

The human and financial costs of these “endless wars” to our nation have been enormous. A policy of using U.S. military force to impose democracy in the Middle East has not worked and will not work. Moreover, how do we ever hope to get federal spending under control if we keep on the current course?

American foreign policy should be guided by what is in our nation’s best interest. We need a new strategy to address the threat of radical Islam. Remember: President Reagan put a policy in place to win the Cold War with very little loss of American military lives.

Changing America’s foreign policy is just the beginning. We need to pick a new president we can count on for an economic policy that puts Americans back to work, starts helping the private sector grow again and rebuilds our manufacturing base. The best way to do that is to replace our onerous business tax system—which exports prosperity and American jobs overseas—with a revenue-neutral, business consumption tax that will level the playing field with our trading competitors and bring jobs home to America.

Next, we should pick as our new president someone we can count on to replace Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben S. Bernanke with someone like Thomas M. Hoenig, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, who has warned of the risks of loose monetary policy and who understands the importance of a sound-dollar policy.

A new president should be one we can count on to end taxpayer bailouts of the “too big to fail” financial institutions—a policy begun by Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin in the Clinton administration and continued by Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson in the Bush administration. If these institutions are too big to fail, they are too big.

We’ll want a new president to determine what levels of spending cuts are necessary and feasible. Then, devolve power wherever possible over domestic programs by removing federal mandates and sending control over spending back to the states and local communities. Give Medicaid back to the states in the form of block grants, just like we did with welfare reform in the Reagan administration.

A president committed to getting federal spending under control also has to be willing to make cuts in defense spending (which has nearly doubled over the past decade), foreign aid and entitlements. Mr. Bush’s Medicare drug plan alone, pushed through Congress in 2003, constitutes an unfunded liability of \$55 billion annually, or \$7.2 trillion over the next 75 years. It only speeds up the date when Medicare will be bankrupt. That issue needs to be addressed as part of overall health care reform.

Finally, we cannot ignore the coarsening of our culture and the unraveling of our once strong social fabric, so necessary for the nurturing and preservation of a good society. Bluntly speaking, a free-market system without an ethical compass guiding it will not work. A constitutional republic without the Judeo-Christian ethic as its foundation will not last.

Only if we make the right choice next year will we get a new president who can help America find its way back.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010–2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—NIKI AKHAVEISSY

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and privilege to inform the Members of the United States House of Representatives that the students of the 2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council (CYAC) from the Third District of Texas have completed a total of 500 community service hours, fulfilling and far-surpassing the requirements of their assigned CYAC in the Community service project.

This year 46 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 10 through 12 made their voices heard by joining CYAC. As the Third District’s young ambassadors to Congress, these bright high school students met with me on a quarterly basis to discuss current events and public policy. These impressive young people recognize an important truth: the heart of public service is found when giving back to the community. CYAC students volunteered their time and talents with over 30 organizations including Adopt-A-Highway, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Teen Court, and the USO, to name a few. As one student shared, “CYAC in the Community has allowed me to realize my calling to serve those in the U.S. Armed Forces.” I am beyond thrilled that CYAC has helped students unleash their full potential and chase their dreams.

President George H.W. Bush once said, “A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens—citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization.”

With this statement as a benchmark, I am proud to congratulate the members of the 2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council for showing themselves to be outstanding young citizens of this nation. It is my privilege to submit summaries of their work to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to be preserved for posterity and antiquity. To these young public servants, thank you, and keep up the great work! I salute you!

A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

As the president of the Frisco High School student council, most of my efforts go toward the Homecoming dance in October. I organized this entire dance and spent hours volunteering my time in order to decorate it and make sure everything is set at the standard of perfection. The theme of the dance this year was “A Night at the Shore” and all of the decorations were beach themed. I oversaw the completion of this project from the beginning to the very end, and the final product was extremely satisfying. This project was the fruit of my labor for months, and I spent 5 hours on the day of the dance, Saturday, October 2nd, decorating the banquet hall of the hotel to resemble a serene beach. I also had to fill out numerous proposals in order to get the venue, vendors, and theme approved. From there I went to finding a DJ, and recruiting other members

to spend their time both before and after the dance to help set up and clean up. This volunteer opportunity really helped me reach out in the community and help significantly raise the level of spirit at my school.

—Niki Akhaveissy

REDUCING REGULATORY BURDENS ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 872, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2011. This legislation amends the Clean Water Act and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act “FIFRA”, to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters.

In 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, promulgated a rule that codified EPA’s longstanding interpretation that the application of pesticides for their intended purpose and in compliance with Pesticide label restrictions is not a discharge of a “pollutant” under the Clean Water Act, and therefore, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit would not be required. However, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals vacated this rule in *National Cotton Council v. EPA*. In this case the Court required the EPA to develop a new NPDES permitting process under the Clean Water Act for the purposes of pesticide use. The Court-ordered deadline for EPA to promulgate the new permitting process for pesticides is April 9, 2011.

As a result of this court decision, EPA estimates that approximately 365,000 pesticide users, including state agencies, cities, counties, mosquito control districts, water districts, pesticide applicators, farmers, ranchers, forest managers, scientists, and everyday citizens that perform 5.6 million pesticide applications annually will be affected, doubling the number of entities currently subject to NPDES permitting under the Clean Water Act.

Once the court order goes into effect, pesticide users not covered by an NPDES permit will be subject to a fine of up to \$37,500 per day per violation. In addition to the cost of compliance, pesticide users will be subject to an increased risk of litigation under the citizen suit provision of the Clean Water Act. The court ruling does not change any standards for pesticide regulation and provides no additional environmental or public health protection. It simply adds a layer of unnecessary and costly bureaucracy.

This bill recognizes that pesticides are already regulated by the EPA under FIFRA and that any additional regulation would be burdensome and duplicative. I was proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation and support its passage through the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained during the floor vote on this bill and was unable to cast my official vote in support of the measure. If I were present at the time of the vote, I would have proudly cast an “Aye” vote because we cannot continue to subject the agricultural community to increasingly burdensome regulations. I am pleased that Congress was able to act on this bill and