

“epic,” the Eden Prairie girls’ volleyball team won the 3A State championship throughout five sets, by battling 32 tied scores and 14 lead changes, until Eden Prairie took the final set 22-20 to win the first State championship ever.

So congratulations to these fantastic student athletes at Eden Prairie High School and also to the coaches.

INCREASING JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I think there are three things that we need to do in America in order to increase jobs and economic growth.

Number one, we’ve got to drill our own oil. If you drive a car or if you use goods and services that come to you by a vehicle using an internal combustion engine, somebody had to drill for that gas. Now, do you really believe that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and Libya are more environmentally sensitive than we are? Of course not. We can do it in an environmentally sensitive way and become oil independent.

Secondly, we need to have tax simplification. I’m outraged when I hear about people not paying their fair share of taxes. We need to have a Tax Code that is a half-an-inch deep and miles and miles wide so that everybody is paying their fair share.

Then, thirdly, we need to change the regulatory environment. Regulators don’t need to approach businesses with an “I gotcha. I’m against you” attitude, but as more of a partnership—“Hey, we want to work with you on worker safety and environmental protection and product liability laws”—and things like this so that we can work for business and nurture responsible corporate citizenship.

I think we can do that, and that will increase our jobs and our economic growth.

HONORING THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago, a group of forward-thinking and civic-minded individuals realized the need for volunteer support and fundraising for the new hospital nearing completion in the Northern Mariana Islands. So was born the Commonwealth Health Center Volunteers Association. The volunteers have made tremendous contributions to our hospitals in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and have made an appreciable difference to the experience of every patient who receives health care in the Northern Marianas.

Since its founding, the group has donated over \$2 million in medical equipment and supplies. Many of these donations include life-saving diagnostic and treatment equipment and other supplies that dramatically improve the quality of life for patients and their families.

The volunteers have withstood the many challenges that have faced our community over the past 25 years, and I think that’s a good indication of their ability to successfully navigate the next 25.

Please join me in celebrating the wonderful men and women who founded and over the years staffed and supported the Commonwealth Health Center Volunteers Association.

Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago, there were two important developments to better serve the health needs of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. One was the opening of the Commonwealth Health Center; the other, less publicly recognized, but also of great significance, was the formation of the Commonwealth Health Center Volunteers Association. A group of forward-thinking and civic-minded individuals realized the need for volunteer support and fundraising for the new hospital. An initial meeting was organized by the late Dr. Jose T. Villagomez, Gregorio S. Calvo, Juanita Dortch, Angie V. Guerrero, Norma Matthews, and Rosa T. Palacios. These founding individuals, and the many more who have answered the call for volunteers, have made critical contributions to the availability and quality of health care in our local community.

As in every corner of our country, we in the Northern Marianas have always faced the issue of bridging the gap between providing affordable health care and what the true cost of that care is. The CHC Volunteers Association has made tremendous contributions to our hospitals and has made an appreciable difference to the experience of every patient who receives health care in the Northern Marianas. Since its founding, the group has donated over \$2 million in medical equipment and supplies which have benefited health care needs on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Many of these donations include lifesaving diagnostic and treatment equipment such as telemetry machines, nebulizers, and hemodialysis chairs. In fact, they have been responsible for the purchase of two mammography diagnostic units over the years. The availability of equipment such as this means lives have been saved. It also means our residents do not need to travel to receive medical care with the frequency they once did. The group’s current goal is to raise funds for a hyperbaric chamber, which will cost approximately a quarter million dollars. This will help doctors heal their patients more effectively. Many of our residents suffer from diabetes, and the hyperbaric chamber can be used to assist in healing persistent wounds in these patients and decrease the need for amputations. Many of our residents and tourists alike enjoy deep-sea diving, and the equipment can also be used to provide lifesaving treatment in the event an individual suffers decompression illness. Other supplies the Volunteers provide are not lifesaving, but dramatically improve the quality of life for patients: new bedsheets, televisions, and reclining chairs, for example. These make extended hospital stays more tolerable than they once were.

All of this has been accomplished through the CHC Volunteers’ unwavering commitment to improving the quality of health care in the Northern Marianas. Every year, the group sets about fundraising with an awe-inspiring vigor: they host a Thanksgiving raffle, an annual Christmas bazaar, walkathons, concerts, and pancake breakfasts, just to name a few. The Volunteers have supported our community in other important ways as well, such as sponsoring health conferences and public education programs. They have also served as an important link between the Commonwealth Health Center and other charitable organizations and businesses. The Volunteers have come a long way since their initial fundraising, which was accomplished by selling cold drinks and snacks from two portable coolers at the hospital. They now operate a full-service gift shop at the hospital to help fund their endeavors.

A testament to the enduring nature of the CHC Volunteers Association is that some of the original volunteers are still actively involved. Twenty-five years after committing to do what they could to improve local health care, Mrs. Amparo LG Tenorio, Mrs. Rita V. Tenorio, and Mrs. Rieko M. Guerrero are still volunteering. The Volunteers have withstood the many challenges that have faced our community over the past 25 years, and I think that’s a good indication of their ability to successfully navigate the next 25. Their continued success not only benefits hospital patients, but it serves our entire population. It is important for the youth of today to see all that can be accomplished through good intentions and hard work. The group also serves as a constant reminder of the importance of volunteerism, which is alive and well in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Please join me in celebrating the wonderful men and women who founded, and over the years staffed and supported, the Commonwealth Health Center Volunteers Association.

□ 1500

WHEN YOU MAKE IT IN AMERICA, EVERY AMERICAN CAN MAKE IT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, we are going to spend the next hour talking about what’s on the minds of most every American: jobs. How do we get a job? What’s it going to take to finally go back to work? There’s a lot of pain out there, and there’s a lot of suffering. And people really wonder what this Congress is going to do to help alleviate this crisis of unemployment.

