

So hopefully we can take away the shovels, we can pull aside the veils, we can reveal to America what is going on and we can pass a budget that meets the priorities of the American people, not a privileged few.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, more than 87 million Americans tune into public television each week and 30 million listen to public radio. And they depend on this Congress to provide some of the economic resources so that in every community across the country people can listen to those thousand public radio and television stations for programs that inform and inspire.

For help with reading, job training, for the latest digital services, for local news and information, for dozens of other reasons. These stations around the country determine their own program schedules. They often produce their own programming. We, in Oregon, are immensely proud of Oregon Public Broadcasting for its award winning programming. They respond to community needs and leverage local support that is so important.

While the Corporation for Public Broadcasting distributes its annual appropriations from Congress in accordance to a statutory formula for which almost 72 percent of the funds go directly to local public radio and television stations, the Federal appropriations while it only accounts for 15 percent of the entire costs, it leverages critical investments from State and local governments, from universities, businesses and foundations, and most important, from millions of viewers and listeners of public television and radio. They add their dollars to this core vital Federal support, writing checks to allow the public broadcasting to continue. However, we have faced issues of major reduction in this funding which would have immediate and severe impacts on our community and constituents.

Last month, 126 bipartisan Members signed a letter in support for \$430 million in funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. This is a modest amount by reckoning of the vast sums that are thrown around here in Washington, DC, but it has a critical impact. It is going to be essential that we provide the core funding for the Corporation For Public Broadcasting and hopefully retain the practice of advanced funding which costs the Treasury nothing but gives public broadcasting certainty over time so that they can plan on allowing for the changes and development that they need.

There has been a modest request that has been suggested, \$30 million above

the fiscal 2006 funding. This is going to not even cover the additional electricity costs that public television must bear to operate both a digital and analogue transmitter. That transition to digital technology is also important for Congress to focus on. It is not cheap.

Public broadcasting has led the way. They have raised more than \$1.1 billion from all sources for this purpose. We are asking for a little additional money, an increase of \$10 million this year. This can have a critical impact, not just on the clarity of the broadcast that is received by people in their homes, but there is also an opportunity to replace and update the television interconnection system, known as the Next Generation Interconnection System, that the Department of Homeland Security has been testing as a foundation for a new digital emergency alert system. Not just better service for people at home, but an important potential addition to our homeland security.

Last but by no means least deals with educational technology. In the No Child Left Behind legislation passed in 2001, Congress authorized two programs, Ready to Learn and Ready to Teach. Ready to Learn harnesses television's universal reach to improve early childhood learning, while Ready to Teach uses technology to develop more highly-qualified teachers to measurably increase student standards. It is important to make sure that we support Ready to Learn, which received a small increase last year, focused on literacy and teacher professional development. Ready to Teach last year actually sustained a cut. It is requested that funding for both programs be increased in fiscal 2007 to \$32 million for Ready to Learn and \$15 million for Ready to Teach.

Last year we had to come to the floor with a strong bipartisan vote where 87 Republicans joined with every single Democrat to restore Draconian cuts to public broadcasting. This year it is more important than ever for education, for the Public Broadcasting Service, and for national security that we not have to go through that effort.

I urge my colleagues to look carefully at the requests that have been made for public broadcasting and join with us this year in assuring a strong funding base that will leverage hundreds of millions of dollars across America and provide the services Americans deserve.

REMEMBERING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, 38 years ago Martin Luther King, Jr., was taken by from us by an assassin's bullets. He had gone to Memphis, Tennessee to call for economic justice for

working people in America and for the sanitation workers there.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult for me to find the right words to express my feelings about Martin Luther King, Jr. He was a man, my friend. He was my inspiration, my leader, my colleague, and my brother.

Martin Luther King, Jr., more than any other American of the 20th century had the power to bring people together to do good, black and white, rich and poor, young and old, Protestant, Catholic and Jews.

He could inspire with his words, with his vision, and his leadership. He could fill ordinary people with the extraordinary vision that they had the power to build a new, more fair, more just America.

His message was love. His weapon was truth. His method was creative nonviolence. And his goal, Mr. Speaker, was the Beloved Community, a community of justice, a Nation at peace with itself. In a sense he spoke a strange language, a philosophy of passive resistance to evil and the use of nonviolence in the struggle for good.

He was far too advanced in his concepts of love and peace for the violent times in which he lived, perhaps too advanced for us to understand even today. But, Mr. Speaker, the assassins of Martin Luther King, Jr., did not kill the dream of peace. They did not kill the dream of an open society. They did not kill the dream of a Beloved Community.

The movement that Martin Luther King, Jr., led was too right. It was too necessary to be buried with his body. We know that his voice was stilled 38 years ago today, but his message of love, of peace, and of the good society continue to resonate all around the world.

Mr. Speaker, we here in the people's House, we know that Dr. King's dream has not been fulfilled. But that is why it must be our task to renew our commitment to the values of his vision, the values of peace, love and justice.

If Dr. King were here today he would say we must find a way to support courageous legislation, legislation that will redirect the priorities and the tremendous resources of this Nation, not to oppress but to uplift, not to divide but to bring together, not to enslave but to set free. He would say we must use the resources of this great Nation, our talents, our minds, and our votes to work for the good of all humankind.

