

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the Champlin Park Rebels girls volleyball team on winning the Minnesota State High School Championship, the first team in school history to bring a championship trophy back to Champlin Park.

Their victory came after outlasting a very talented Eagan team, playing in its sixth consecutive state final. But the Rebels were just too much for them, starting strong and then never looking back.

The pressure was on for the Rebels to win their school's first ever state title, and they delivered every step of the way. They showed the kind of true determination that makes them champions both on and off the court.

So, Madam Speaker, congratulations to these student athletes, the coaches, their parents, and all of the fans, and the entire Champlin Park community on a well-deserved, hard fought win becoming state champions.

□ 1945

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION PROGRAM

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

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say how pleased I am that Congress has reauthorized the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, or NEHRP.

I am grateful to Senator FEINSTEIN, as well as my colleagues in the House—Representatives ROHRBACHER, KNIGHT, and LAMAR SMITH—for their leadership in bringing this forward. This has been an important issue to me since I was in the State senate, given my State's—Washington State's—geography and the serious threats that we face from earthquakes.

NEHRP reauthorization is the very first step to ensure that our States have the resources they need to prepare for earthquakes, States like mine that have been anticipating a catastrophic earthquake for many years.

As we have watched tragedies unfold around the world, it is clear that we have to do everything we can to build resilience so that when earthquakes inevitably strike, our communities are as prepared as they can be. This reauthorization will ensure that all of our communities are able to improve their building standards, have early warning systems, and have better monitoring for seismic activity.

I hope this bill will be one of many, and that we continue to build on this progress to ensure ample investment to build resilience, in particular for schools and hospitals. I look forward to working with my colleagues to push this forward in the next Congress.

CONGRATULATING THE RIDGE POINT PANTHERS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, all Texans know that our stars are big and bright at night. But lately, 16 stars have been the biggest and brightest ever seen in Fort Bend County.

Here they are. These stars' names are Alana, Britney, Karly, Taylor, Tiana, Randee, Skylar, Charlie, Claire, Reagan, Baleigh, Nia, Tyler, Lindsey, Kendall, and Peyton. They revolve around a star called Coach Lori McLaughlin. They are the 2018 Ridge Point Panthers volleyball team.

We are so proud they are State runners-up in volleyball in Texas: 47-6 was their record, 14-0 in district play. They have a warning for 2019 and beyond: The Panthers are still hungry and will be back. You can count on it.

GENERAL MOTORS IDLE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, how troubling it is that General Motors has announced it is idling five major auto plants across the United States and Canada. At the Chevy Cruze plant in Lordstown, Ohio, facility alone, 1,600 jobs are on the chopping block. The dire impact in Ohio surges to 5,000 more potential lost jobs when auto part suppliers are considered.

President Trump promised to defend manufacturing. He promised to cure the red ink of manufacturing job loss and wage-crushing trade deficits. Under him, both are getting worse. Instead, his party enacted deficit-busting corporate tax giveaways with the Republican tax scam. Where do the automakers intend to invest their bonanza? Not here.

Time and time again, American taxpayers and workers have been asked to help the U.S. automakers. This latest move from General Motors is an affront to their investment.

President Obama and congressional Democrats refinanced the ailing American auto industry in 2009. Democrats saved American manufacturing while the vast majority of Republicans voted no.

Madam Speaker, we need fair trade to open markets and create jobs here at home.

RELIST JEWISH-OWNED HOMES ON WEST BANK IMMEDIATELY

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

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express our support for our great ally, Israel, and also to share my

concern about a recent decision from the company Airbnb.

On November 20, Airbnb made the decision to delist about 200 Jewish homes in the West Bank. This decision is a win for the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement, the BDS movement, which is blatantly anti-Semitic and consistently targets businesses that are operating in Israel.

As a Representative from northwest Florida, I am proud to serve a State that has stringent BDS laws. I am incredibly proud of Governor-elect RON DESANTIS for sharing his concern and for stating unequivocally that if Airbnb continues to engage in BDS activities, they have a right to speak, but they will hear from all of us very soon.

CONGRATULATING WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Western High School Pioneers on their first-ever CIF football championship.

Since Western High School opened its doors in 1955, the Pioneers have never won this coveted prize. Now, 63 years later, Coach Dan Davidson put together a very talented team that finally won CIF.

Having grown up in Anaheim, I have seen many, many talented Western High School football teams come and go, but I have to tell Coach Davidson: Congratulations. Job well done.

Again, congratulations to the Pioneers, to the parents, and to the student body: Job well done. Congratulations. We are all proud of you.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to move to the subject of climate change, however, my colleague, TERRI SEWELL, has reminded me that a very important organization needs a few moments, so I yield to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL), to speak about the Stennis Center.

RECOGNIZING REX BUFFINGTON

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rex Buffington, for his life's work as executive director of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Leadership since it was established 30 years ago.

I again thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time. I am joined here tonight by my fellow board members of the Stennis Center as we speak about the retirement of the executive director, Rex Buffington.

For more than 30 years, the Stennis Center has taught, inspired, and

trained our Nation's young people through programs such as debate, women's leadership initiatives, and Truman Scholars. Thanks to the leadership of Rex from the very beginning, their work has had a powerful impact on our Nation's leadership, mobilizing a generation of dedicated public servants and community leaders.

I am happy to share with Rex not only our southern roots—he is from Mississippi and I am from Alabama—but our mutual love for debate and our dear friend, my former high school debate coach, Coach Billy Tate. Coach Billy Tate, my high school debate coach at Selma High School, was instrumental in the creation of the John C. Stennis Novice Speech and Debate Tournament.

I know that my life's journey would not have been possible if it had not been for my high school debate experience. I know that the Stennis Center's debate program is just one of the many ways young leaders across this country are being equipped with the invaluable tools necessary for leadership.

Rex knows that it is the people behind our democracy that makes democracy work. He has been quoted as saying: "No government, regardless of its history or structure, can be better than the people who make it work."

I agree with Rex. When we have programs aimed at attracting thoughtful, committed, and honest leaders to public service, we get good policy in the end.

While I am disappointed to see Rex's time as executive director come to an end, I know that his leadership has set the groundwork for another 30 years of success in attracting young people of character to public service.

The impact that Rex has had has been enormous, and I thank him.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER).

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the Board of Trustees for the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Leadership, it is with great gratitude that we honor Rex Buffington for his many years of distinguished public service.

Rex Buffington was appointed executive director of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Leadership when the center was established in 1988 to promote and strengthen public service leadership in America.

As executive director of the Stennis Center, Rex has been responsible for development and delivery of programs aimed at attracting young leaders to public service and providing current public service leaders with opportunities to further develop their leadership skills and capabilities. Participants in Stennis Center programs range from students in high school to Members of Congress.

Prior to his work at the Stennis Center, Rex served as press secretary to Senator John C. Stennis of Mississippi

for 12 years. As the Senator's chief spokesperson, speechwriter, and communications director, Rex coordinated activities and strategies aimed at achieving the Senator's mission and legislative agenda.

I am so honored to serve as chairman of the board of trustees for the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Leadership. I have seen what Rex has done firsthand, and it has been a privilege to work directly with him.

Rex is an encourager of every person that he comes in contact with. He knows better than anyone the legacy of Senator John Stennis who served Mississippi and our Nation with great distinction for over 41 years as a U.S. Senator, ultimately becoming President pro tempore.

President Reagan once called the Mississippi Senator "an unwavering advocate of peace through strength."

Senator Stennis had a passion for fostering leadership and promoting public service, two objectives that Rex has carried forward during his time serving as executive director.

The USS *John C. Stennis* aircraft carrier, the only one not named after a President, has the two-word motto adopted by Senator Stennis that he had: Look Ahead.

Senator Stennis would be proud of the work that Rex Buffington and the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Leadership continue to do, and he would be proud of the great work that Rex has done.

We are all very proud of the great work that he has done over these years of distinguished service to Mississippi and to our Nation. We congratulate him on a job well done, and we wish him the best as he looks ahead.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY).

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his generosity in yielding a few minutes for this very important moment.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute as well to a true public servant, Rex Buffington. Rex has dedicated so much of his professional life to supporting leaders in this country, most recently, as you have already heard, as the executive director of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Leadership, where he has served admirably since the Stennis Center's establishment in 1988.

After many years of encouraging new leaders and supporting existing ones, Rex is retiring. His tireless efforts will be greatly missed, but I know I speak for many who know him in saying we are proud of him and we are confident that his next chapter brings more wonderful milestones.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rex. His work for the Stennis Center has positively impacted American leaders from all generations and walks of life, from high school students to the Members of Congress who walk these halls today. I

know this firsthand because I am one of those Members that he has impacted.

I wish Rex, John Gavin, and Catherine great success in the road ahead. He will be missed, but his impact will be felt for many years to come.

□ 2000

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. ROBY, Mr. HARPER, and Ms. SEWELL for bringing to our attention one of the important organizations that develops leadership here in the United States, and, obviously, from the two of you, Mrs. ROBY and Ms. SEWELL, who are perfect examples of the success of the center.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, we will turn to another topic, I think, of interest, if my colleagues would just excuse me for a moment.

I always try to start these sessions with purpose. What are we all about here? And I often use this from Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and he said: "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

While I always use this, I am trying to figure now, how does this figure into climate change? What would the words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt have to do with climate change in the era of greenhouse gas emissions?

I thought about it for a while and I said, it may be difficult to make the connection, but there really is one. And I really want to start with this: What is our purpose here?