I want to just share a couple of stories and then ask my colleague from New York (Mr. TONKO) to join me. I was at a meeting that was set up in Berkeley, California, at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, one of the premiere laboratories in the United States. And the director of the lab was talking about technology transfer; that is, research, the product of that research coming out of the laboratories,

and then jobs being created from that, and new businesses, the entrepreneurial spirit. As he went through his story, I suddenly was so upset, not by the research, not by the technology transfer, but rather by the fact that his final statement was, "And this company is moving to China to manufacture the product of this research." And I thought to myself, How can that be, that the investment of the American people in the research, the education of the engineers and scientists, and then this research coming out of the laboratory and all of the development work, but finally we find that the whole thing winds up in China?

So what we want to talk about today, at least in part, is this: making it in America. What are the governmental policies that will, once again, create a situation where we will be making it in America, and the director of the laboratory won't be telling me in a meeting that, Gee, this great idea is moving offshore so that the manufacturing will take place in China? The reason he said that the manufacturing was going overseas is that there was no capital formation, no capital available. So I'm going to spend just a few moments on this before I turn it over to my colleagues.

Here is what's important. This is where innovation is, and this is where innovation fits into our economy. If you take a look, over the last decade, the enormous growth in the sales of the innovation companies, it's grown from about \$1.5 trillion to \$3.1 trillion. And all of this is in an innovation economy. So this is exceedingly important in the job growth of this country.

Another thing to keep in mind is this: The innovative companies create the jobs, and they grow quickly. Just looking at the total GDP—the innovation companies that I showed in the previous chart, the total volume, over 21 percent of the American GDP is in these innovation companies. So why is it that this new company can't find the capital to build a manufacturing facility in the United States? Well, one of the reasons is Wall Street and all the games that are going on on Wall Street. But there's also another one. And this is particularly important to California. That is venture capital and IPOs, the initial public offerings.

If you take a look at this, you will notice that a decade ago, we had a lot of public offerings. And over the last several years, we've seen a decline in the public offerings. What the public offerings do is to free up capital by going out to the public, offering stock. That money then comes back to the venture capital firms, and this whole process goes round and round and over and over again, creating jobs in innovation. This is something we're going to have to address, and legislation is going to be introduced in the weeks ahead to address this part of making it in America.

So with that as an introduction to one piece of this larger picture of mak-

ing it in America, I would like to yield to Mr. JOHN LARSON of the great State of Connecticut, who is our caucus leader.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I thank the gentleman from California. I thank him for his leadership on this issue, as he has repeatedly taken to this floor in talking about what I think is thematically something that America is in tune with, and that's the understanding and the commitment that we need to return to manufacturing, we need to return to our industrial base, we need to enhance our innovative skills, we need to make things here in America. So Make It in America has become our agenda. Over the last several weeks, there have been more than 1,000-plus town forums and hearings where people have discussed the concept of creating jobs and making things here in America. We all know that for every manufacturing job, that creates four other service-sector jobs. And this is vitally important.

I visited a company with its president, Bing Murphy. The company is called Industrial Air Flow Dynamics. IAFD is a manufacturer in the State of Connecticut. They make everything right here in America. They compete with foreign companies. They're begging to make sure that they get more skilled workers lined up to do something that is extraordinarily unique in manufacturing.

And a recent study and survey in the State of Connecticut indicated that in the State alone, 2,500 manufacturing jobs were going unfilled because of a lack of skills or the appropriate training, and the need, oftentimes, for the small entrepreneur and manufacturer, who doesn't have a huge human resources department, to sort through applicants and to make sure that there's this opportunity for them to do that. But we're hoping to pilot and lead the way in making sure that we're matching skills with manufacturers as we continue to focus on making things here in America. We all know, as the gentleman from California has pointed out, that when you make it in America, every American can make it.

We have an opportunity that is quickly going to disappear, and that is the supercommittee. We have taken the position within the Democratic Caucus that there's a very simple equation: that job creation equals deficit reduction. Let me say that again: Job creation equals deficit reduction. We know from CBO scoring that just getting unemployment—which is at an unacceptable level of more than 14 million-plus Americans and 25 million Americans that are underemployed—that if we get the figure of 9.1 percent unemployment to below 7 percent, we cut the deficit by a third. There is no other silver bullet. There is no other item before us that brings that extraordinary relief that I know people on both sides of the aisle desire.

□ 1510

This supercommittee, by embracing jobs has an opportunity, unprecedented opportunity without a cloture vote that is used to block, and has been used in the Senate, for over 497 bills that we've passed, or without poison pill amendments in the House to allow an up-or-down vote on job creation, the President's proposals, the proposals that have been put forward by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. And while we may disagree in terms of our approach and methods, we all agree about jobs and so why not embrace this opportunity to create jobs.

If this should fail, it will fail because we didn't embrace job creation. We didn't embrace the concept of making things here in America. We didn't do what Bing Murphy has been doing back in Connecticut, and other manufacturers, focusing on and refusing to do anything other than the patriotic thing, which is to invest in your people, invest in a commitment to America, invest in our manufacturing base so that we can put this country back to work, grow the economy and lower the deficit at the same time.

Americans simply want one thing. As they sit across their dinner tables this evening and have these discussions with their spouses, all they want is the simple dignity that comes from a job. We have an agenda. We have an opportunity. Let's not spoil this chance. Let's take advantage of this opportunity that we have before us to unite the country, put them back to work by making things here in America.

I commend the gentleman for his ongoing work, and I commend our colleagues that have come to the floor this evening to express this deep and abiding concern about jobs, deficit reduction, putting this country back to work, embracing innovation, embracing education, and investing in Americans so that we can succeed.

Thank you so much, and I commend the gentleman from California.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. LARSON, thank you so very much. You speak well of Connecticut and you speak well for Connecticut.

I guess we are going to do our East-West show here. I would just point out before we go there that America has lost about 40 percent of its manufacturing jobs in the last 20 years. We can rebuild it. Most of the economic indicators are that America can be competitive in manufacturing. We need to have a level playing field, so China currency is an issue.

Mr. TONKO, you've been involved in this innovation economy for a long time. As I recall, you ran the State of New York's innovation efforts before you became a Member of Congress. So please share with us today your thoughts, and we'll begin once again the East-West show.

