

Reducing red tape is critical, but cutting taxes and implementing meaningful tax reform that incentivizes businesses to hire is also key to invigorating job growth. When taxes are lower, businesses invest their resources and hire more workers, which is exactly what we want. When taxes are lower, taxpaying citizens are able to keep more of their own money, money to spend as they see fit, to save, or to invest.

Congress must consider the impact tax policy is having on small businesses' ability to succeed when small businesses are a primary source of job creation in the United States and the engines of economic growth.

Small businesses—those with less than 500 employees—represent 99.7 percent of all employers, and employ almost half of the private sector labor force—55 million workers. In Illinois, again my home State, small businesses represent 98.3 percent of all employers and provide jobs to 2.4 million workers, about half of the private labor force.

So when it comes to economic and tax policy, we need to listen to Main Street small businesses and mom-and-pop shops that create the jobs in this country. This is what they are saying when it comes to taxes and spending:

Ninety-one percent of small businesses find that the Tax Code is complicated enough to hire their own tax preparer.

Eighty-five percent think Congress should revise the Tax Code.

Eighty-one percent think government should cut spending before ever considering tax increases.

Seventy-eight percent want to close tax loopholes.

And 71 percent agree that tax reform should include lowering the tax burden on small businesses.

Thus, to enable small businesses to create jobs and improve the employment climate in this country, tax rates must be low.

High tax rates are a problem for small businesses because they siphon off revenue owners need to reinvest for growth and to create jobs.

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So what needs to be done?

The implementation of comprehensive tax reform that makes the Tax Code fairer, less burdensome, and more comprehensible for the folks who pay taxes and the small businesses that invest in hiring;

The permanent repeal of the estate, or death, tax, which I have long advocated is critical for small businesses and maintaining a healthy jobs climate. Many small businesses are family owned. The death tax is a major impediment for such businesses to keep operating in a down economy once the owner retires or dies. Protecting small businesses from the death tax is important in order to keep Main Street businesses operating for future generations and for preserving their ability to create jobs as we try to grow this economy;

We should cut taxes to spur investment and hiring. Lower tax rates lower the cost of capital and increase the rewards for the risks that businesses take in hiring new workers. I support increasing the small business expensing limit so businesses can immediately recover their costs and invest in their businesses and hire new workers;

We must simplify the Tax Code. It is too complicated when 9 out of 10 small businesses must hire someone to prepare their own taxes. Making the Tax Code easier to understand and follow and not placing new reporting burdens on small businesses will help them focus on growing their businesses and creating jobs.

In addition to reducing regulatory burdens and cutting taxes, eliminating wasteful spending and reducing the size of government is key to job growth:

Current trends have government spending continuing to hover at 22 percent of gross domestic product for the next 10 years;

Continued spending adds to the \$16.6 trillion debt, and that, in turn, drives up interest costs to pay for borrowing;

The CBO estimates that interest paid on the national debt as a percentage of the overall budget will more than double from the current 6.2 percent of the budget to 14.1 percent, consuming an ever larger share of Federal resources.

Clearly, we do need to cut spending relative to the overall Federal budget. Cutting spending reduces the amount of money government takes from the private economy. Cutting spending and reducing the size of government relative to the private sector keeps more money in the private sector where it can be put to productive use, such as in hiring and creating jobs. Cutting wasteful spending and balancing our national budget will also absolutely help job growth.

It's simple: the Federal Government should not spend more than it takes in if we want to create an environment conducive to job creation. I have advocated for and have supported the budget my House colleagues passed this spring that balances the budget in 10 years by cutting spending and fixing our broken Tax Code so that it is fairer and simpler for everyone. I also support and have worked hard to pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

Requiring the Federal Government to live within its means and balance spending with the money it takes in, just as families in Illinois and across America have to do, will instill fiscal discipline required to get our economy moving in the right direction. This will also promote confidence and create certainty within our Nation's private sector businesses so they can take productive steps towards hiring workers and growing their businesses.

According to the small businesses I meet in my district, there are more things we can do to spur job creation in this country. We can open up American

markets overseas. New markets mean a greater demand for American-made goods. The businesses that manufacture these products will hire workers to meet the demand.

In that regard, I have voted in favor of free trade agreements with countries such as Colombia and Panama and South Korea. I have also supported permanent normal trade relations with Russia in order that American manufacturers can receive the benefits of open markets as a result of Russia's joining the WTO. We also must eliminate the bureaucracy that hinders the development of American products. Bureaucracy should not stand in the way of American innovation and bringing products to market.