If we think about climate change, we are going to have to understand and read and pay attention to this. This is the cover of an extraordinarily important document that the Federal Government, the Government of the United States of America, issued last Friday when most of America was out shopping, Black Friday.

Now, maybe there is some reason that the administration chose to issue this critical report on that day. If it was to bury the report, they are not going to be successful, because this document, required by Congress over the last 20-plus years, gives a clarion call to every human being on this planet today.

That clarion call is so important that, on this first day following Thanksgiving and the issuance of this report, we brought it to the floor of the House of Representatives to alert this Nation that, despite trying to hide this report on Friday, it is now part of the public record.

We need to understand what the impact of climate change is on all of us today, Americans, and to generations into the future. The impact is stark. It is heavy. It is ominous. And it is already happening.

The front page says: Fires. I am from California. We know about fires. This is a month ago, fires in California, all of

these at one time: the Mendocino Complex in my district, the largest single wildfire in California's history; the Sierras, down in the southern valley; and the smoke from the Camp fire, burning more than 1,000 homes on this day; smoke covering nearly the entire State of California.

Are those fires the result of climate change? The answer is absolutely, yes—the extensiveness, the severity, and the number of acres burned.

More familiar, perhaps, and more recent, just days after those fires that I just put up there, this one happened. Eighty-four people are known to have perished in the Paradise fire, the most mass casualties in recent history in the United States. Unfortunately, there are still a couple hundred people unaccounted for.

Is this fire a result of climate change? Yes, it is—the intensity of the fire, the rapidity with which it tore through the forest and wiped out an entire town of 26,000 inhabitants. Fourteen thousand residences were burned out in this fire. There is more to be said.

How about flooding? Port Arthur, Texas, a city that was flooded, and more along the Gulf Coast this fall. Another community was totally wiped out or near totally wiped out on the Florida panhandle. Massive storms ripped through the Caribbean and up into the United States.

Is flooding a result of climate change? The severity and the intensity of the flooding, certainly—North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and Texas. In California, we have our share of it also.

All of these are words laid out in this climate assessment: Economic losses today and into the future, perhaps \$141 billion over the next several decades from heat-related deaths alone; \$118 billion cost from sea level rise.

Do you live on the coast? The San Francisco Bay, Florida, a good portion of Florida, Miami, the Everglades, the East Coast, all of it is affected by climate change.

We have a problem, folks. Are you interested in ecology? Are you interested in wildlife? Are you interested in forests? This was once a green forest in California.

We predicted in the mid-1990s, when I was given a task as the Deputy Secretary at the Department of the Interior to investigate and to anticipate what climate change would bring to America, we said there would be more fires, more intense fires. They would be more devastating. They would be larger. They would be faster.

We said there would be more flooding. We said the hurricanes would be even greater than in the past. We predicted that a city called New Orleans would flood. We predicted that a place called New York City would flood. And they both did a few short years after that report, as we prepared the United States for the Kyoto climate conference.

Coming out of that conference, the House of Representatives and the Senate of this great body denied the opportunity for the United States to join in the treaty that came out of that conference, and it got worse.

Forests of California, we predicted there would be a die-off. And, in fact, there is. This is just one small part of the massive die-off of trees that is occurring in the forests all across America, even into the Arctic regions.

Pay attention, America. Pay attention, Congress. Pay attention, Senate. And for heaven's sake, President Trump, please pay attention to the reality of climate change. It is here. It is a massive problem.

The U.S. military more than a decade ago predicted that wars would be breaking out because of climate migration, climate refugees. It is happening. It is happening around the world.

Read this assessment of what it means to America. We have an obligation. We, the 435 Representatives of the American people, have an obligation to address this crisis. It is not a crisis of the future. It is a crisis of today and the future.

Do we have the courage to do this? Do we have the courage to decarbonize our energy supplies? We have to find the courage. We have no choice.

Joining me tonight are people, Members of this House who share the commitment to address climate change.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER), my friend from the city of Chicago, to join us and share with us his concerns.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. GARAMENDI from California, for organizing this evening's conversation, but more importantly, for drawing attention to this critically important issue.

It is more than a little bit shameful that the administration chose to release the Fourth National Climate Assessment on Black Friday, a day, as the gentleman noted, when most families, most people, are focused on the Thanksgiving holiday. Some are shopping, and some are hanging out with their family and friends. But it was clear that this was an apparent effort by the administration to introduce this report at a time when people weren't paying attention.

Fortunately, people are paying attention to this issue. We are seeing it with the concerns people have watching the fires in California; the floods and hurricanes this summer or fall in Florida; last year, with the hurricanes and flooding in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

The report that was released on Friday was a rigorous report, assembled by 13 Federal agencies and covering more than 1,000 pages of detailed analysis and data, highlighting the impacts we can expect over the next decades into the next century if action isn't taken.