Mr. TONKO. Thank you, Representative GARAMENDI, and thank you for bringing us together for some very thoughtful dialogue about the highest

priority that is held by Americans coast to coast, and that is job creation, job retention. Make no mistake about it, there is no other higher priority.

I agree with the previous statements made by the gentleman from Connecticut. Representative LARSON spoke of the absolute simplistic equation of job creation and retention equals deficit reduction. It doesn't get plainer, simpler, or more sound than that. It is about creating jobs, reducing the deficit. The job growth will move forward in resolving several of our major issues out there.

You know, your focus, Representative GARAMENDI, on the initial public offerings, the IPOs as they're referenced, they have dropped precipitously, and knowing that then is a downward spiral that doesn't find the sort of investing that is absolutely essential is a very troubling notion. You know, many will talk about just leaving it to the capitalist model, let it just work on its own. Well, it's obvious we need to prime the pump in many areas.

You talked about my role in the State of New York. When I served as the head of the New York State Energy Research Development Authority, we found that investing from the public sector sources leveraged tremendous amounts of private sector capital. We see it in this global race. This global race on clean energy and innovation is driven by a robust competition. What we find are the counterparts, the competitors to our American industries are helped along the way with a co-investing, if you will, that comes from their native country. There are those economies out there that are co-investing with their private sector. Here we are asked to cut dollars for research and development, cut dollars for partnerships, cut dollars for incentives that will inspire that sort of robust quality that is essential if Americans are going to compete and compete effectively well. So our trends are out there. They are well documented.

We saw that we ignored manufacturing as a sector of the economy. We ignored agriculture, and we focused primarily on service sector. And then very narrowly within that service sector with the financial sector. We know what happened. We turned our back, let the watchdog leave the cage and allow for freestyle to go amuck. And what happened? Across this country people who had invested all their life savings into the trusted hands of portfolio activity were found without any sort of return. And then America's economy was brought to its knees.

That is not the kind of outcome we want here. So we have said hey, let's go forward and we have witnessed now the growth of some 2.8 million private sector jobs. That's after a trend with the Bush recession of 8.2 million jobs lost. Just this past election day, I think you can see some trends out there that are finding the public swing to the Democratic message because they know it is

about job creation and job retention. They know it is about investing in the tools and the tool kits that get us those jobs. We are an ideas economy, and we need to invest in those ideas, build the prototype, allow it to move to a manufacturing sector and be robust in our attempts. Make it in America is the mantra to which we have brought the conference, the Democratic conference, of this House.

We are talking in straightforward language about revitalizing America's manufacturing sector. We can do it and we can compete keenly if we do it smarter. We don't necessarily have to do it cheaper. We have to do it smarter.

I have talked in my tours with manufacturing throughout the 21st Congressional District in the capital region of New York State, I have talked with a number of manufacturers. We have done tours. We have visited and heard front and center from the leadership squad: there are thousands of jobs in this country from coast to coast for which skill sets have to be developed. If we move to an automated phase of manufacturing, there are qualities, there are skills, the academics, the analytical skill sets that are required in order for us to move forward aggressively.

Now there is a sophistication in our society, a sophistication that finds us creating product lines not yet on the radar screen. People will suggest, they will lament that the glory days of manufacturing have passed us by. No, we need to move forward aggressively and proactively in creating the agenda that will develop the products of the future. If someone is to suggest that every idea out there, every concept of a product has been conceived, designed, engineered, manufactured, produced, we are kidding ourselves. And so this is an investment in the future. This is a visionary attempt to pull us along into an area that was ignored and ignored, that found that ignoring of the manufacturing sector found us falling into the woes of a recession. And so it's time now for us to do it smart, to do it in a way that invests in our manufacturing base, celebrates the empowerment that small business brings to the fabric of our economy, the small businesses, the economic engine that provides the jump start to our economy. They need the assistance, and that has been our effort here: talk about revitalizing manufacturing, supporting small business, moving forward with education, higher education, and research and development to move the ideas economy along. That's America at her best. That's her pioneer spirit, and let's continue to move in that direction.

Again, thank you for bringing this dialogue to the floor.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO, thank you very much. The view from New York is very similar to the view from California. We've lost 40 percent of our manufacturing jobs. We can get them back. We need a level playing field. China currency issues are very much

on the mind of the Democrats. We want to make sure that China currency is no longer used to the advantage.

But there is also something here, and I will take just a couple of seconds before I turn to my friend from Texas, American manufacturing does exist. It's the great middle class. I want to give you one example where public policy makes all the difference. Near Sacramento, there is a very large and very new heavy manufacturing facility in place. It stretches about a quarter mile, maybe almost a half mile. It is thousands of square feet of buildings, and in those buildings they're manufacturing trolley cars, streetcars, light rail, and they're also manufacturing locomotives. The company is a German company. In fact, it's one of the largest manufacturers in the world—it's Siemens—and they have moved to Sacramento to manufacture these pieces of equipment, transportation equipment, because Federal law said that the money from the Federal Government must be used to buy American made equipment—buy American-made equipment so that we will, once again, make it in America.

□ 1520

Now I happen to have two bills that do that, that extend that stimulus bill law into the future not only for transportation but also for solar systems, wind, and renewed green energy system. Our tax money supports it. Let's use our tax money to rebuild the manufacturing base by buying it in America.

I know the view from Texas is also similar. I've heard SHEILA JACKSON LEE, the honorable Representative from the area of Houston, speak on this issue. She's joining us here today on the floor.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I thank the gentleman from California and my colleagues from Ohio, Alabama, Minnesota, and New York. I think that is a sufficiently far reach to know that this is a national issue. Mr. GARAMENDI, we thank you from your perch as an insurer, meaning your experience in insurance, which is also a source of funding sometimes. As the insurance industry invests, you know that America is not broke and that America can, in fact, create jobs and do it by manufacturing.

So I'm delighted to see the Make It In America theme continue over and over again. And let me just share some statistics, because as the supercommittee works, one of the challenges is whether or not they are focusing on creating jobs or just cutting taxes for those who do not need tax relief.

Eighty-two percent of Americans say it is important for Congress to produce legislation this year to reduce the Federal deficit through a balanced plan combining spending cuts and also ensuring that all Americans pay their fair share. In a couple of days, will that occur or will we have the same old same old, which is protecting the rich

and not allowing a fair, equal assessment of one's responsibility?

Eighty-four percent of Americans say it's important for Congress to reach a new Federal spending agreement to create jobs rehabilitating schools, improving needs and public transit and preventing layoffs. And 60 percent of those surveyed think the Federal Government should pursue policies to reduce the gap between the wealthiest few and the less well-off Americans. Well, that is what we're talking about today.

I notice that Mr. GARAMENDI had a poster on IPOs are down, particularly small IPOs, and that is a source of cash for investing back into small businesses and manufacturing. We did a survey of the manufacturing companies in our district. My friends, you can turn the corner in your neighborhood and find a building that is making something. We do not have to look for the large conglomerates. I'm delighted that we bailed out the auto industry. They are doing well. But you know them. You know they'll go to Detroit. You know they make big things and not little things. But we actually found that our manufacturers were embedded—by the way, our zoning is non-existent, so we have a little bit more flexibility. But we found these companies embedded in neighborhoods, down the street and around the corner from different neighborhoods. They are right there amongst us.

And the question is are we going to go into the 46th week when our friends on the other side of the aisle do not focus on how to enhance Make It In America? What I would suggest is that the payroll tax relief would help that is in the—pass the jobs bill, and access to credit, making sure that banks give access to credit so that the startups can have the equal playing field.

But also, my friend, these companies want to expand. When I visited small businesses, happened not to be manufacturers, they all said: Can we have money to expand, to create new offices, new services in the doctors' office, new ways of exploring resources for a small energy company?

So I'm here today to challenge the friends on the other side of the aisle, the Speaker, ready to challenge him to say: You come from Ohio, a working family. You get it, Mr. Speaker. Work with our leader, NANCY PELOSI. Work with our leadership, from the chairman of the caucus who has been so eloquent, JOHN LARSON, on jobs to the whip that talks about Make It In America, Mr. HOYER, and, of course, our vice chair and, of course, our assistant leader, Mr. CLYBURN, and our vice chair, Mr. BECERRA. All of these folks, if I have not left out anyone, have been talking time after time of Make It In America. But more importantly, we are not broke. If we can insist on letting our small businesses and our manufacturers get a leg up and we stop giving giveaways to those who are the beneficiaries of the Bush tax cuts and begin

some new concepts in funding, I think we can make it.

I want to close by simply saying to my friends in the private sector, you complain when we talk about pass the jobs bill. Frankly, I think it's a commonsense approach—payroll tax relief, hiring the chronically unemployed, putting to work teachers so that class sizes can go down, educating your next workforce, firefighters, police, et cetera. It is well documented that our large companies have a very flush cash flow. It is well documented that our major banks, our multinational banks, are well endowed with resources. My plea is that all of us become patriots, not party belongers, not card-carrying sign wavers as it relates to what party you're in, and begin to invest in America.

Frankly, our President has stabilized—stabilized—the economy. It's not where we want it to be. It's not bleeding. It's not where we want to go, but it's on the surge up. The numbers will show that it can do that.

We need the kind of partnership with the private sector that is long overdue, and we need the support by our government of supporting our manufacturing. We can come back. Before you know it, we will be percolating along and being the leader, if you will, of manufacturing, businesses, job creation, and investment as not arrogantly so but the model for the world in how do you invest in your people. And I'm looking forward to that starting with supporting a number of initiatives that are already suggested and certainly some that I'm introducing.

But I am just delighted that we have the thinkers that realize that investing in America is not the end but the beginning of a greater and greater America.

Mr. TONKO. Thank you, Representative JACKSON LEE, for your outstanding leadership on behalf of the Texas district that you represent with your outstanding leadership on this floor. You're so right. Everywhere we turn, you can see job creation and what it means to the local regional economy.

I have a touring concept that we do in our district, and we have a roundtable discussion routinely held with the small business community. And it is just profound to go around and see how many people are investing in manufacturing out there; and their product delivery is powerful, and the fact that they're exporting is an encouraging and enthusiastic thought. So it's all about showcasing what can happen.

And just think of it on a grander scale when we provide the underpinnings of support, when we invest in that concept of manufacturing and move forward with the incubator networks and all of the activities that nourish this sort of comeback story that is so essential right now after this economy was brought to its knees by an approach that was hard-hearted to manufacturing. It ignored what was happening. The same is true in agri-

culture, and we will maybe talk about that in a few minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. You're absolutely right.

Just one point about Make It In America and the idea of companies such as Siemens, our colleague from California, indicated, that they are in California, rightly so. And we should be very, very strong in making sure that our Federal dollars—this is not selfish. We are probably more expansive and liberal than many other countries around the world to ensure that if you're using our Federal tax dollars, you build it and make it in America, and you spread it.

There's a company called Caf, and I know that they're located in New York. We want them to spread some of that construction and building work down in Houston, Texas, because they're building a light rail with \$900 million, potentially, of Federal dollars.

So we can do this together, make everybody happy, create jobs, and insist upon putting our families, our young people, and America first in job creation, building buildup and making it in America.

I thank the gentleman.

□ 1530

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. And I think it is about investing, the key word; investing our way to a stronger tomorrow, investing our way to opportunity, investing our way to prosperity. I see it all the time. The dollars that were invested from State sources, public sources, and some Federal dollars into the capital region of New York that I represent leveraged tremendous private sector dollars with an investment in the bottom-line calculation in nanotechnology, in semiconductor science, in chip manufacturing, and in green collar workforce development. These dynamics are so powerful that they have lifted that region to the first of all hubs in America for job growth of the green collar variety, and in the top five as a hub for high-tech growth. So it happens. When you invest, it happens.

Now, speaking about sound voices for a resurgence in our private sector job growth, in our public sector support networks, for those employees, a tremendously dynamic voice from our new freshman class, Representative TERRI SEWELL from the great State of Alabama.

