

needs of our people and our communities.

I know there's been a lot of skepticism about whether the politics of the moment will allow us to pass this jobs plan—or any jobs plan. Already, we're seeing the same old press releases and tweets flying back and forth. Already, the media has proclaimed that it's impossible to bridge our differences. And maybe some of you have decided that those differences are so great that we can only resolve them at the ballot box.

But know this: the next election is fourteen months away. And the people who sent us here—the people who hired us to work for them—they don't have the luxury of waiting fourteen months. Some of them are living week to week; paycheck to paycheck; even day to day. They need help, and they need it now.

I don't pretend that this plan will solve all our problems. It shouldn't be, nor will it be, the last plan of action we propose. What's guided us from the start of this crisis hasn't been the search for a silver bullet. It's been a commitment to stay at it—to be persistent—to keep trying every new idea that works, and listen to every good proposal, no matter which party comes up with it.

Regardless of the arguments we've had in the past, regardless of the arguments we'll have in the future, this plan is the right thing to do right now. You should pass it. And I intend to take that message to every corner of this country. I also ask every American who agrees to lift your voice and tell the people who are gathered here tonight that you want action now. Tell Washington that doing nothing is not an option. Remind us that if we act as one nation, and one people, we have it within our power to meet this challenge.

President Kennedy once said, "Our problems are man-made—therefore they can be solved by man. And man can be as big as he wants."

These are difficult years for our country. But we are Americans. We are tougher than the times that we live in, and we are bigger than our politics have been. So let's meet the moment. Let's get to work, and show the world once again why the United States of America remains the greatest nation on Earth. Thank you, God bless you, and may God bless the United States of America.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 8, 2011.*

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:52 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2832. An act to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 67. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolution was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 26. Joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner no longer holds the confidence of Congress or of the people of the United States.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2996. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the OMB Sequestration Update Report for Fiscal Year 2012, referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975 as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2997. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Peppers from Panama" (RIN0579-AD16) (Docket No. APHIS-2010-0002) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2998. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Asian Longhorned Beetle; Quarantined Areas and Regulated Articles" (Docket No. APHIS-2010-0128) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2999. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "European Larch Canker; Expansion of Regulated Areas" (Docket No. APHIS-2011-0029) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3000. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2-Propenoic acid, polymer with ethenylbenzene and (1-methylethenyl) benzene sodium acid; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 8888-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3001. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pseudomonas fluorescens strain CL145A; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8884-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3002. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Horses from Contagious Equine Metritis-Affected Countries" (RIN0579-AD31) (Docket No. APHIS-2008-0112) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3003. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tebuconazole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8885-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3004. A communication from the Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Transforming Wartime Contracting: Controlling Cost, Reducing Risk"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3005. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, a legislative proposal relative to allowing the Department of Energy to restore certain information to the Restricted Data category; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3006. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Increase the Use of Fixed-Price Incentive (Firm Target) Contracts" (RIN0750-AH15) (DFARS Case 2011-D010) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3007. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Export Administration Regulations: Netherlands Antilles, Curacao, Sint Maarten and Timor-Leste" (RIN0694-AF18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3008. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of a Decision Adopted under the Australia Group (AG) Intersessional Silent Approval Procedures in 2010 and Related Editorial Amendments" (RIN0694-AF14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3009. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting,