Recently, 44 of my House colleagues and I wrote to President Obama, urging him to act now, to use his existing authority, to use already appropriated stimulus funds to build a national home retrofit program that will create jobs. Some call it Recovery Through Retrofit. Some call it Cash for Clunkers. I call it a sure-fire way to create jobs, and to create them now.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

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

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, Democrats have been focused on helping Main Street, not Wall Street, and momentum continues to build for additional job creation legislation. The Republicans created one of the worst recessions in history and did very little to help a recovery. The Republicans exacerbated the bad economy with tax cuts that favored the wealthy and did very little to help working people. Democrats acted to save the economy from falling apart, to facilitate a recovery and to put people to work.

We will build on the work we have done so far to create and save jobs and get this economy moving. More than half of the Recovery Act still must be spent into our economy, boosting it in the short term and laying a new foundation for long-term prosperity. New extensions of unemployment benefits have been taking effect that will inject demand into the economy. The first-time home-buyer tax credit, which has been extended, will be renewed in less than 2 weeks.

TIME TO END THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Speaker, $2.5 billion—that's my State's share of the wars we've been fighting for the last 8 years, and now this country is being asked to spend another $30 billion a year to send more troops to Afghanistan. It's too much, Madam Speaker, for a war that just isn't working.

At a time when we are struggling to put Americans back to work, we just can't afford to escalate a war that we need to be winding down. At a time when we have asked our men and women in uniform to return to combat again and again, we cannot afford to send them back one more time to fight to protect a government that is now considered the second most corrupt on Earth. At a time when we are working to bring affordable health care to every family in this country, we just can't afford to spend $1 million per soldier to occupy a country that doesn't want us there.

Don't be mistaken, Madam Speaker. When we need to protect our vital national interests, there is no cost too great, and the greatest Armed Forces in the world will rise to meet any challenge. But this is not the time to pay that price. This is a time to end this war and bring the troops home.

SUPPORT FOR SENDING MORE TROOPS TO AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. PENCE. After months of deliberation, the President announced yesterday his decision to endorse a request for reinforcements by our commanding officers in Afghanistan, and I support his decision. By calling for a surge of forces in Afghanistan, President Obama is embracing the counterinsurgency strategy that succeeded in Iraq and, if given a chance, will succeed again. The war in Afghanistan is a war of necessity. A decisive victory over the Taliban and al Qaeda must remain our unchanging objective.

Now while reinforcements are critical to achieving victory, the morale of our troops and the unequivocal support of those at home is also important. Our brave men and women in uniform need to know that those who send them into battle will stand by them until the battle is won. Congress should resist the temptation to impose artificial timelines for withdrawal or benchmarks, as they only demoralize our troops and embolden our enemies. Telling the enemy when your commitment to fight will run out is a prescription for defeat.

Congress should also reject any effort to pass a tax increase on the backs of our soldiers. Levying a war surtax at a time of runaway Federal spending is an insult to our men and women in uniform.

THE NEW CONGRESSIONAL TASK FORCE ON JOB CREATION

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

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, with unemployment at a record high in southern Nevada, it's critical that we focus our efforts on creating good jobs that will put Nevadans back to work. That's why I'm proud to have recently joined the new Congressional Task Force on Job Creation. This working group will collect innovative ideas and formulate legislation that will put people back to work across the country and get our economy moving again.

This effort is especially critical to strengthening our economy in southern Nevada. Creating jobs locally will require innovation in Nevada's growing industries, such as renewable energy, and perhaps a high-speed train, as well as building a stronger national economy that puts money back in the pockets of potential visitors who will come to Nevada and boost our travel and tourism industry.

I look forward to joining my colleagues on this task force in the coming weeks to find real solutions that will create jobs for Nevada and the rest of the country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

RECOGNIZING THE EXEMPLARY SERVICE OF THE 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION DURING WORLD WAR II

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 494) recognizing the exemplary service of the soldiers of the 30th Infantry Division (Old Hickory) of the United States Army during World War II, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 494

Whereas the 30th Infantry Division of the United States Army was first activated in October 1917 and originally consisted of National Guard units from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee;

Whereas the 30th Infantry Division was nicknamed Old Hickory in honor of General and President Andrew Jackson;

Whereas, when the 30th Infantry Division was reorganized at Fort Jackson in 1941 for service in World War II, the division included two North Carolina National Guard infantry regiments, one Tennessee National Guard infantry regiment, and other elements;

Whereas, during World War II, the 30th Infantry Division landed at Normandy on June 14, 1944, participated in the advance across Northern France, joined the invasion of the German Rhineland, defended the Ardennes-Alsace, and fought to the final defeat of Germany in May 1945;

Whereas the 823rd and the 743rd Tank Destroyer Battalions were periodically attached to the 30th Division throughout its campaign in Europe;

Whereas the 30th Infantry Division played a key role in the breakout of the Allied forces from Normandy at St. Lo and the subsequent advance across Northern France;

Whereas the 30th Infantry Division is remembered for its role in the defense of Mortain and St. Barthelmy, France, and Hill 317 against a German counterattack in August 1944, actions in which three infantry regiments of the division (the 117th, 119th, and 120th) and a part of a fourth regiment and other elements of the division participated;

Whereas the 30th Infantry Division also played a key role stopping the German advance in the Battle of the Bulge and recaptured Malmedy and Stavelot and its vital bridge over the Ambleve River;

Whereas, in the report prepared for General Dwight D. Eisenhower rating the American combat units that fought in the European Theater, the Army's official historian,