Representative, thank you for joining us this afternoon. And I know that you've been a very powerful voice for job creation, job retention in our economy.

Ms. SEWELL. Thank you very much. I am indeed delighted to join my colleagues in discussing making it in America.

I think you will all agree that any playbook about job creation must have as its cornerstone the creation of jobs in our small businesses. And so today I rise in support of small businesses and entrepreneurs across the Seventh Congressional District of Alabama, and indeed this Nation.

As America recovers from our economic recession, we must continue to make strategic policy decisions that benefit our economy and encourage job creation. Small businesses play a critical role in our economy. They provide jobs, they spur innovation, they indeed strengthen our economy.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and are responsible for generating half of the Nation's gross national product as well as employing over half of its workforce. In fact, over the past decade and a half, America's small businesses and entrepreneurs have created 65 percent of all new jobs in this country. That is why I introduced H.R. 1730, the Small Business Start-Up Savings Account Act. More entrepreneurs will benefit if they are provided better incentives that will allow them to save and start a new business.

On average, an entrepreneur who wants to launch a new business spends on average \$80,000 in their first year in startup costs. Entrepreneurs often go into debt to start their own businesses. Many even use their savings from their retirement accounts to build the capital they need to run those small businesses. This bill will allow entrepreneurs to save up to \$10,000 per year tax free so they can start their own small businesses. Once an individual starts their small business, funds from a savings account can be used for their operating expenses.

The government can't guarantee a company's success—I think all of us would agree with that—but the government can knock down barriers that prevent hardworking Americans from starting their own businesses.

Innovation is the key to keeping America number one, and small businesses have always been at the forefront of American innovation. We can't expect to start and continue to be competitive in a global economy without making small businesses and the creation of small businesses the centerpiece of our playbook.

As we continue to build our economy, we must give entrepreneurs incentives and the tools they need to prosper right here in America. When American small businesses are given the opportunity to grow and thrive, they help rebuild our country, our country's middle class, and strengthen our economy. We must recommit ourselves to helping create businesses right here in America.

My colleagues have been talking about rebuilding in America and investing in what's good in America. Our small businesses are where it's at. They create the bright and prosperous future that we as Americans want to ensure. Small businesses will help to out-innovate and out-build our other competitors globally. I urge my colleagues to join with me in standing up for small businesses and entrepreneurs across this great Nation and support H.R. 1730, the Small Business Start-Up Savings Act. Now is the time to blend

bold, new initiatives with common-sense solutions so that we can strengthen our economy and create jobs right here in America.

I thank my colleagues for letting me join them in this hour in promoting all that is good in America, and in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship right here in America by supporting our small businesses.

Thank you very much.

Mr. TONKO. You are most welcome, Representative SEWELL.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) will control the remainder of the hour.

Mr. TONKO. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Representative SEWELL, absolutely right on in your focus as to the strengthening and the value added of small business.

H.R. 1730 is a powerful response to the needs of small business, making certain that the savings opportunities, especially in those early startup years, are made more valid and more available to small business as a network. Certainly the small business community is a tremendous corporate citizen in the fabric of our communities, and they get tethered into our communities in a way that enables them to grow and prosper, all while adding jobs and providing the intellect and innovative sort of spirit, which is important.

Speaking of colleagues who have been outstanding voices on job creation, job retention, we know that Ohio has been in the news lately. And we have one of those voices from Ohio serving in the Democratic Caucus, one whom I am very proud to know and work with. Representative TIM RYAN, representing communities like Youngstown and Akron, has been a very powerful force in acknowledging that it's investing in job creation that is our number one concern right now.

We've seen what's been happening in Ohio. There is an outburst of pride coming from that State about the activism that is really speaking to and empowering the middle class. And we empower the middle class by providing jobs.

Representative RYAN, thank you so very much for being that outstanding voice.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I thank the gentleman.

He hit the nail right on the head when he was articulating the kind of things, whether in New York or Ohio or anywhere in the country, really what the essence is, and that's resuscitating manufacturing back in the United States. And that needs to be a goal throughout the country because of what it does for the local economy and what it does for the States, what it does for tax revenue, what it does for the creation of intellectual property, because there are many people on the factory floor actually thinking about how this product can maybe be made

differently, manufactured differently, how value could be added to it. It is very important. But what it's going to take, in part, and what's been happening in Ohio is a coalition, I believe, of working class people, of small business people who recognize that we have to make investments into our States and into our country.

And what happened in Ohio last week with the referendum that was trying to dismantle the bargaining rights of public employees, police, fire, teachers—the very people that we need to protect our communities so that we can have good, strong, vibrant small businesses, the very people who are educating our kids and our students who are eventually going to go into these businesses—were under attack.

The upside to this whole thing is that a coalition formed in Ohio, a coalition of working class people who get educated, get trained, have master's degrees, protect us, go into burning buildings, we call them when we get in trouble, they deal with all of the societal problems that go into their classroom, but they are committed to educating our young people. Eighty-two out of 88 counties in Ohio helped beat back this attack, and with over 61 percent of the vote in Ohio, beat back this attack. And the real upside to this whole thing is that a lot of people who are in this coalition of police, fire, teachers, public employees, as well as the private sector unions—the auto-workers, the steelworkers, the plumbers, the pipefitters, the piledrivers and millwrights and the ironworkers and sheet metal workers, there were a lot of these people who used to watch Fox News. They used to listen to Rush Limbaugh. They used to listen to Glenn Beck. And they said, in story after story, after campaigning for this for months, that they realized what's been happening here. They've realized this assault that's been coming in and funded campaigns across the country, big money coming in to try to divide the middle class and try to dismantle the agenda. And I believe that this coalition, Mr. Speaker, is an opportunity for us to have the political coalition needed to recognize what investments we have to make back into our country. That's what happened in Ohio.

□ 1540

People are recognizing that they've been trying to get us divided, who's in a union, who's not in a union, who's in a public sector union, who's in a private sector union, who's black, who's white, who's gay, who's straight; just divide the middle class, divide the working class. And this coalition came together.