Impacts include increased storms, flooding, devastation, mudslides from

the size of these storms; loss of physical property; incalculable human cost from loss of life and other damages; droughts that are leading to fires, crop failures, loss of arable land, not just in our country, but, literally, around the world.

The facts are clear. But, again, the Trump administration tried to bury this report, and the President himself says he does not believe the report.

Well, to put it simply, this is not about beliefs. This is about science. The facts could not be clearer. Climate change is a serious threat to our Nation. It is a threat to our economy, to our national security, and to the planet that we pass on to our children. We need to take action now before it is too late.

The report forecasts that more severe storms, droughts, coastal flooding, and other climate effects could reduce the size of the American economy by 10 percent before the end of the century, almost doubling the impact to our economy of the Great Recession of 2008.

The recent fires in California were exacerbated by climate change, and more fires are forecast in the Southeast and throughout the West, if action isn't taken.

The agricultural Midwest, from where I come, will be particularly hard-hit. This report forecasts the farming sector could lose so much productivity that the crisis of the 1980s could even seem tame. We need to do something.

On the national security front, we will be affected. The report says that climate change variability and extreme events, in conjunction with other factors, can exacerbate conflict around the world, as we have already seen. Droughts, floods, storm surges, wildfires, and other extreme events stress nations and people through loss of life, displacement of populations, and impacts on livelihoods, the report continues.

While the White House refuses to make climate a priority, I am heartened that the Pentagon continues to treat this threat with the seriousness it deserves and focuses on it as a national security crisis.

This is a global challenge. It can only be met with a global response.

□ 2015

It needs the people of the world and the nations of the world to come together. This is literally a call to action for all of the people of the world. That is the power that was behind the Paris climate accord where every nation has come together and said: We must act, and we must act with urgency.

The world needs American leadership, and, sadly, this administration is turning away from that responsibility and that obligation. But thankfully, we are seeing many cities, communities, States, and even business leaders saying: We are in. We are not going to step away.

The Trump administration continues to say: We are walking away.

The Trump administration, in fact, continues to make matters worse. They rolled back the Clean Power Plan to slow our transition away from dirty forms of energy. They have undercut environmental regulations to limit methane pollution. Most significantly, last year, the President announced he was withdrawing the United States from the Paris climate agreement.

Climate change is a global problem that requires global solutions, and American leadership must play a role. We must stay within the Paris accord.

There is still time to fix this problem if we take action today. If we come together as a nation and if we come together as a world, then I hope we can do that in this body. I hope we can do this as a nation, and I hope this country can continue to lead to make sure that we pass on to our children an environment, a climate, and a world that is worthy of the legacy of our great Nation.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman so very much for his very forceful words and for the fact that he brought to the table not alternate facts, but real facts laid out by the scientists who put this together. We have a challenge, and I know, with the kind of leadership the gentleman is providing for all of us here in the House of Representatives and back in Illinois, we have no choice but to get this done—and we will.

Mr. Speaker, I would like now to turn to my colleague, Mr. PAYNE from New Jersey. We often are here on the floor together. I invite Mr. PAYNE to please join us, and we will talk about this issue as it might affect him and his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. First, Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by thanking my colleague, Congressman GARAMENDI, from the great State of California for hosting this evening's Special Order hour on the threat climate change poses for our Nation and our constituents.

Mr. GARAMENDI has done a great service by hosting timely and important Special Orders throughout the 115th Congress. Today's Special Order hour is especially important, as it comes on the heels of the Trump administration's attempt to bury its own climate change report and only a day after devastating fires in California were contained.

Because of global climate change, the United States is going to suffer from more frequent and more devastating disasters like Superstorm Sandy, which caused massive flooding in my State in 2012 and the Camp fire, which is the deadliest and most destructive in California's history.

Considering that Donald Trump thinks that climate change is an international conspiracy, a hoax concocted by the Chinese, it came as no surprise to me that he has released his own administration's climate change report

on Black Friday when people are out with their families shopping and not paying attention to what is going on in the news.

The U.S. climate assessment is damning. It gives President Trump and his GOP allies no cover to proclaim that climate change isn't real. The report took our country's top climate scientists 4 years to research and write. It is more than 1,000 pages long and represents work done by 13 Federal agencies.

One of the authors, Katherine Hayhoe of Texas Tech University, summarized the evidence like this: Climate change is happening here and now.

If the United States does not act fast, the effects of climate change are only going to get worse for the American people. We already have to deal with increasingly frequent and deadly wildfires, hurricanes, and extreme weather events. That is going to get worse if we don't curb greenhouse gas emissions that are impacting our climate. Climate change also means that some areas will see more rains and more flooding.

