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I have model trains in front of me today. We have over eight companies committed to high-speed rail. In fact, we started the rail system in Florida in this country, the Florida Flagler. In this country, we started the rail system, and now we are the cabooses; and they don't use cabooses anymore.

But all of our partners, the Chinese, the French, eight different countries want to be our partners. They have indicated that they would put up the 10 percent because they want to have the first right of refusal to go from Orlando to Miami. And everybody knows that's the money maker. Well, why is the first portion that the State of Florida applied for and the legislature in Florida came to the Congress and asked us to be partners, why was that first leg the first leg? Because all of the environmental issues have been resolved. In other words, we could put rail in Florida tomorrow if this contract went out.

Florida has 12 percent unemployment—12 percent—and in my area 15 percent. The Governor says that he's not a politician—and I agree with him—but he says he's a businessman. What businessman would walk away from 90 percent funding? So, 90 percent funding, and you're a businessman? Well, he's concerned about Florida being left with the 10 percent. Well, if you're a businessman, then you know attorneys. They can write it any way you want to make sure that we can protect the people of Florida. So that's not the issue. Money is not the issue. Liability is not the issue.

This is the worst kind of politics I've seen since I've been elected. It's a sad state of affairs. The Governor says let's get to work. I agree with you, Mr. Governor, but you have to be working on something. You have to have some projects. Infrastructure is what put America to work.

What projects do you have, Mr. Governor, in your budget? You say: Well, I want this money. I think it would be better used for ports. What's in your budget? Ports. Florida has 14 ports. We compete with other States. So what is in your budget that is going to put Floridians to work? You come and say: I want another lane on I-4. Well, anybody who lives in Orlando or visits Orlando knows another lane will not help us. We have eight lanes.

I just returned Monday from Salt Lake City, Utah, where we lost the money. A few years ago, money for Orlando went to Salt Lake City, Utah, and they run trains every day, move 40,000 people a day by rail. That's Salt Lake City, Utah. And so the money that we have appropriated this Friday will go to some other State. It will go to New York or California or Salt Lake City, Utah, or some other place. We are going to have rail in this country.

What happens when failure is not an option? We must make sure that we

work together to put Floridians to work.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

RESPECTING THE AMERICAN WORKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, a few years back towards the end of my grandfather's life—he was a steelworker for about 40 years—and towards the end of his life, he couldn't drive anymore. I had the pleasure one day of taking him shopping. In Ohio, and where I come from in Niles, shopping is an art form; so we had to go to a certain place for the meat and a certain place for the cheese and a certain place for something that was on sale somewhere else. So I got to spend the day with my grandpa. We had to go and get something, and he said we should go to a certain store.

I said: Well, Grandpa, Giant Eagle is right here. We can just go right here.

He said: We can't go there.

I said: Why not? It's right here.

He said: The meat cutters are on strike and we can't cross the picket line.

He didn't go to Giant Eagle out of respect for the worker, out of respect for the situation that those workers were in at that grocery store.

And the issue that we are talking about in Ohio and in Wisconsin is an issue of respect for the average worker in the United States of America. And for us to somehow try to obscure the issue and blame workers, firefighters who go into burning buildings while we are all running out of them, police officers who we call up when we are in trouble, or teachers who we ask in many instances to spend more time with our kids than we do, somehow push the blame of the major financial meltdown that happened because of Wall Street recklessness, blame the teachers for that and ask them to go out and get rid of their right to stick together and determine what size of classroom, how many kids are in their classroom is ridiculous.

And at the same time, in Ohio, we have the top person who works for the current administration get a \$40,000 pay increase from what the last Governor was paying, and the secretaries and the people in the mail room get a cut. And the firefighters and the police and the teachers get a cut.

While all of this is going on in Ohio, they want to cut the estate tax for the wealthiest people who live in the State of Ohio and ask the teacher to make the sacrifice. This is disrespectful and unfair to the workers in the State of Ohio.

If we want to have a 21st century America where we compete with the globe, where we compete as 300 million people, compete with 1.3 billion people in China, over a billion people in India, and we are going to tell our teachers that they can't be treated with respect, how are we going to get good teachers to come into the teaching profession when they are going to be the foil for all of the problems we have in our country?

When we ask them to take our kids who have lice, who haven't eaten today, who are hungry, who have a domestic violence issue in their family—these children all go before our teachers—and we are going to say that they don't have a right to bargain, a right to come together to say what size their class is? We are going to pull their pensions from them? This is not right. This is not right, and we need to get back to where we were when my grandfather was around.

We realize the world is different and we have to compete globally, but the issue is: Are we going to respect work in the United States of America? Are we going to respect the workers in the United States of America? While all these fat cats have gotten off scot free, we turn around and tell the workers in Ohio and Wisconsin and Indiana and the Big 10 Conference: You've got to take the hit.

It is unfair and it is disrespectful and it is not an American value.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 28 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Alisa Lasater Wailoo, Capitol Hill Methodist Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Ever-Present God, we know You by many names, but most striking, You know us and each person we represent by name and with love. Thank You.

God who heals, we pray for the full restoration of Representative GIFFORDS