these questions are not answered, the American people will never know what took place in Benghazi.

THE FARM BILL AND POLLINATORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Last week's farm bill debacle in the House of Representatives highlighted a fundamental disconnect. My friends in the Republican majority felt that nutrition for poor people was not a priority because they were concerned about increasing government dependence for lower-income Americans.

Yes, there are more people receiving SNAP, or what we used to call food stamp benefits, because that's how the system is supposed to work. After our Nation suffered a near collapse of the economy, and with a much larger population of over 313 million people, we would expect that, in the face of persistent unemployment and job loss, more people would be on food stamps. We want them to get this assistance. It helps those families and it helps the economy.

Yet, by the same action, my friends passed the most expensive farm bill provisions in our Nation's history. Just like the direct payment program, which gave 75 percent of the payments to 10 percent of all farmers, the new price targets and crop insurance programs manipulate the market, concentrate wealth in the hands of the few, and fail to implement any basic reforms such as means testing and payment limits. The irony was not lost on many who watched the price tag go up and the benefits be concentrated in the hands of those who need it the least.

The bill lacked meaningful reform. The long overdue elimination of direct payments was coupled with a lavish increase in a new entitlement, shallow loss provisions of crop insurance. It locked in the currently high commodity prices as a threshold going forward. There were additional direct payments for cotton and a refusal to reform egregious sugar provisions. Subsidies for wealthy farmers are supported over innovation, research, and conservation. The bill lavished support on those that needed it the least, while stripping out nutrition support through the SNAP program, because they didn't want to foster dependence, all while a blind eye was turned to abuses in the lavish crop insurance program where fraud is 50 percent higher than in the maligned SNAP, or food stamp program.

I am hopeful that if this bill goes on to conference, we'll be able to reduce the costs, provide adequate support by reinstituting nutrition programs, and address long overdue reform for crop insurance.

At the same time, there would be some provisions that could actually bring people together. For years, I've been working in areas of protecting the pollinators. There are 250,000 little species that pollinate our food and help create $200 billion worth of food crops worldwide. One in every three forks of foods that we eat is due to pollination, as well as the flowers we enjoy, fruits, chocolate, and even tequila. Many of these things depend on these humble workers. Yet we've watched real threats to the critical habitat for pollinators. I'm hopeful that we can add a simple, nonpartisan provision that will make a difference for these protections.

Neonicotinoids are insecticides which have been linked to large bee die-offs. In one instance, it happened to 50,000 bees in Oregon last week. These insecticides have been banned for 2 years in Europe. I'm hopeful that as the farm bill goes forward, we can address putting a temporary ban on their sale here in the United States, taking a deeper dive on the impact they have on pollinators and, indeed, on the entire food chain for this very persistent substance that has the potential of affecting the impact not just of the health of bees but of our families as well. I'm also hopeful that we'll have a farm bill that can include low- or no-cost provisions like pollinating protection to bring people together to strengthen agriculture. These are vital parts of nature and of our food chain.

In the past, the farm bill wasn't a partisan battlefield. If we can focus on providing help for people who need it the most, rather than lavish subsidies for people that need it the least, and focus on innovation, conservation, and, yes, pollinator protection, things like this can strengthen our food supply, save money, protect the environment, and maybe enable us to make some progress in an area so far that looks embarrassingly remote.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask discernment for the Members of this people's House, that they might judge anew their adherence to principle, conviction, and commitment, lest they slide uncharitably toward an inability to listen to one another and work cooperatively to solve the important issues of our day.

Give them the generosity of heart, and the courage of true leadership, to work toward a common solution, which might call for compromise, even sacrifice on both sides. We pray that their work results not in solutions where some are winners and some losers, but where all Americans know in their hearts that we are winners.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

> I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the whole number of the House is 434.

JOBS REPORT MISLEADING

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, according to Investor's Business Daily:

> From the media to Wall Street, June's jobs report is being spun as a major positive, a sign the economy is back on track. Maybe the pundits should look at the actual numbers, which are abysmal. At June's pace of 195,000 new jobs a month, it will take 11 months to get back to where we were in 2007. It's even worse when you consider all of the net addition to June jobs—repeat, all—were part time. The underemployment rate shot up from 13.8 to 14.3 percent. This isn't a solid jobs report. It's a crisis.

House Republicans have passed legislation to promote jobs. Building the Keystone pipeline alone can create nearly 200,000 jobs. In the Midlands of South Carolina, the earthmover tires made by Michelin Corporation are shipped to Alberta, Canada, for oil sand recovery. At 12 feet high and $60,000 for each tire, there are over 300 jobs in