Our Nation's infrastructure is already suffering from neglect, as we have had a Special Order hour on that in the past. The American Society of Civil Engineers gives our infrastructure a D-plus.

The stress of more frequent and intense rain, flooding, and heat is likely to cause a great deal of damage to our already frail infrastructure. Flooding will overwhelm and erode our roads. It will stress and possibly bring down bridges. We will have to shut down major roadways, railways, and ports. People's lives and their livelihoods will be at risk.

For my district in New Jersey, the economic impact will be devastating. My constituents work at Port Newark, the busiest in the East. They travel to and from jobs in New York City through the Nation's busiest tunnels and bridges, which are already overwhelmed. They live on or near the water.

Our national infrastructure just wasn't built for the kinds of extreme weather we can expect if climate change goes unchecked. I have no doubt that the people of New Jersey are resilient, but the longer our Federal Government takes to address climate change, the more difficult it will become to adapt.

But it is not just our infrastructure that is at risk if we don't take action on climate change. If left unchecked, climate change is going to hospitalize and kill our constituents. According to the 2017 New Jersey Climate and Health Profile Report published by Rutgers University, air quality changes, such as increased ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter changes in the air, will cause a rise in respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease, and mortality. Extreme heat and increasingly frequent heat waves will exacerbate people's existing medical

conditions and cause more heat-related deaths. Changes to our ecosystem caused by increased humidity and higher temperatures will spread pests and infectious diseases.

The vulnerability will not be equal. The people most at risk are people least able to migrate to safety. The elderly, young children, and people with existing medical conditions, poorer residents, urban residents, people of color, and laborers are all the people who are most at risk.

The Trump administration and our GOP colleagues can keep their heads buried in the sand or they can work alongside countless people in government, academia, business, and civil society to mitigate the effects of climate change. To borrow a warning from a coauthor of the U.S. climate assessment: "It's absolutely not too late to take action. But costs will really start skyrocketing if we don't start reining in emissions."

Mr. Speaker, my Democratic colleagues and I are ready to pursue a greener future for our people. We are ready to transition to cleaner energy sources. We are ready to make sure auto emissions standards reflect 21st century technology. We are ready to make sure all Americans have access to clean air, clean water, and high-quality healthcare. The question is: Will our Republican friends join us?

Mr. Speaker, I want to once again commend Mr. GARAMENDI for always having these timely Special Order hours on issues that are critical to us at this time. The gentleman never misses a beat in terms of bringing issues to the floor that are relevant, important, and need to be addressed as soon as possible.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, in the gentleman's discussion, Mr. PAYNE hit upon a really important issue, and it relates to this. I brought this up because this is where I am coming from on public policy.

When FDR said that it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little, normally we think about this in terms of economics, we think about in terms of wages, living standards, and the like. But you hit this squarely, because it is those who have little who are going to be the first and most terribly impacted by climate change.

You talked about the vulnerable. You talked about the elderly, the young, the working class, and communities of color. Those who have the least will be the least able to adapt. They won't be able to afford the additional electric bill for air-conditioning. They are the most likely to get sick from the various new illnesses that will work their way into the American healthcare system. As the climate warms, we can expect to have more tropical, hot weather illnesses coming. We see it already. West Nile virus is the example that you gave.

So this is very, very relevant. I don't think FDR had in mind climate change when he talked about this. This is what

he talked about during the Great Depression. This is relevant today in the era of climate change not just here in the United States, but you look at the poor around the world.

For the population of Bangladesh, one of the poorest countries in the world, it is likely that 50 percent or more of that population will have to move because of sea level rise.

Ethiopia, where Patti and I served as Peace Corps volunteers, has always been plagued by famine as a result of the climate moving back and forth. It will get worse.

So do we provide enough for those who have too little? Across the world this is a key issue.

Joining me now is my colleague from California. He and I get to share the great Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the greatest estuary on the west coast of the Western Hemisphere.

Before I come to Mr. MCNERNEY, I am going to put up one of your favorite things here for him to look at, because I know this is what gets him really excited—clean energy systems. This has been his life's work, and he can talk about it. When he finishes, we will talk a little bit more about some of these.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my friend, for yielding.

I want to thank my colleagues here tonight, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and especially Mr. GARAMENDI, who has been an absolute fierce advocate for action on climate and other issues. He is untiring, and I really have a lot of respect and admiration for that.

Let me talk a little bit about the report first. This is a scientific report. It was created over a period of years by scientists. It is not an opinion paper. It is a paper that is based on facts, and it is based on modeling.

If you do modeling, then you know what happens is you create a model. You test it against the facts. You adjust the model. You test it against the facts. You adjust it, and you reiterate until your model is pretty accurate. Then you make predictions.

That is what has happened here. They have some very well-tested models that are predicting very bad things. So it is an important piece of scientific literature, and I think science should be at least involved in the decision-making in our great country.