And I believe that if we're going to have the kind of investment, if we're going to resuscitate manufacturing in the United States, if we're going to realize that the government certainly can't do everything, but it has to do something, it has to make these investments into engineers and good, solid

public schools, and community colleges, and colleges and Pell Grants, so that you can have the work force available to ignite this kind of economic development that's needed around our country.

These are about investment. And to have 2 to \$3 trillion in transportation and infrastructure investments that need to get made, we now need a political coalition to say, hey, let's make these investments. Akron, Ohio does not have \$1 billion to finance their combined sewer problem, so let's put these building trades workers back to work, which is going to generate revenue for the City of Akron and Youngstown and Cleveland and Pittsburgh and all these others, which is going to increase their coffers, that they will have money to spend on police and fire and teachers and investments back into the community, and then partner with the private sector.

Ultimately, at the end of the day, the private sector has got to come in and drive this revolution, without a doubt. But it is time for us to make the investments necessary that are going to allow the private sector to come in here and make the private investments that will lead to job creation. So the bills that we have and that we're offering are an alternative vision.

I'll tell one quick story. We were having a conversation one day, a Member of Congress and I, one from the other party, talking about investments into the semiconductor industry. And they were down here lobbying, the semiconductor industry was down here lobbying on investments that need to be made.

And one of our colleagues said well, that's why we're giving you tax cuts, so that you guys in your business can make these investments. And the four or five CEOs said, you don't understand. We're talking about billions of dollars that need to get invested in order for the semiconductor industry to go in and partner and use the technology and the research that has been developed.

So it's the government's job to plant the garden, to till the soil, the sunlight, the water, to grow the plant, and then let the private sector come in and pick the fruits and the vegetables that they may need. That's what we've always done in this country, whether it was military research, NASA, NIH, that's what we did, and that's been a recipe for success for us.

So I'm excited about what's going on in Ohio because I think we finally have the political coalition that is needed to give politicians and leaders in the State and country the backing that they need to push this kind of agenda.

Mr. TONKO. Representative RYAN, what a great coalescing going on in Ohio, and what a statement by the middle class, of people of all backgrounds coming together speaking with one voice, based on a common thread of jobs, the dignity of work, powerful statement. And we should all be motivated and inspired by that outcome.

You talked about government's role to plant the garden. Let me just talk about another sector just to associate with that element of agriculture just for a bit here this afternoon.

Why such a struggle on this House floor to get the dollars for farmers who were impacted by natural disaster?

I saw record flooding in my district. We had wonderfully productive soils in the upstate regions of New York State. You would think that it wasn't part of some industrial sector, that there wasn't an ag sector in our economy. All they were asking for was to have debris removal dollars, to have farm land restoration, crop land restoration dollars at a time when we were impacted by the ravages of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Was that too much to ask?

Well, I'm happy to see that the push here in this House coming from those of us who have visited those districts and really pushed the agenda are able to account for \$338.6 million being added so that we can take programs like the Emergency Conservation Program, the Emergency Water Protection Program, and allow for restoration of farm land, debris removal and all the activities that will drive productivity back to the farm.

All they were asking for was a chance to recover from the forces of Mother Nature. And if you can't assist in a situation like that, if it took this tug of war, if it took advocacy, if it took putting a bill in the House to really push everyone to move on behalf of our farmers—you know, I voted against that original package because they said zero additional aid for the ag community. Unacceptable.

So you talk about government planting the garden. That's just a sampling of investing that was critical so you could keep those ag forces going, those ag related jobs. Absolutely critical, not only to our economic recovery, but to the nutritional impact that it bears for all of America's families.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. If the gentleman will yield, I think there's really something to this idea that there's a lot of things that happen that support our economy that we take for granted, that we don't see all the time. And I think what you're talking about, with farmers, you know, food just arrives at the grocery store. You know, a lot of us don't pay enough attention to all the intricacies that go into that getting there.

The same with the police, same with the fire, same with the teachers. You take it for granted that this is always going to be there. But these people who are sanitation workers in your city or town are essential to the functioning of our commerce, and so we've got to pay attention to this stuff and reinvest back into it.

Mr. TONKO. And it took putting the flood lights on to the situation, where in the middle of tragedy we're looking to change the rules; we are looking for offsets in order to provide assistance to

our national farmers' impacted farms under water, valuable farm land being eroded away. And we changed rules? I mean, it was unacceptable.

And just speaking to that hard-heartedness was an exercise for me that was a learning curve because it took every bit of providing evidence, from pictorial evidence to documentation of loss that finally moved this House to respond to the needs of our farmers.

So, that being said, it's about, I think, investing, as has been said here in this special order hour. It's about investing and believing in America. The middle class needs that empowerment. They deserve and require it.

Think of it. None of the strata can survive without a powerful middle class. Someone needs to build the product, someone needs to purchase the product. Enhancing the purchasing power, growing consumer demand will drive private sector jobs growth. More expectation, more desire to buy products, you put more people on, you develop product line.

It works. It's a simplistic thing to follow. It's a pattern that's sensible. And so what we want to do is make certain that we empower that middle class. We've seen a lot of outbursts about the social and economic injustice out there, and it's about providing a reasonable approach so that our middle class can be vibrant again.

I think it's what people were stating a week ago at the polls. They were saying, we're listening to the Democrats' message; we're embracing it and we're shifting our loyalties. We're now choosing to side with those who are talking about a wise approach, investing in job creation, which equals deficit reduction. Basic, simple, sound.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And I don't think anybody's of the illusion that somehow a coalition like this is going to agree on every issue. But what happened in Ohio was that there was a prioritization of what really matters, of what are the fundamental issues that it means to be an American, and what's the recipe that America always had that led to our success.

It wasn't an accident that we jumped the Soviet Union in the race to space. It was a concerted effort on behalf of the government, private industry and the people in the country. And we had this recipe that was investments and infrastructure and research and education and making sure we had good regulations in the financial industry. And we were the world power for a long, long time, and we still are.

But we've seen the decrease in wages or stagnant wages for 30 years, and attacking the workers now to say, as they were in Ohio, that it's your fault. You're making too much.