Through the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., through his noble efforts, he injected new meaning and new dignity into the very veins of our society. We are a better people. We are a better Nation because he lived.

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GLOBAL WARMING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL)

is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the urgent need for the House of Representatives to address global warming. As you can see from last week's cover of Time magazine, both popular and scientific consensus indicate that the United States must act now to mitigate this problem.

In fact, a poll released yesterday by Environmental Defense indicates that more than 70 percent of Americans polled believe that global warming is real and a problem that they are willing to do something about.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for a national policy on global warming. America must lead the global effort. As I speak, our colleagues in the other chamber are holding a day-long conference on this issue. They have also debated legislation and had several votes on bills designed to curb greenhouse gas emissions. It is time, in fact it is long overdue, for the United States House of Representatives to join the debate.

In my home State of New Mexico, we may already be seeing the dramatic effects of global warming. In the drought seasons of 2002 and 2003, we had major die-offs of our State tree, the pinon. Scientists predict that this major die-off is only the prelude to life in a warmer future. Also, as seen in this picture, dramatic melting has already been seen in icecaps, glaciers and sea ice on both poles and in high mountain regions across the globe. Scientists are in almost unanimous agreement that these events are directly related to the build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels.

Mr. Speaker, last week the Honorable TOM PETRI and I introduced H.R. 5049, the Keep America Competitive Global Warming Policy Act. Our bill will help America curb our emissions and spur innovation to keep us in the global technological lead. The bill is an economy-wide, upstream, cap-and-trade policy that covers all greenhouse gas emissions.

However, to provide some certainty to the economy, the bill provides for an unlimited number of additional safety valve allowances. These allowances will be sold by the Treasury Department at a fixed and reasonable price, which will escalate over time. The escalation of the safety valve price is tied to the emissions-control activities of the five largest developing country greenhouse gas emitters. This will ensure that the rest of the world joins us in this effort. In that way, our policy will not put America at a global disadvantage.

We know that there may be less emissions reduction with a safety valve than without one. However, the cost certainty and the modest starting up cost of the safety valve allowances provide assurance this policy will not result in undue economic harm. We believe it is better to have a policy that

works slowly yet surely rather than one that might prove economically unworkable.

Many companies, including the largest utility in my home State of New Mexico, have expressed the need for a safety valve in any mandatory greenhouse gas emissions control legislation.

While the safety valve and a cap-and-trade program are critical to the short-term success of curbing emissions, conservation, research and technology are some of the long-term solutions of global warming. Our bill creates an advanced research projects agency inside the Department of Energy. The goal of the E-ARPA is to explore the truly out-of-the-box, high-risk, high-payoff research that will be necessary if we are to get to a low or no carbon dioxide or greenhouse gas world.

Mr. Speaker, we know that despite our best efforts some will probably be negatively impacted by this policy. That is why our legislation allocates allowances to those people, entities and localities that may incur dislocations because of this legislation.

Finally, we also set aside allowances for auction that will be used to ensure that the legislation is revenue neutral.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is modest, certain and efficient. It commits America to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by having emitters internalize the costs associated with global warming. This monumental step of putting a price on all greenhouse gases will stabilize emissions and eventually reduce them and finally put the United States on the road towards curbing the effects of global warming.

I urge my colleagues in the House to cosponsor this comprehensive and economically rational legislation and help break the stalemate that exists on the global warming issue.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Public Health Week. Since 1995, national, State and local public health professionals highlight an important public health issue every April to raise awareness about leading health problems affecting our Nation.

This year, the theme of National Public Health Week focuses on what is called the "built environment," which refers to building healthy communities to protect and enhance our children's life.

The built environment is any infrastructure with which children come in contact on a daily basis including homes, schools, parks, roads, walkways and businesses.

Enhancements to the built environment include access to primary health services, regular physical activity, safe

places to play, and safe routes to walk or bike to school, smoke-free communities and homes, and toxin-free schools.

Health challenges include the quality of and access to schools and housing, economic opportunities, social capital, air and water, and opportunities for physical activity.

As Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I am particularly concerned about how the built environment affects communities of color, native communities, and linguistically isolated communities.

Members of these communities are more likely to live, work, and play in environments which have detrimental health effects, often vastly disproportionate to their percentage of the population.

For example, asthma is one of the major causes of illness and disability in the United States. Although asthma is only slightly more prevalent among minority children than among whites, it accounts for three times the number of deaths.

Low socioeconomic status, exposure to urban environmental contaminants, and lack of access to medical care contribute to the increase of deaths in minority communities.

African Americans living in low-income neighborhoods have particularly high rates of asthma, as do Native Hawaiians living in Hawaii.

America must invest more resources and be more creative in order to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities.

We need to provide access to health care for the 45 million uninsured, more than half of whom are racial and ethnic populations.

We need to provide linguistically and culturally competent services, and we need to stop gutting the health care safety net.

Neighborhoods and communities across the United States are segregated by race and socioeconomic status, which exacerbates the underlying social and economic inequities that perpetuate health inequities. Without significant investment in the built environment for children and underserved communities, these health inequities will continue.

I am pleased to see that the American Public Health Association, the leading public health organization in the United States, has been able to disseminate the message about the interconnectedness between health and the built environment, and hope that this reality is integrated into the public health debate.

I look forward to working with all those involved with National Public Health Week to ensure policies to promote all children's health.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.