Now, I think it is almost laughable that the administration tried to limit the exposure of this report by putting it out on Black Friday. I guess that didn't work because a lot of people are excited in a negative way about this report and what it says.

I think most Americans recognize that there is a problem here. Most all Americans recognize it, especially the millennials and the younger Americans. They know because it is going to affect their lives. Their lives are going to be directly affected more and more as we go forward, so they are very engaged in this issue.

I think everyone knows in their hearts that there is a problem here, but I think one of the things that is a challenge is: How do we move forward on this?

People don't like change. People like to assume that their lives are going to go on, and they will do things the way they have always done them. But I think one of the things they are worried about is jobs.

□ 2030

Well, let's talk about that for a second. Mr. GARAMENDI mentioned that I worked on windmills. I worked on windmills for 25 years. I climbed a lot of windmills. It is a pretty exciting thing to do. You are up there working on something that is cool. You are looking down on the natural environment around you. If I was a coal miner, I would say: That is a pretty good alternative to going down into coals mine and breathing dust as to go up on windmills—kind of cold sometimes—but to go up on windmills and work your heart out and create clean energy.

So another thing to think about is the number of jobs per energy produced. Renewable energies create a lot more jobs per unit of energy produced. That is an important consideration.

So why can't we move forward?

I think the economy is going to improve if we reduce our consumption of fossil fuels. It will create jobs. It will make the environment cleaner. We will have less health impacts than we are seeing from fossil fuels, from coal, from oil, and certainly see a lot less climate impacts.

There are a lot of really good reasons to move forward on this. I think if you can look at what America and the world would be like if we weaned ourselves off fossil fuels, it is a beautiful picture. We will have a lot of clean energy. We will have people employed. We will have people using electricity for transportation. We will have energy generated from windmills, solar, geothermal, and from all of these technologies that are there today that are economic and cost-effective. In fact, wind and solar are more than competitive with fossil fuels. You can produce more energy per cost of energy with wind and solar than you can with oil and coal.

They say natural gas is a great transition fuel, but if you only lose 2 percent of natural gas emissions in the process of creating energy, then you are already undoing the energy efficiency advantage of natural gas because natural gas methane is so effective as a climate change gas.

I think we have a lot to look forward to if we determine and decide that we are going to move forward with this transition.

One last thing. I want to say I have a challenge to the President.

Mr. President, we know that climate change is happening. If you want to go down as a great President, if you want to go down in history as someone that

changed history, as someone who changed history for the better, than embrace climate change action. Make a difference.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, before the gentleman leaves, I brought this up because I know that these wind turbines, these windmills are part of the gentleman's life. You spent, as you say 25, 26 years building these systems. I believe he was doing it in Altamont Pass in California, which is now part of his district and adjacent to mine.

It was 1978, 1979 that California passed the very first laws in the nation to provide a State tax credit for wind, solar, and conservation. I was the author of that law. The gentleman and I go back a long, long way here on this issue, Mr. Speaker, and we are not going to give up. As he said, it is about the next generation.

I have got here on my phone, which I know I cannot use on the floor, so I am not going to turn it on, but I have a picture of my 13th grandchild, who was born yesterday. It is those children, that young boy and his generation, that will either curse us or thank us. Thank us because we had the courage, we had the wisdom to attack this problem; or curse us because we didn't.

I believe that we have the wisdom. We have people like Mr. MCNERNEY who has spent his life working on this, both in the private sector and now in Congress. I thank him so very much for that determination to address this critical issue. I thank him for joining us tonight.

I have noticed the East-West show is back in town. Mr. TONKO and I started doing this 7 years ago. Climate change and energy issues were what we talked about back then. This was some of his work when he was working in the State government in New York City, as I recall. Not that he always talked about it on the floor, but he occasionally would point out that he was working, trying to create the new technologies that would address this problem. I thank him for joining us this evening.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative GARAMENDI for leading us in this Special Order that speaks to an urgency.

More and more, people are beginning to recognize that it is within our responsibility to provide for the stewardship of our Earth, of the environment, and to pass it on to generations coming. As you just acknowledged the birth of a grandson, congratulations to Mr. GARAMENDI and his wife, Patti. It is important, it is incumbent upon us to do that.

When we see the denial and the disregard—the denial for science, for climate change as a concept; the disregard for the Earth, the environment, and for public health—it is troublesome.

Here we have in recent weeks heard about and presented the U.N. report through the IPCC, the international committee that looks at climate change, and they are indicating that

there is precious little time, if any, by which to act—a timeframe that is becoming more and more urgent.

It is so important for us to address the science of this issue, to look at the stats, to look at the data that is compelling, that speaks to everything from public health to job creation to a greening up of our thinking so that our policy and our resource advocacy will go toward what is a crisis situation.

