has been recognized, and I hope their example will continue to help bring quality medical care to rural communities like Childress.

MANUFACTURING IN THE UNITED STATES FACES CHALLENGE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, since January 2001, the United States has lost 2.8 million manufacturing jobs. As a result, manufacturing states have seven of the ten highest unemployment rates in the country. But manufacturing affects us all, not just those workers who are directly engaged in manufacturing, because manufacturing has the largest employment ''ripple effect'' of any U.S. industry. During President Clinton's administration, when manufacturing was growing and thriving, private sector job growth was 22 percent. Under the current administration, it's an anemic 2.4 percent. Manufacturing is also responsible for nearly two-thirds of all private sector research and development.

Manufacturing in the United States faces serious challenges in the global marketplace, as our manufacturers compete with companies who get the benefit of a healthy workforce without having to shoulder the rising cost of health care, deal with skyrocketing energy costs, and often face an unlevel playing field when they sell their goods. Instead of standing up for manufacturing and the men and women it employs, the Bush administration continues to sit on its hands as the manufacturing jobs crisis worsens. The workers who are harmed by that inaction deserve to be heard. Tonight, I'd like to read testimony several Michigan workers submitted to us about how the manufacturing jobs crisis is affecting them.

Sherry Lowell of Grand Blanc, MI writes:

''For the past 27 years, I have worked as a Journeyman Toolmaker for GM/Delphi in Flint, MI. My marvelous experience as a tradesman began when I was 30 years old. At the Flint East site, I was the 7th female to graduate as a tradesman. . . .

''For almost three decades, I believed that I was an integral part of the team with the goal of producing products with first time quality at a profit. The wages that I earned were appreciated and getting dirty and greasy were part and parcel of my job as a toolmaker. I have fulfilled my promise to the corporation for the past 27 years to faithfully come to work, work hard at work despite cold (45 degrees) and hot (103 degrees) and dirty environments, and buy GM/AC products.

''The promise of a defined-benefit pension was very important to me. Furthermore, financial planning for my old age has been threatened by corporate raiders of pension funds and the possibility of Social Security benefits ceasing. I would appreciate Congressional efforts to support the men and women of manufacturing skilled trades and production in protecting the pensions they were promised.''

Patricia Neal of Clinton Township, MI writes:

''I have been a UAW member and a GM employee for 28 years. I live in Clinton Township, MI. At some point in time nearly every UAW represented auto worker in America has had to hear, that we are 'over paid and under worked'. Every headline that screams out to the public, pointing a scolding finger at UAW represented auto workers, is not only demoralizing and degrading it is downright deceiving. . . .

''We, UAW workers, make the products put before us, we drive the fork trucks, we stand on the steel plated or concrete floors, we tighten the nuts and bolts, we handle the machines, we breath the toxic fumes but we do not make the decisions. We do the work. We want to see GM make a profit, we want GM healthy.''

Charles McCray of Southgate, MI writes:

''I am a 54 year old retired hourly worker after 30 years of service. I have worked hard for GM and the UAW. I have always purchased GM products over the years. I want GM to keep their promise to me with the contract I signed when I retired. I retired and gave up my position to another worker to pay taxes and make a good wage.

''With the possible problem at GM if I were to lose any pay what-so-ever I'd be in a tight spot. Where does all the money come from to even bury me when the time comes. We have never lived beyond our means at all. We have been able to pay for college for our 2 children, have a small home paid for. There is a small savings for future use after 62 years of age. With our monthly retirement we do OK but most do not. I have already gone out and have taken another job just because I am not sure what is going to happen at GM.''

I hope President Bush and my colleagues in the House will hear these workers and the millions like them, and will begin work on a real agenda to preserve and expand our manufacturing sector and the quality products and jobs it produces.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JOBS CREATION INCENTIVE ACT OF 2006

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a very important piece of legislation to address a very serious problem.

Because of the policies put in place by this Congress and this Administration, our country has prospered and enjoyed continual economic successes. More than 2 million jobs have been created nationally in the last year and our national unemployment rate is down to 4.8 percent. In the last quarter alone, our GDP grew by 1.7 percent.

However, my home state of Michigan has not yet seen this success. Our state economy continues to struggle, our manufacturing base is in serious jeopardy and our unemployment rate of 6.6 percent is one of the highest in the nation. The troubles of the auto industry—Michigan's largest employer—have forced layoffs, downsizing and cutbacks.

Workers in my state are losing their jobs, and our unemployed face multiple challenges and impending statistical disadvantages.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I am introducing this legislation today. My bill, the Job Creation Incentive Act, will help businesses in Michigan and across this country create more jobs.

Simply put, my bill will generate jobs by giving small businesses tax incentives for every new employee they hire.

It is a well known fact that collectively, small businesses are the number one employer in our Nation. When we encourage these small businesses to expand their payrolls and hire more employees, we not only create jobs but we also promote business development and growth.

My bill will give companies with 100 employees or less a tax credit for every new employee they hire. The credit will be equal to 5 percent of the new employee's salary, up to $2,500 maximum, and the new employee must have been on the payroll for at least 960 hours—the equivalent of a full-time position for six months. If companies create multiple jobs, they can receive multiple credits up to a total of 25 percent of their tax liability for the year.

I know that tax incentives are not the complete answer to all of our economic problems in the state of Michigan. We still must work continually to find solutions to solve the problems within our manufacturing base and bring relief to our businesses and our workers.

I also know that for some of us it may be difficult to understand that while America's economy is doing so well nationally, there are still areas where more help is greatly needed. My district is one of those areas.

The Job Creation Incentive Act will help our small businesses through these tough times and will allow them to do what they do best—innovate, drive economic growth, compete in the domestic and global marketplace, and create more jobs for American workers.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the time to speak on behalf of my bill, the Job Creation Incentive Act. I respectfully request the support of my colleagues for this important piece of legislation to ensure the future success of Michigan's economy and job growth across the country.

IN SUPPORT OF THE EASTERN SIERRA RURAL HERITAGE AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, today I take pleasure in introducing the Eastern Sierra Rural Heritage and Economic Enhancement Act.

As you are aware, I am fortunate enough to claim the majority of California's Eastern Sierra Mountains as part of my district. My legislation will protect some of the most pristine land in California for the enjoyment of my constituents in the 25th District, and the visitors we welcome to the Eastern Sierra's each year.

My legislation calls for three wilderness additions: the Hoover Wilderness Addition, the Emigrant Wilderness Addition, and the Amargosa Wild and Scenic River Addition. The Hoover Wilderness Addition rests in between Yosemite National Park, the existing Hoover Wilderness, and the Emigrant Wilderness, and designates 39,680 acres of 11,000 foot mountain peaks, glacial valleys, alpine lakes, and conifer forests as protected wilderness area. The Emigrant Wilderness addition lies adjacent to the existing Emigrant Wilderness, and claims two miles of the Pacific Crest Trail. The Amargosa Wild and Scenic River Addition designates a 24-mile stretch of river as protected, and divides the section into three parts: wild, scenic, and recreational.