There was a great placard at one of the rallies. The guy said, I make \$30,000 a year, I have a Master's Degree and I'm the problem. So this is the kind of coalition I think we need.

I think it gets to, hopefully, a new alternative vision for the country and for

our government which, to me, is it's not about government being too big or too small. It's about the government working.

And if the people, the working class people see that the government is working, that it is regulating its markets, making wise investments, recognizing the value of education and the investments we need to make, then they're going to vote in who's ever doing that.

But this shrink it and drown it in the bathtub and don't make the kind of investments that we made for so many different years is not a recipe for success. It's a recipe for disaster.

□ 1550

Mr. TONKO. I think the people feel at risk when they believe that those who have this highest concentration of wealth have just so much influence on the outcome in Washington that it's unacceptable. And they now know who's paid the price.

You know, the middle class, when given the opportunity, remains silent, or at least mildly content. When you take that away and you then involve this unjust outcome to impact them, then they get angry.

So the outburst here is we need the investing. We want our children to have the opportunity to reach for the American Dream. It has always been the passion that drives this country. And when you talked about the global race on space during the JFK years, President Kennedy acknowledged up front we're going to do this, not because it's easy, but because it's hard.

People know that these are tough decisions, but they also want to hear the commitment. They want to hear conviction. Are we going to support, are we going to be the underpinnings of human infrastructure, the development of a workforce, training, retraining, education, higher education; incentives that provide for research so you can be a land of discovery, a land of creating product line, of traveling into new spheres of influence that can just express the magnanimous quality of America and all she offers?

When you suffocate those areas of potential, you're denying the middle class its chance at the American Dream. And that's what this is about. People see undue influence coming from a very few and denying the vast majority their chance at the American Dream. And that's what this Nation has always been about. It's been there as an ideal. It's been a beacon of hope. It's seen as a garden of opportunity, and we need to culture, move that culture forward in a way that is driven by sound programs, sound projects, sound policy. It's about the programs, projects, and policies.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And a respect for the workers who are ultimately going to elevate this. And we see that within manufacturing, how the ideas and the intellectual property that come from the factory floor are driven by those

workers who are sitting there every day thinking about how this can be done better.

We have so much potential within the workforce that is undeveloped, untapped, and not utilized properly that could lift us up and help us create this whole new economy that is going to get created somewhere by somebody somehow, and it might as well be us. And if we make the proper investments, we have the talent and the creativity in the country to make it happen. But I think it gets back to having a general respect for the workers.

We had firefighters that I met make 30 runs in one day on a rig and get paid 40-some thousand dollars a year. And the runs aren't like me and you running over to vote. They're runs into burning buildings.

Mr. TONKO. With a lot of weight on your back.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Carrying oxygen tanks and everything else. And there just has been a disrespect for that kind of work—the sanitation worker, the custodian, the teacher—pushing the blame of all society's problems onto these public workers in that instance.

Then, now in Ohio, for example, they're coming in and they want to make it a right-to-work State. So those building trade folks who we're going to try to get back to work, there's 20 percent unemployment in the trade. We're trying to get them back to work with the infrastructure investments that we need to make. To say to them, "You're not going to be allowed to have a fundamental right of collectively bargaining and to be able to negotiate contracts, and it's going to diminish the wages and everything else," similar to what happened or what they wanted to do in Ohio—it's about respecting these people. And when you respect them, they'll come to perform, but it takes those investments and that general appreciation.

Mr. TONKO. And essential services that are performed.

You talked about water and sewer opportunities, the construction projects that we require. It's about human infrastructure, capital infrastructure, physical infrastructure. If we feed that with soundness of investment—not just spending and throwing money at something, but with an accountable plan, one with a vision, one with goals, one that embraces a soundness of future—we are ahead of the race of anyone else out there. We can maintain the soundness of leadership in this global economy if we believe in ourselves, if we believe in the American Dream, if we invest.

We've been joined by Representative JOHN GARAMENDI from the great State of California. He kicked us off. The hour came into my hands, and now you're back to revisit. So we thank you Representative GARAMENDI, again, for serving as inspiration to really get the thought process moving and verbalize where we are as a powerful conference in this House and where I think we've

attached to the great thinking out there, the overwhelming thinking of Americans.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO, thank you very much for carrying on; and, Mr. RYAN, thank you for your insight into what is so obvious. The American people do not want their rights taken away from them. They have the right of collective bargaining; you're quite correct about that.

Excuse me for having to step out. My constituents from California were here in town, and interestingly enough, they were talking about one of the jobs programs that we really need to do.

I represent the central valley of California, the great California Delta, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the largest estuary on the west coast of the Western Hemisphere, and there's always been severe flooding problems in that area. So they were asking about how are we going to fund the necessary flood projects.

It's been a long, long history of the Federal Government through the Corps of Engineers supporting the construction of levees and other flood protection devices. But all of that seems to be ramping down as this mania of cut, slash, and burn the budget occurs around here.

Now, the President offered the American Jobs Act; and in the American Jobs Act, there's \$50 billion for infrastructure, part of which is water systems, sanitation systems, road transportation systems, but also flood control systems—desperately needed in our area. We could probably employ a couple hundred thousand construction workers immediately if somehow this House were to pass the American Jobs Act.

So I'm just thinking about the relationship of what we're talking about here on the floor and what my constituents were talking about, the necessity of developing water projects as well as flood control. We really ought to do that, because we can take these unemployed construction workers, several hundred thousand of them who are now receiving unemployment checks—they're tax takers. We can put them to work building the infrastructure, the foundation for tomorrow's economy, and they become taxpayers.

You started off this conversation with something that is so very, very true—I guess Mr. LARSON did—and that is the best way to deal with the deficit is put Americans back to work. It was an interesting side bar to our work here on the floor; but it fits so well with what we're talking about here, which is jobs, putting people back to work, using our collective powers of citizens of this great country to employ people by building the foundation for future economic growth. And you mentioned education as one of those pieces. There's so much to do.

If you would kind of wrap us up. I think we've got 3 or 4 minutes, and we can go from there.

