

and inject millions of dollars into local economies. Instead, the Canadian Prime Minister announced Canada will sell its oil to China.

Mr. Speaker, I've proudly supported numerous bills that will create American jobs and promote American energy production. Putting the Gulf of Mexico Back to Work Act, Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act, Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act—these three bills will all promote American energy production and American jobs, and yet they're sitting in the Senate without action.

Let's pass these bills. Let's get them through the Senate. Mr. President, sign these bills and promote American energy production, American energy security, and American jobs.

GOP NO JOBS AGENDA

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, we've entered the 12th month of the Republican majority in this House, and if the past 11 are any indication, December will be a continuation of the GOP no jobs agenda.

My colleagues in the majority have shown no interest in tackling America's real economic challenges, no interest in the fact that small business owners say that weak sales, not government regulation, are the main source of their struggle.

No interest in the fact that it is tax relief for middle class families, not tax giveaways to corporations and to billionaires that our economy needs to boost consumer demand, and no interest in preventing the expiration of unemployment benefits for millions of struggling families and the havoc it would wreak on our economy. Mr. Speaker the majority's interest seems focused on one thing: an election still nearly a year away.

Americans want Congress to work for them. It's time we stand up for the middle class. Working families need us to work for them.

REGULATORY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2011

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 3010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 477 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3010.

□ 0914

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole

House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3010) to reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents, with Mr. WOMACK in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Employers across America face an avalanche of unnecessary Federal regulatory costs.

Federal regulations cost our economy \$1.7 trillion every year, over \$15,000 for each household, according to the Small Business Administration. Yet the Obama administration seeks to add billions more to that cost.

The administration's record-setting issuance of major regulations is particularly troubling. By its own admission, the administration's 2011 regulatory agenda contains 200 regulations that typically will affect the economy by \$100 million or more every year.

For employers, the people who create jobs and pay taxes, the impact of these costly regulations is clear. Government regulation has become a barrier to economic growth and job creation. Faced with huge, new, regulatory burdens and uncertainties about what will come next, employers slow down hiring, stop investing, and wait for a bill from the Obama administration.

What enables the administration to issue so many new regulations with so little regard for their costs is the outdated Administrative Procedure Act. Enacted in 1946, the APA's minimal limitations on rulemaking have hardly changed in decades and do nothing to control costs.

The Regulatory Accountability Act fixes this problem by bringing the APA up to date. Under its commonsense provisions, agencies are required to assess the cost and benefits of regulatory alternatives. Unless interest of public health, safety, or welfare requires otherwise, agencies must adopt the least-costly alternative that achieves the regulatory objectives Congress has established.

The Regulatory Accountability Act has bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate, including from a number of House Democrats who have cosponsored the bill. In large part, this is because its provisions are modeled on the Executive orders that presidents Reagan, Clinton, Bush, and Obama have issued to compensate for the APA's weaknesses.

Opponents of the act claim that it requires the benefits of all new regulations to exceed their costs. They argue that as a result the act will prevent Federal agencies from issuing impor-

tant new public health, safety, and welfare regulations. This is false.

The Regulatory Accountability Act only requires agencies to adopt the lowest cost regulatory alternative that achieves the agency's statutory objectives. This assures that agencies will achieve all of those objectives but with much lower costs.

Opponents also assert that the act's new procedural requirements will halt all Federal rulemaking, but the act primarily codifies existing Executive order principles and practices under which agencies have been able to issue regulations for years.

The act's few additional requirements all are streamlined. They will improve the quality and lower the cost of regulations, but they will not unduly delay them. The act increases the transparency of the rulemaking process with more advance notices of proposed rulemaking, more opportunities for public comment, and more opportunities for public hearings. This will lessen the influence of all special interests.

The Regulatory Accountability Act provides the greatest opportunity yet for Republicans and Democrats to join together and lower the job-killing cost of regulations. And it allows costs to be lowered while it assures that all of Congress' regulatory objectives are, in fact, obtained.

The bill also provides a clear opportunity for the votes of Democrats in Congress to match President Obama's words on regulatory reform. In his State of the Union address, the President said that "to reduce barriers to growth and investment, when we find rules that put an unnecessary burden on businesses, we will fix them."

In Executive Order 13563, the President said that "our regulatory system must promote economic growth, innovation, competitiveness, and job creation; must allow for public participation and an open exchange of ideas; must identify and use the best, most innovative, and least burdensome tools for achieving regulatory ends; and must take into account benefits and costs."

□ 0920

The President was right. And the Regulatory Accountability Act does all those things.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the Regulatory Accountability Act.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, November 17, 2011.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On November 3, 2011, the Committee on the Judiciary ordered H.R. 3010, the "Regulatory Accountability Act of 2011," reported to the House. Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with regard to H.R. 3010 on those matters within the committee's jurisdiction. I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to the consideration of H.R. 3010.