I am a cosponsor of the Protect Small Business Jobs Act. This legislation would provide small businesses with a limited grace period to correct regulatory violations, and if the violation is corrected in a timely manner, it allows for the waiver of any sanctions against the small business. This will help business owners like Tom, who, in referring to one Federal regulatory authority with which he was dealing, said, "Rather than working with industry to fix alleged issues, it is imposing significant fines right off the bat without giving companies the opportunity to first fix the concerns." Government should be a facilitator, not an obstacle, to new product development and job creation.

Mr. Speaker, the pathway to a growing economy and putting people back to work is clear. The small business job creators in my district and around the country have spoken: they want to get rid of burdensome and unnecessary red tape; they want lower taxes and a simpler Tax Code that lends to certainty and encourages growth and investment; and they want the Federal Government to exercise fiscal discipline and to serve as a facilitator for American innovation, product development, and marketing.

Mr. Speaker, we can help American small businesses get Americans back to work. America is the land of opportunity where, with a mixture of aspiration and diligence, anyone can achieve one's dreams. Let's redouble our efforts and renew our commitment to our fellow citizens to help them build a bright future for themselves, their children, and for this Nation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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In effect, they become a workforce multiplier, freeing agents to focus on other vital tasks like identifying, tracking, interdicting, and resolving events along the border.

For these reasons, I accept the gentleman's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HECK OF NEVADA.

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LAMBORN (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of personal reasons.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 18, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1876. A letter from the Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Development Utilities Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Community Connect Broadband Grant Program (RIN: 0572-AC30) received June 4, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1877. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final priority. Technical Assistance to Improve State Data Capacity--National Technical Assistance Center to Improve State Capacity to Accurately Collect and Report IDEA Data [CFDA Number: 84.373Y.] received June 6, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1878. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priority; Technical Assistance To Improve State Data Capacity--National Technical Assistance Center To Improve State Capacity To Accurately Collect and Report IDEA Data [CFDA Number: 84.373Y] received June 5, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1879. A letter from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Implementation of Regulatory Guide 1.221 on Design-Basis Hurricane and Hurricane Missiles [NRC-2012-0247] received June 4, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1880. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Models for Plant-Specific Adoption of Technical Specifications Task Force Traveler TSTF-426, Revision 5, "Revise or Add Actions to Preclude Entry into LCO

3.0.3-RITSTF Initiatives 6B & 6C", Using the Consolidated Line Item Improvement Process [Project No.: 753; NRC-2013-0007] received June 5, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1881. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Updated Aging Management Criteria for Reactor Vessel Internal Components for Pressurized Water Reactors [LR-1SG-2011-04] received June 5, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1882. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Quality Verification For Plate-Type Uranium-Aluminum Fuel Elements For Use In Research and Test Reactors Regulatory Guide 2.3 received June 4, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1883. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on International Religious Freedom for 2012; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1884. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of the Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN, and Southwestern Wisconsin Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas (RIN: 3206-AM75) received June 6, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1885. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report on the activities of the Community Relations Service (CRS) for Fiscal Year 2012, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2000g-3; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1886. A letter from the Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Assessment of Mediation and Arbitration Procedures [Docket No.: EP 699] received June 5, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1887. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulation, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — *Wilson v. Commissioner*, 705 F.3d 980 (9th Cir. 213), aff'g T.C. Memo. 2010-134, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1888. A letter from the Assistant Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Revenue Procedure: United States and Area Median Gross Income Figures [Rev. Proc. 2013-27] received June 6, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1889. A letter from the Assistant Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Empowerment Zone Designation Extension [Notice: 2013-38] received June 6, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1890. A letter from the Assistant Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Credit for Renewable Electricity Production, Refined Coal Production, and Indian Coal Production, and Publication of Inflation Adjustment Factors and Reference Process for Calendar Year 2013 [Notice 2013-33] received June 6, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1891. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue

Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2013-37] received June 12, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1892. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Temporary Shelter for Individuals Displaced by Severe Storms and Tornadoes in Oklahoma [Notice 2013-39] received June 12, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 85. A bill to create the Office of Chief Financial Officer of the Government of the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-110). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1169. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer to the Secretary of the Navy certain Federal land in Churchill County, Nevada; with an amendment (Rept. 113-111). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1300. A bill to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize the volunteer programs and community partnerships for the benefit of national wildlife refuges, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-112). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2397. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-113). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 266. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1797) to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-114). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1080. A bill to amend the Sikes Act to promote the use of cooperative agreements under such Act for land management related to Department of Defense readiness activities and to amend title 10, United States Code, to facilitate interagency cooperation in conservation programs to avoid or reduce adverse impacts on military readiness activities, with an amendment (Rept. 113-115 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows: