

actually the best friends that extremely big business has. In almost every area, in almost every industry, Mr. Speaker, big-government liberals and environmental extremists have driven small- and now even medium-sized companies out of business, thus removing much competition for the really big companies.

I was told that in 1978 there were 157 small coal companies in east Tennessee. Now there are none. I think this is why so many extremely big businesses fund these environmental groups. In fact, it would not surprise me at all if Arab oil interests were funding most of the fight against drilling for oil in Alaska and other places in this country.

But whatever it is, Mr. Speaker, whether it is small logging companies in communities in the Northwest or coal companies in Tennessee, it seems that groups are protesting anytime anybody wants to drill for any oil, dig for any coal, cut any trees, or produce any natural gas in this country.

We cannot, Mr. Speaker, shut the whole country down. They always base everything on tourism. Tourism is a minimum wage industry. I can tell the Members this: I have a lot of parents and grandparents who come to me with their college graduate kids and they cannot find jobs because we have forced so many companies to move jobs to other countries, and we have shut so many things down in this country.

Most of these environmentalists seem to come from wealthy or very upper-income families, and perhaps they do not realize how much they are hurting the poor and the lower-income and the working people in this country; but they are destroying jobs, they are driving up prices, and they will keep on doing this harm if we do not talk about this and discuss this a little further in this country today.

We need to do something about this, so that we can bring prices down. If we keep on letting environmental extremists dictate the agenda in this Congress, we are going to destroy jobs and drive up prices; and as I say, we are going to really hurt the lower-income and working people in this Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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ASTHMA AWARENESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the

House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week and today we are trying to focus attention on the problem of asthma in the United States. I am one of the original sponsors, and to this day, chief sponsors of Asthma Awareness Day. Senator KENNEDY in the other body and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) in this body, and a number of other House Members and Members of the other body are trying to focus attention on what we can do to help alleviate the causes of asthma and the symptoms of asthma and bring attention to the fact that millions and millions of Americans, both adult and young children, are afflicted by this.

The good news is that most asthmatics can lead normal, healthy lives without any really negatives consequences. I have a son, Brad Barton, who is 31. He has had asthma all his life, and yet he in high school was a star member of his tennis team and active in academics and athletics in his high school. He is now married and the father of two fine children my two grandsons, Blake and Brant. He has had inhalers and various medicines that he has taken in his entire life, but he leads a normal healthy life. So we are holding a number of events.

We had a reception last evening over at Union Station. We have another reception this afternoon, and we are just trying to bring attention to the fact that there is a lot that can be done on asthma. And there is a lot we can do to help those who have asthma to make their lives full and productive. One of the most famous asthmatics today is Jerome Bettis, the running back for the Pittsburgh Steelers. He is one of the chief national spokesmen to bring attention to the affliction of asthma and how he can function as a member of the Pittsburgh Steelers and be as effective and have the all-pro running back that he has had.

Mr. Speaker, I am just here to encourage all of my Members as we try to educate the American people about asthma and to continue the research and to find a way to prevent it and cure it and to help develop medicines that can make it easier for those of us who have it.

Asthma affects nearly five million children and causes more than 5,000 deaths each year. It is the leading cause of missed school days, yet many schools do not allow students to carry and use prescribed lifesaving asthma medication. When physicians prescribe inhalers, they instruct patients to carry them at all times. Asthma can happen any time, anywhere—in the classroom, on the playground, or in the lunchroom—so it's important for students to have immediate access to their inhalers. To date, the Allergy and Asthma Network—Mothers of Asthmatics (AANMA) has found only 17 states that have developed laws or policies which protect children's rights to carry inhalers in school. Schools that restrict or revoke this right, put themselves and students with asthma at risk. They also put other students at risk of witnessing a potentially life-

threatening asthma attack. I strongly support children's rights to carry inhalers at school, and would urge States and local school districts to make this lifesaving decision for their students.

BLOATED FARM BILL NEEDS THE KNIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will vote on the conference report of the farm bill. I think it is important to stand up and express opposition to this measure. I think it is probably the worst piece of legislation we will vote on this year. It has been called the largest expansion of the Federal Government on domestic terms aside from military policy in this great society.

If you look at it over the next 10 years we will be spending, the average American family will spend about \$1,800 just in taxes to support the subsidy payments as part of this farm bill. Above and beyond all that, the average American family will spend about \$2,500 in increased and inflated food prices because of the price supports inherent in this bill.

I grew up on a farm. I am one of 11 children in northern Arizona. And one of my more unusual chores growing up was what I called bloat watch. I would sit on the top of a hill and overlook the alfalfa field where cattle were grazing. And when a critter would assume the "I'm bloated and I cannot get up position," I was to rush to the field with a knife in hand and stab the critter high on the left side behind the last rib. I am sure it was not very pleasant, but it would save the critter's life. And silage pent-up gas would spew and rain down all over. But it was the only thing that would save the critter.

It is much like this farm bill. I feel like reaching for my knife whenever we debate it. It is bloated bigger than ever, and we have got to take some drastic measures to rein it in.

I think that it is not only bad policy, I think that is accepted by just about everyone, but it is bad politics by Republicans. We have always stood for freedom as opposed to security. I think it is not ironic that the farm bill is replacing the Freedom to Farm Act with the Farm Security Act. I think we are going the wrong direction when we do this. We have to stand for freedom in all areas. Farmers ought to be free for all they want and gain a profit for what they sell, not to be told by government how much they can plant and when they can plant it.

We are moving far, too far away from the free market. I hope we will reconsider. I hope if we do not reconsider, that the President is waiting with veto pen in hand.