REQUIRE THE PRESIDENT TO WITHDRAW FROM AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, this morning I stood before this House and pointed out that The Nation magazine did an investigation that showed that U.S. tax dollars were going to U.S. contractors who then gave the Taliban money so that the Taliban wouldn't attack a shipment of U.S. goods to U.S. troops. And of course U.S. troops would use those resources to attack the Taliban.

The war in Afghanistan is a racket. We have a strategy to pay off insurgents, warlords, the Taliban, in pretending that somehow this practice is going to help make an already corrupt central government more stable. I have been in this House now for seven terms, and I have seen the slow and steady erosion of the Constitution of the United States and, in particular, congressional authority with respect to article 1, section 8 of the Constitution, which very explicitly puts the power to create war in the hands of the United States Congress, not in the hands of the executive.

When the Founders crafted the Constitution, they were very clear that they did not want a monarchy. They wanted to what was called ''restrain the dogs of war'' by placing the power to commit men and women into combat in the hands of an elected Congress, in this case in the hands of the House of Representatives. Unfortunately, over a few generations, we have seen that power of Congress erode.

Today, according to ABC News, Hamid Karzai, the President of Afghanistan, in a joint press conference with Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, said that his country's security forces will need financial and training assistance from the United States for the next 15 to 20 years.

Now, since we're already spending at least $100 billion to $150 billion a year in Afghanistan, we are now committed, through Mr. Karzai, we're embarked on a strategy that could lead us to spend $2 trillion, maybe more.

We've had speakers precede me today speak about the need for jobs in the United States. It goes without saying we should start taking care of things here instead of endeavoring to pour our resources into a corrupt administration, and furthermore, engage in a kind of corruption through trying to pay off warlords and even the Taliban to create shipments to our troops.

As President Obama prepares to escalate military operations in Afghanistan and Pakistan, we must reinstate our prerogative as it relates to war. The United States has been involved in military action—both in Afghanistan and Pakistan—since the inception of this administration despite the fact that the President has never submitted a report to Congress pursuant to section 4(a)(1) of the War Powers Resolution.

Madam Speaker, when Congress returns in 2010, I intend to bring to the floor of the House privileged resolutions reasserting this congressional prerogative. My bills will trigger a timeline for timely withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan and Pakistan, invoke the War Powers Resolution of 1973, and secure the constitutional role of Congress as directly elected representatives of the people under article 1, section 8 of the Constitution for Congress to decide whether or not America enters into a war or continues a war or otherwise introduces Armed Forces or materials into combat zones.

Despite the President's assertion that previous congressional action gives him the authority to respond to the attacks of September 11, 2001, a careful reading of the authorization of military force makes clear that this authorization did not supersede any requirement of the War Powers Resolution and therefore did not undermine Congress' ability to revisit the constitutional question of war powers at a later date.

We will have an opportunity in this House in January to vote on this issue of Afghanistan and Pakistan, and I urge my colleagues to join the resolution, which I'll begin to circulate the notice of starting tomorrow.

Thank you.

RESOLUTION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the last few weeks there has been some very disturbing correspondence that's surfaced and presents a real dilemma for the scientific community and an even greater dilemma for this Congress as the United Nations Climate Change Conference begins in Copenhagen.

As ranking member of the Science Committee, I'm concerned about these revelations dubbed by the press as ''Climate-gate'' and their implication for the scientific community, Congress, and the American people. Allegations of manipulation of scientific data would be troublesome under any circumstance. The fact that the scientific data in question here is to be used as the basis for global agreement to limit greenhouse gas emissions or changes to the regulatory regime of the United States makes these allegations that much more disturbing.

I've introduced a resolution which highlights concerns about moving forward with greenhouse gas emissions regulations or an agreement in Copenhagen on the basis of scientific data which email exchanges indicate has been manipulated, enhanced, or deleted in order to advance a political agenda. Forcing Americans to meet carbon emission reductions may worsen our high unemployment rate and slow our economy while other nations advance their own growth at our expense.

Considering the loss of confidence in the scientific process, it's even more troubling that policymakers are pushing forward with a scheme that could irrevocably alter our economy and our prosperity.

In the past few weeks, through the disclosure of more than a thousand emails, there is extensive evidence that many researchers across the globe discussed the destruction, alteration, and suppression of data that did not support global warming claims. These exchanges include a leading climate scientist encouraging other scientists to alter data that is the basis of climate modeling across the globe by using the ''trick of adding in the real temps to each series . . . to hide the decline [in temperature].''

The U.S. National Science and Technology Council defines research misconduct as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results.

All of this would be troubling enough on the basis that much of this research is taxpayer funded. However, it is even more troubling when one considers that this data is held up as the reason to implement new regulations and laws and potentially enter into global agreements, all in the name of reducing emissions. Policymakers are asking citizens to agree to alter the economic structure of our country and possibly sacrifice jobs in the name of preserving this warming planet, even as these scientists fail to follow accepted scientific practices and seek to stifle contrary points of view.

Federal policy for addressing research misconduct requires a full inquiry and investigation of the misconduct, as well as a correction of the research record, and potential referral to the Department of Justice. I have sent a letter to the chairman of the Science Committee asking there be an investigation into these matters.

Even more troubling is that these exchanges describe attempts to silence academic journals that publish research skeptical of significant man-made global warming and refer to efforts to exclude contrary views from publication in the scientific journals. Some scientists even encouraged the deletion of data and emails to avoid disclosure in the event of a Freedom of Information request.

All of this presents a troubling pattern of attempts not only to misrepresent the data on global warming to meet expectations contained in the theories, but also to silence any dissenters and cover up inappropriate data manipulation.

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The emails show that raw data not meeting the expectations of the scientists or showing a pattern of warm