Just very, very recent, we have witnessed a report on the climate that is under the auspices of the Trump administration where they have responded to the United States Global Change Research Program, a Presidential initiative started by President Ronald Reagan that incorporates, I believe, some 13 agencies and their thinking about climate change. Members of his own cabinet are recommending and advising and he is rejecting.

I simply don't understand how we can ask people to utilize their expertise, invest their time and energy into forecasting where we are going to be and where we are, acknowledging where we are, and the work that is needed, and then to walk away from that presentation based on facts and science and data.

You have witnessed at your end of the country what has happened with wildfires. I have seen 500-year storms three or four times over in a decade. So the nomenclature is even off target. We are witnessing tremendous damage, loss of lives, property damage, and farming impacts with very rich soil being washed away, erosion of our coastal zones. What more do we need to have as evidence?

The Department of Defense; the farming community; the business community; States like California, the gentleman's home state; and New York, my home State, get it. We pull out of a Paris accord because we are not going to be part of an international community—the only industrial nation to pull out of that accord?

It is revolting that we will not respond to this issue. As you indicated, we have been talking about this, we have been pushing this leadership since 2010 with the takeover of the House. We began our efforts in 2008 and 2009. We needed to continue to move forward. The efforts to go forward have been thwarted by a resistance to addressing this issue. I find it unacceptable.

As we look upon the next few weeks before we take over with the majority in the House, we need to set a very ambitious tone that will move us forward with a number of issues being addressed under the umbrella of climate change. We have witnessed what has happened out there with the economy. We have calculated the hundreds of billions of dollars that are impacted because of public health costs, the damage to property, and the like.

We need to move forward. We need to do this based on science and factual evidence that is available, that is at our fingertips. The time for denial is

over. The time for disregard is over. The time for action is now. And we need to move forward, even asking as ranker on the Environment Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee for hearings in this regard, just hearings so that we can take testimony and advance the cause of the action that is required. Those requests have been falling on deaf ears.

So we need to do better. We need to move forward with a sound plan and to understand that across the country more and more people are expressing their concern about climate change. They are witnessing it in the news every night. These wildfires have been greater in number, in severity. I believe this is probably the worst in history. So we need to do a lot more.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, Mr. TONKO said something a moment ago that I know will happen. He is presently the ranking member of the Environment Subcommittee of Energy and Commerce. In about 1 month I believe he is going to be the chairman of that committee. The hearings on this issue, the Fourth Annual Climate Assessment, will finally be heard and the issue will finally be before the Congress.

It has been 8 long years of denial by the Republican-led Congress and 2 years by the current President. I know that in his role—and I believe he will be the chairperson of that committee—he will make sure that America and the Congress know and understand this critical issue. I look forward to those hearings. I look forward to his leadership on it, and once again to be on the floor with the gentleman with what we fondly call the East Coast West-Coast program. We are back.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. Coast-to-coast this is an issue. We know that where there are innovative concepts, where there is an embracing of an aggressive agenda like in California, like in New York, there are ways to advance green energy, clean energy, innovation when it comes to efficiency, to make certain that those greenhouse gas emissions are addressed. It is within our control.

So the human activity here, the human element, yes, is driving some of this. I know there are those who say I believe in climate change, but not human-inspired. Whether or not you believe that to be true, is it so bad to make cleaner the air we breathe, safer the water we drink, remediate the soils we require? These are important factors that can grow significant jobs in research, prototype development, and in product design.

So let's move forward. The evidence is compelling. The temperatures have risen some 1.7 degrees Fahrenheit since 1901. That is major change. The warming, in large part, is due to human activity. The continuation of burning fossil fuels, adding to the greenhouse gas emissions out there, is unacceptable.

Sixteen of the last 17 years are the warmest years on record. And there are

those saying: Well, it's just a cycle. Well, that is a long stretch of time. There is no sign out there that it is going to stop. There is no pause there as a warning.

Basically, the science that we have today, technology continues to advance in a way that enables us to have shelf-ready opportunity, the cleverness, the intellect that we harvest in this country, the intellect that allows us to design and understand concepts like capturing waste heat so that we can get more energy out of traditional designs, is a way to advance this cause.

The green power that the gentleman just talked about with my fellow colleague from California, Representative MCNERNEY, these are real. They are not pie in the sky. They are happening as we speak. We just have to show the will and break the pattern that has been just too comfortable for us to go forward and say: Oh, well, it is greenhouse gas emissions. And, yes, there is a lot of damage out there, but that should be telling us we are already paying for greenhouse gas emissions, we are already paying for climate change, and we need to change that saga.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, indeed, we are paying for it in so many ways. I showed earlier the fires, the floods, the sea level rise that is already occurring, the storm surge that recently affected the Panhandle of Florida. All of these things are the reality of today. And it is not going to go away.

