

back to our communities in mid and northern Michigan.

I have also been a strong advocate for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and for funding the construction of a new lock at the Soo Locks.

Yet these priorities are now funded under a temporary stopgap, and after weeks of delays caused by Senate Democrats who want to renegotiate, we now face the prospect of an impeachment trial that will bog down activity in the Senate even further in the future.

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CHARADE

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, since November 9, 2016, Democrats have been calling for the removal of President Trump.

Even before he took office, they have been protesting the results of the election and have sought to delegitimize his historic win in battleground States like Michigan.

Breaking with historical precedent, House Democrat leadership will not hold a vote on this extremely consequential matter. House Democrats have created a toxic work environment, resulting in nothing getting done, no good policy or law created, no regular order.

This is a politically motivated charade attempting to undermine and diminish the effectiveness of a duly elected President and his administration based on bias, prejudice, and disgraceful politics.

The people of the First District of Michigan sent me here to work with others to get things done and represent the people with honor and integrity. I am sure my 434 colleagues were sent here with the same mission.

It is high time to get back to real work.

SHAM IMPEACHMENT PROCESS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the sham impeachment process being run out of this esteemed House.

As House Democrats continue to pursue politically motivated attacks on President Trump, it is alarming that their leaders are withholding evidence and facts from elected Members of our Congress.

Last week, I sent letters to the chairs of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs to inform them of my intent as an elected Member of the 116th Congress to review documents and records in possession of

their committees. We must be allowed to do our jobs.

The fair choice is clear. We cannot allow House Democrats to continue issuing political attacks behind the safety of clandestine, closed doors.

Madam Speaker, I stand for transparency and I stand for accountability. I stand for fairness. It is time for this body to restore its integrity.

CLOAK-AND-DAGGER IMPEACHMENT

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, this cloak-and-dagger impeachment process is unprecedented, uncalled for, and unfair to the American people.

When I, a Member of Congress, am turned away from reading testimony from Chairman SCHIFF's closed-door hearings, how can I keep informed on a narrative that is constantly changing?

How are we supposed to know all the facts when the Intelligence Committee is selectively leaking information to the press, creating a biased narrative while shrouding the truth in darkness?

Will we ever get information before there is a vote on impeachment, or will the Speaker continue allowing secret hearings and inquiries to drag on?

These are questions every American should be asking.

Impeachment undoes an election and is the most serious tool Congress can use. We should treat it as such. Instead, we have seen Democrats calling for it since before President Trump was even inaugurated.

One of my Democrat colleagues recently said: If President Trump isn't guilty, he needs to prove it.

That is not how America works. It is the Speaker's responsibility to lay out the evidence in an open, transparent way so we can debate it and vote on it.

IMPEACHING WITH A VENGEANCE

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

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Speaker, today the Democratic majority is not judging the President with fairness, but impeaching him with a vengeance.

In the investigation of the President, fundamental principles which Americans hold dear, privacy, fairness, checks and balances, have been seriously violated, and why? Because we are here today because the Democrats in the House are paralyzed with hatred of President Trump, and until the Democrats free themselves of this hatred, our country will suffer.

Now, if that sounds familiar, you have got a longer memory than the Democrats. Those same comments, but addressing Republicans' actions towards President Clinton, were made by NANCY PELOSI in 1998.

Could there be a clearer indication of the hypocrisy that fuels the Demo-

cratic sham impeachment process currently taking place behind closed doors?

If Speaker PELOSI and the Democrats truly care about, in PELOSI's own words, "the fundamental principles which Americans hold dear, privacy, fairness, checks and balances," they will restore transparency and integrity to this process.

IMPEACHMENT SAD ACT OF POLITICAL THEATER

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, time and again my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have made it clear that this impeachment process is nothing but a sad act of political theater.

The impeachment of a President, the attempt to insert the U.S. Congress between the American people and the President they elected 3 years ago, the attempts by this House leadership to prevent the American people from making their choice in the election next November, this is a serious matter and must not be abused as a tool for partisan gain or advantage in the next election.

I have witnessed Democrats on the Judiciary Committee, as a proud member of that committee, repeatedly fail to find evidence to support a case for impeaching this President.

Now, in the realization of this fact and at the expense of fundamental fairness and due process, the Speaker has removed any further investigation from the Judiciary Committee so that impeachment can be conducted in secret and out of public view—no vote to proceed, no public hearings, no access to testimony, no ability to call witnesses.

This is a sham, and the American people won't have it any longer.

IMPEACHMENT IN THE SHADOWS

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, the Democrats continue to investigate the President in secret back rooms of the Capitol in the Intelligence Committee.

If the Speaker believes that the Members of Congress can ultimately vote and impeach the President based on bogus evidence that has never seen the light of day, then she is badly mistaken.

In the past 50 years, this body has held impeachment proceedings for only two Presidents: One was a Democrat; one was a Republican. Those were serious times when both parties came together to conduct solemn business required under the Constitution, a document that we as Members of Congress are sworn to uphold.

Conducting this impeachment process in the shadows is a mockery of the