

to bring the so-called DISCLOSE Act to the floor. It apparently is over how many people get exempted from the disclosure rules that otherwise prevail.

We have had the NRA exemption, which was for organizations which have over 1 million people, which have actually existed more than 10 years, which have people in all 50 States, in D.C. and in Puerto Rico, and which have less than 15 percent of their funds from corporations. Now we understand they have dropped it to 500,000.

Madam Speaker, we did not take the oath to the Constitution to only uphold part of the Constitution. It is time that we stop auctioning off the First Amendment and start understanding that we here are supposed to protect the First Amendment, not parcel it out, not deny it to some and give it to others. The First Amendment is for all Americans, not just for those favored by one party or another.

POLITICAL HYSTERIA

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the administration's knee-jerk banning of deepwater drilling for 6 months is the second disaster in the gulf.

The government is intentionally putting companies out of business in the gulf with this unscientific moratorium. There are 50,000 workers who are losing their jobs due to government over-reaction. The administration is not only purposely putting blue collar workers out of work; the government is sending those jobs to Brazil and to Indonesia.

In 2005, there was a BP refinery explosion in Texas City, Texas. Fifteen people were killed; 180 were injured. The government did not close all of the refineries for 6 months in the United States to investigate the sins of BP then. That would have been foolish nonsense. It would have destroyed jobs, the economy, and it would have caused the loss of U.S. energy.

So investigate the rig explosion and hold BP accountable for their conduct, but don't in a moment of political hysteria stop deepwater drilling. Don't wipe out jobs, American companies, and sabotage the U.S. economy.

And that's just the way it is.

PROVIDE TAX RELIEF, NOT TAX CREEP

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

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in Georgia's Ninth Congressional District, there is the small town of Ellijay. It is known not only for Colonel Poole's barbecue and as the apple capital of Georgia but also as the home of the McCutchen-Poole Small Business Coalition. The reason is that community leaders like Colonel Oscar

Poole and Joe McCutchen are committed to creating an environment where small business can thrive. However, taxation and regulation are stifling small business expansion.

Throughout my legislative career, I have focused my efforts on removing these unnecessary barriers in order to unleash America's entrepreneurial spirit. As a small business man, I know that cutting spending here in Washington, eliminating the capital gains tax and reducing the corporate income tax, along with empowering the private sector, is the way to create jobs and to get Americans back to work.

Stimulating the economy must come from expanding the private sector, not by expanding government. We have a 16-month track record of failed economic policies, and they continued once more here today. We should be encouraging small businesses, not penalizing them with higher taxes and more regulation.

So I hope you will join me. Let's empower the taxpayer. Let's provide tax relief, not tax creep.

COMPENSATION FOR SURVIVAL FOR VICTIMS OF THE GULF COAST DISASTER

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, everyone knows that we are in the grips of trying to overcome the devastation of the gulf and to help the people of that region. That is why I want to applaud the serious work that was done at the White House to establish the independent framework that I called for 2 weeks ago, which was to ensure that the impacted communities—restaurants, fishermen, shrimpers, oyster persons, and people with small restaurants and large restaurants—in the gulf region, from Florida to Texas, have the ability to secure the kind of compensation needed now to make their bills.

This is not compensation for the injury as much as it is compensation to survive. For anyone to suggest that this was a shakedown is a misinterpretation and a distortion to the American people.

What do they want the government to do? They want the government to be responsive, to make sure that we work on their behalf and to make sure that people whose lights are being turned off can pay their bills.

Good news. We can now get claims and can help the people in the gulf region.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DAHLKEMPER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House,

the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA'S SMALL BUSINESSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise to recognize the many small businesses throughout the Nation, and especially in my home State of Florida and in my area of south Florida, that I hope will lead us into the great economic recovery.

As we have in the past, we shall recover again. Small business owners are going to be an essential part of that recovery because small business owners are truly the backbone of our Nation's economy, employing tens of millions of workers and creating most of the new private sector jobs that are so important for true economic growth.

I'd like to take this opportunity to especially recognize two small businesses in my district which definitely represent America's tradition of free enterprise and individual initiative.

Tri-City Electric has reached a well-respected place in both Florida and the electrical contracting industry with well over 300 employees. This family firm has been providing electrical design, installation, and service in south Florida for three generations since 1946. This small business's name also played a role in the fascinating rise of small business after World War II, in that it was selected to represent our area's three major cities at that time: Miami, Coral Gables, and Miami Beach. Like most small businesses, Tri-City Electric is made of folks who didn't start at the top and, in this case, started in the trenches digging to lay pipeline in the hot weather while working whatever hours it takes to get the job done.

Another small business with a long tradition of service in south Florida is Riverside Electric Company. This was established in 1922—I love anything older than I am—which is one of oldest electrical contracting firms in the southeastern United States. Another firm with a proud family tradition, its roots go back to Atlanta, where the company played a key role in converting the city's streetlights from gas to electric. Its founder, Eugene M. Irvin, Sr., later moved his family to Miami and began Riverside Electric Company. His great grandson, James Irvin, is now co-owner of the company, along with Alexander Rodriguez, who started as an apprentice and worked