It's been a good afternoon sharing our thoughts about how we can create

jobs, get Americans back to work, get our economy back to work. And the President's laid out a good, bold program.

Incidentally, it's paid for. We're not going to borrow money to put these construction workers back to work. It's paid for. The way it's paid for is that those 1 percent of Americans, the superwealthy who've had an income of more than a million dollars a year after all of the deductions—that's after adjusted gross income, a million dollars or more—they have enjoyed enormous tax reductions over the last 11 years, what we would ask is some basic fairness, that they contribute to putting Americans back to work with a small increase in their taxes over and above a million dollars. No increase below.

Mr. TONKO. Well, I think to just match some words to what your most recent statement was, we have to think back, too, and look at recent history to have it speak to us. We borrowed totally for the millionaire-billionaire tax cuts and for two wars that were being fought, and now we wonder why we have a problem, a deficit situation, and why we want to blame the worker.

Now, look. We say it's about investing in the human fabric, in the core individual, making certain that the skills that can be unleashed by that investment are put into a work situation that can enable us to be a nation of discovery, a nation of innovation, of design, of invention. That's America in her greatest moments, and I think those moments lie ahead of us.

I'm optimistic that if we do this plan of investment, we will see tremendous growth in our economy. We will see our competitive edge in the global market get all the sharper and more keen. However, it takes that investment. It takes that vision, laser sharp, and it takes the commitment to stand up against this tide to just slash and burn, as you indicated, after so many were witnessing that the very few were given a gift for which we borrowed.

□ 1600

Now we're asking for someone else to have their turn—America's middle class.

Pursuing the American Dream deserves that sort of attention. It deserves the dignity of work. It deserves the respect of those who lead this Nation, and for them to do it in a fashion that is going to respond in fullest measure.

Representative GARAMENDI, it has been a pleasure to join with you on the floor.

Mr. GARAMENDI. The gentleman from New York says it so eloquently.

Long ago, I did a study of the California economy. We decided there were basically five things that needed to be done, and now, from the Federal level, I'd add a sixth. They are the things that you've been talking about:

Education, the best education in the world, so that our workers are capable of carrying on the new tasks.

Research, as I discussed earlier, from our laboratories and our universities of the new products.

We need to make sure the research is there and then take the research out of the laboratories and create the new products—making it in America because manufacturing matters.

The fourth thing is the infrastructure, which I was discussing and that I know you discussed while I was gone here, and laying the foundation upon which the economy will grow—transportation, communication, sanitation, water-flood protection—all of those infrastructure items.

Then we need to always think in this context about our Nation's security and use our money wisely to provide the kind of defense and security that we need. That's also an energy issue, which we didn't bring up today but that we will the next time we talk.

Finally, the sixth thing is one that I think is so very, very important, which is the willingness to change. What we did yesterday will probably not work today or tomorrow, so we must always be willing to change and not be stuck back in the 1790s, but rather deal with the reality of the world in which we live today and change our systems and be willing to adapt and change.

Mr. TONKO. This has been a Special Order hour that I've enjoyed. I thank the gentleman from California.

Mr. GARAMENDI. And I thank you.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

GOP WOMEN'S HOUR: A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RIBBLE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today, I really want to talk about something that I think is very critical for this Nation. It's about how we get our spending in order.

I came from local government before I got here and then State government before I got here. Actually, I came from a household where I ran the checking account for my husband and myself and our family. In all cases, I balanced things. When I made out my bills once a month, I did what this lady is doing right here: I balanced the checkbook first to see how much money I had in the account so I knew how much I was spending and, more importantly, whether I was overspending, so that next month I could ratchet back on the spending to balance things out. When I was a township trustee, the same thing. We looked at our revenue sheets and our income sheets at every single meeting twice a month and balanced things out. In Ohio, like 49 other States, we have to balance our State budget, in our case, every 2 years.

So you can imagine the surprise I had when I got to Congress and realized we don't balance our budget at the Federal level, that we don't balance our checkbook. I was amazed why we don't do this. Maybe that's the reason we continue to have bloated spending that is weighing down, not just the future that lays before us, but our children's future and their children's future.

In 1982, Ronald Reagan said regarding a balanced budget that only a constitutional amendment will do the job. He said, We've tried the carrot and it failed. With the stick of a balanced budget amendment, we can stop government's squandering, overtaxing ways and save our economy.

Man, that was 29 years ago. I've got to repeat that because that's kind of like where we are today.

Only a constitutional amendment will do the job. We've tried the carrot and it failed. With the stick of a balanced budget amendment, we can stop government's squandering, overtaxing ways and save our economy.

Ronald Reagan was right. In fact, in 1995, under legislation that was in the House, which was controlled by the Republicans under Newt Gingrich, they tried to pass a balanced budget amendment. Lost it by one vote. I believe tomorrow or the next day or sometime this week, under the leadership of JOHN BOEHNER, we're going to try this same thing again. I just think it's imperative that we don't lose that vote.

The American people, I believe, are on the side of myself and my female colleagues who are going to join me here this afternoon, because the American people get the fact that we are not balancing the checkbook. When we don't balance the checkbook, we don't know what we're spending. If we don't know what we're spending, we don't know how to correct our past mistakes and plan appropriately for the future.

So, in the last election in 2010, when a lot of seats were changed in this very room, I believe it was a mandate by the citizens of our great Nation who said, Enough is enough. Stop the spending and stop it now. The United States is staring down the barrel of a \$15 trillion accumulation of debt. \$3.7 trillion of new debt in just 2 years is more than a figure, my colleagues—it is a wake-up call.

When President Obama took office, he said he would correct the problem, and in 2009, he put out an \$821 billion stimulus program to stimulate the economy. Of course it cost us over \$1 trillion with interest because, you see, we didn't balance the checkbook, so we really didn't know what that was going to cost. Guess what? It didn't stimulate the economy. It didn't resolve unemployment.

For the last 33 months, it has been over 8 percent. In fact, for 31 of 33 months, it has been at 9 percent or higher. In October of this year, 14 million workers were unemployed, with an additional 8.9 million working part