

3 million jobs. The numbers of employed persons are the highest ever in the United States. The unemployment rate has fallen to 3.8 percent, matching the lowest level in 50 years. African American and Hispanic unemployment rates have reached record lows, and the unemployment rate for women has fallen to the lowest level since 1953.

The National Federation of Independent Business, NFIB, small business optimism index is at one of the highest levels in 45 years. I appreciate the leadership of NFIB Director Ben Homeyer.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND WRDA

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a crisis facing rural America: the deterioration of water and wastewater infrastructure in our rural communities.

As the House considers passage of the Water Resources Development Act, WRDA, millions of Americans in my district and across the country are facing a health and infrastructure emergency due to failing wastewater systems.

In Alabama's rural Black Belt, I have toured communities where a home's only sewage system is a straight pipe that carries untreated waste directly into their yards and property. Alabama is not alone in this issue. Reports by the EPA document that the same lack of wastewater infrastructure is all across rural America where rural and remote areas are not connected to a city or county water and sewer line.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced the bipartisan Rural Septic Tank Access Act with my Alabama Republican colleague, Congressman MIKE ROGERS, which takes a first step towards providing rural Americans with the resources they need to maintain stable, safe, and efficient water systems.

As the House continues to debate infrastructure investment, I urge this body to address the wastewater crisis facing our rural communities.

NATIONAL DEBT IS A SECURITY THREAT

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, last September, America's national debt topped \$20 trillion for the first time in history.

Almost 3 months ago, the debt exceeded \$21 trillion, and we have an annual structural deficit in the hundreds of billions of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, the United States faces no greater menace than our inability to eliminate our debt and balance our budget. Our grandchildren will pay the

price for our dereliction of duty and our seniors will soon see Social Security and Medicare funds depleted.

This internal, bipartisan recklessness endangers all Americans.

It is past time for us to become serious about balancing our budget and making significant cuts to Federal spending. If we do not change our course, we will one day see the crash of the American economy and the demise of a super power.

Mr. Speaker, let's change our course before our debt reaches \$22 trillion. The time for conversation is over. The time to act is now.

H.R. 8 WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT AND MAINE

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed H.R. 8, the Water Resources Development Act, which I proudly voted for.

I want to lend my voice in support of this bill and its importance to the State of Maine, which has critical ports and harbors up and down our coastline.

In particular, I want to call attention to a previously authorized WRDA program in Saco, Maine, known as Camp Ellis.

This project is considered remediation from a jetty that was built in the late 1800s by the Army Corps of Engineers.

The jetty has caused erosion and receding coastline that year by year and storm by storm has already washed out the ground from nearly 40 homes in the past 50 years.

The Army Corps and local community have been working for years on getting this project off the ground, and we are finally seeing some progress.

In the past year, there has been new energy around this, and I want to commend all the parties for their persistence and determination in getting this done.

A new WRDA can provide critical support for the storm-ravaged residents of Camp Ellis and help them rebuild.

As H.R. 8 and the other legislation moves from the House to the other body, I will continue to work with our chair, ranking member, and colleagues from Maine and the other body to get this accomplished.

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PASS FOREST MANAGEMENT REFORMS

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today urging the Senate to take up the forest reforms that this Chamber passed more than 7 months ago.

Last year, wildfires burned more than 1.2 million acres in Montana, an area the size of the State of Delaware. I met with the firefighters on the ground and saw the devastation. I heard from families anxious about the dangerous air quality impacting their kids. I listened to the hardworking Montanans worried that their livelihoods would go up in flames.

Montana survived last year's devastating fire season. Our communities pulled together, helping neighbor to neighbor, just as Montanans do.

The bad news is that forecasters project another severe fire season this year. We need to start managing our forests again. While there has been some progress, more work remains to improve the health of our forests and reduce the severity of wildfires.

I call on the Senate to end the obstruction and pass forest management reforms. Montanans need them to act.

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY OF CRUELTY

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, the Trump administration has enacted a policy of stunning cruelty: cruel in its impact on innocent young children, cruel in its impact on terrified mothers seeking safety from violence and rape.

The cruel policy: the aggressive and forceful practice of separating a child from her mother when that mother presents herself at our southern border for the sole purpose of seeking safety.

The cruel policy, Mr. Speaker, is the Trump administration's decision—willful, voluntary, calculated decision—to make it a crime for a mother to do what mothers do everywhere and always: protect their children.

Whatever challenges we face at the southern border, none will be solved by ripping families apart, sending a child to one place—strange, unknown, unfamiliar—and the parents to another, neither knowing when, if ever, they will be reunited.

This policy is not only cruel, it is unnecessary and ineffective. Mr. Speaker, the President must end this un-American cruelty now and forever.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SUCCESS FOR JAYCO RV

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate local RV manufacturer, Jayco, and to join them in celebrating 50 years of success.

In 1968, Lloyd and Bertha Bontrager developed their first RV prototype on their family farm in northern Indiana and launched a family business that would last for generations. Half a century later, Jayco has grown to include