The gentleman cited several facts. This is one of our programs that we used 8 years ago. It is this slide. Eight years ago we used this in our Make It in America presentations and we talked about the wind turbines and solar. That is actually an electric bus made by a bus manufacturer in California, the Gillig company. They are using that. These electric buses are part of the future, as are electric cars.

□ 2045

All of these are the new jobs. These are the new technologies. These are where people will be going to work. So that is where the jobs are. These are jobs that won't be exported. These are American jobs. The maintenance of this, all of these things are available today.

The gentleman mentioned California. Yes, California is way out in front, really, competing with New York on who can be the best to decarbonize, to move away from it.

Unfortunately, the administration is going exactly the wrong direction. The President wants to do away with the mileage standards, the fuel mileage standards for automobiles, wants to reintroduce coal back into the economy, which is the worst of all energy sources. We don't need to do that.

We can do it. We have proven that it can be done, in California and other places, in other parts of the world. We cannot go backwards. We owe it to the future generations.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, as Mr. GARAMENDI presented that panel with Make It In America, it reminds me that, as you solve this crisis, as you speak to carbon pollution, you are going across so many policy areas: economic development, transportation, health, job training, certainly science and technology, energy and commerce. All of these disciplines. It just travels across all of these areas of activity because the solution is multifaceted. We need to do that.

I talk to folks who will say: Gee, my newborn, or the youngest of our family, is struggling with asthma. And they are saying: I hear that asthma is up.

I say: Well, have you related it to carbon pollution?

The public health cost, the public health impact here is tremendous. So, as we work on this, we are allowing for policy in so many different areas to take hold so that we can go forward with an inclusivity that allows for a lot of work to be done, which generates jobs, oftentimes with research. And research equals jobs—sound, paying jobs.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Exactly.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. TONKO mentioned asthma. We Democrats campaigned on a better deal for the people, which I just happened to put up here: A better deal for the people.

We talked about healthcare. Asthma is a preexisting condition. We have a challenge to deal with the Affordable Care Act and the Republican attempt to reinstitute insurance companies being able to discriminate based upon preexisting conditions.

All of these things will tie back: job creation, new technologies, research, healthcare. All of this, in one way or another, comes back to this question of climate change. So we need to address it.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, let me just address some of those that aren't as clearly connected.

Mr. GARAMENDI talks about the need to address public health and to address that bending of the cost curve for healthcare. Well, wellness is an important part. If we can reduce the number of asthma cases, we are doing a big share of the activity that is required.

Also, one would never expect, perhaps, that the Department of Defense would be out front on this issue. Why? Because they see a population boom around the world, and they see eroding land and crop failure because of drought.

Well, they see that as civil unrest. They see it as a situation that can be damaging to the world community. That civil unrest is of great concern to the Department of Defense.

So there are these dynamics that seem so disconnected from this overall topic of carbon pollution. And, yes, when people are faced with that direct question—Where are you on carbon pollution?—of course it is the logical thing: Reduce it. Reduce it.

It doesn't take that much of an effort. It takes the will to go forward and

relate to energy efficiency, relate to greening up our policy, relate to renewable energy, battery development as a linchpin that can provide more certainty and predictability. We have it within our capacity, and I am convinced we will move forward as a House come January addressing this issue that has languished for far too long.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank the gentleman for leading us in this discussion this evening. It is critical; it is vitally important; it will save dollars; and it will grow jobs.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. TONKO very much for joining us.

This issue is about those of us who are here today, but it is, far more importantly, about those who will be in the future.

I want to dedicate this hour to a very special person, our new grandson, Grady Christopher Bardet, who was born yesterday afternoon.

Mr. TONKO. Congratulations.

Mr. GARAMENDI. He will live in the future, either a very good future that we and our colleagues here build for him, or one that is not.

To Faith and Eric Bardet, we love you. Thank you for this beautiful gift.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GARRETT (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and November 28 on account of pressing duties.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker.

H.R. 5784. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2650 North Doctor Martin Luther Jr. Drive in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, shall be known and designated as the "Vel R. Phillips Post Office Building".

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 3554. An act to extend the effective date for the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, November 28, 2018, at noon.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 115th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

SUSAN WILD, 15th District of Pennsylvania.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6929. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Swap Dealer and Intermediary Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — De Minimis Exception to the Swap Dealer Definition (RIN: 3038-AE68) received November 15, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6930. A letter from the Chairman and CEO, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Margin and Capital Requirements for Covered Swap Entities (RIN: 3052-AD28) received November 16, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6931. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Office of Secondary Market, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Organization; Funding and Fiscal Affairs, Loan Policies and Operations, and Funding Operations; Farmer Mac Investment Eligibility (RIN: 3052-AC86) received November 13, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6932. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Moral Exemptions and Accommodations for Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act (RIN: 1210-AB84) received November 16, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6933. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration,