here tonight to share some of the amazing stories from their districts and their States about what is happening as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. It is clear that this is having a real impact. The benefits are clearly more than just crumbs. They are meaningful to every single family.

I think one of the things that I see—and I am beginning to see more and more of—is not just simply that an employee is getting a bigger paycheck, which is great, but that enthusiasm that they have; because not only are they being rewarded for the job well done, but they are now seeing new opportunities because of growing businesses that they never had before.

It is exciting and it is wonderful to see our friends, our family, and our neighbors, the people who we care about, who we represent, being affected in a positive way. As our economy grows and as we do things here to put more and more back into our communities in the forms of people's freedoms for them to make livings and to raise their children and to do with their family what they feel like is best, I see a bright future for this Nation.

Just looking right now, 4 million people just recently receiving bonuses on top of their tax cuts, it has been a huge impact. It is making a difference. This is a promise that was made and it is a promise that has been kept.

□ 2015

And because of our growing economy, we will have a chance to keep our other promises: our promise to defend this Nation against foreign invaders, our promise to make sure that our important safety nets are there in the future, making sure that we can keep every promise made to our seniors in terms of Social Security and Medicare, making sure that we can keep our promises to the men and women of the armed services who were willing to die for our freedoms.

We can keep our promises to our children to make this Nation a wonderful and great place for them because we are beginning to have the resources that we need to tackle one of the most important challenges that we will ever face, and that is the \$21 trillion in debt that we have burdened future generations with. A growing economy gives us the resources to do just that, and I cannot wait to see what this future looks like because I know that it is

strong, I know that it is bright, and I know that it is right because we will be able to keep our promises.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

2018: THE YEAR OF THE BLACK WOMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MAST). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to anchor this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour. I thank the Congressional Black Caucus chairman, CEDRIC RICHMOND, for his leadership in this effort.

For the next 60 minutes, we have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people about issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus and the millions of constituents whom we represent. Tonight's Special Order hour topic is Women's History Month.

Mr. Speaker, during Women's History Month, we salute phenomenal women who refused to sit on the sidelines of history. After the passage of the 19th Amendment, millions of women have continued to march like the women who came before them.

For generations, women, particularly Black women, have been on the front lines fighting for key rights for America's women, including the right to equal pay, the right to equal access to educational opportunities, and the right to equal access to opportunities in the workplace.

In that spirit, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus in reclaiming 2018 as the Year of the Black Woman. 2018, the Year of the Black Woman—I like the sound of that. Black women are a force to reckon with, and we shall not be moved.

New York, my hometown, has a long-standing and illustrious legacy of leading the way to advance women's rights, from Seneca Falls to the United States Congress, and even on the road to the White House. It was where Madam C.J. Walker and Billie Holiday laid down their roots. It was the home of the late great Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American woman to serve in this distinguished House and whose congressional district I represent today.

"I am not a candidate of Black America, although I am Black and proud. I

am not a candidate of the women's movement of this country, although I am a woman, and I am equally proud of that. . . . I am the candidate of the people of America." These are the words she spoke.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Shirley Chisholm's election to the House of Representatives as the reformer from Brooklyn and the 46th anniversary of her historic bid for the Presidency. In doing so, Shirley Chisholm blazed a pathway for millions of girls and women to dream unthinkable dreams.

Shirley Chisholm's labor and contribution to Brooklyn, Congress, and the Nation continues to bear fruit today. She paved the way for many of the women, myself included, to run for elected office at all levels.

Shirley Chisholm opposed war, racism, sexism, and inequality. She stood up to Republicans and demanded more from her own party. She won; she lost; she never backed down.

Forty-six years ago, the unbossed and unbought Shirley Chisholm announced her candidacy for President of the United States, making her the first woman in history to run for the highest office in the land. I can because she did.

Congresswoman Chisholm used the authority of her experience to create nutrition assistance programs, expand healthcare services for parents and children, increase the minimum wage, support the veterans of our Armed Forces, and provide opportunities for women in college, graduate school, and collegiate and professional sports with the enactment of title IX.

But that is not all. Shirley Chisholm pushed this country forward. I can recall growing up in Brooklyn and just being so proud as a young girl growing up knowing that there was a woman who looked like me who came from my neighborhood, who came from my origins, sitting here in the House of Representatives. She was somewhat of a rock star in Brooklyn.

Her intellect, her ability, her savviness was something that she exuded in every environment that she found herself. She was pretty stylish as well. But it was, indeed, her strategic thinking and her ability to be a voice for the voiceless that really propelled Shirley Chisholm into the hearts and minds of all Americans.

Shirley Chisholm pushed this country forward, and for this and other reasons, she deserves a permanent place among other figures of United States history right here in the Capitol.

In January, I introduced H.R. 4856, what I have named the Shirley Chisholm Statue Bill. The bill would do just that, honor Shirley Chisholm's legacy with a permanent statue among those statues in our hollowed Halls. H.R. 4856 directs the United States Joint Committee on the Library, which is responsible for oversight of the operations of the Library of Congress and the management of Statuary Hall Collection, to obtain a statue of Chisholm