

to put party aside and say, “America is the most important thing in Washington, DC.”

In order to make sure people can find work, this Nation better—better knock down trade barriers. See, one of the things we’re good at, really good at, is growing food. We’re the best in the world. And it makes sense that if we’re good at growing food, that we ought to be trying to sell it not only at home but, when we have a little extra, overseas.

If you want to be—if you’re good at something and the best at something, it makes sense to allow that product to be overseas. One of the things I’m fighting for and one of the things I think makes great sense is for this nation to be a free trade nation—not to be afraid to compete but let us compete. And when we can compete in a fair way, we can whip anybody when it comes to selling food.

The other thing we need to do is to make sure we have an energy policy. We’re a blessed nation because we can grow our own food, and therefore, we’re secure. A nation that can feed its people is a nation more secure. Now, if you’re secure when you feed the Nation, it seems like one of the things we ought to try to be more secure about, as well, is having an energy policy that makes us less reliant on foreign sources of energy.

We can do a better job of conservation, and we will. We can do a better job of distribution, and we must. We can use some innovative products to provide energy, like ethanol. But one of the things we’ve got to do is to explore for energy in our own lands in an environmentally sensitive way.

We had a trade bill bottled up in the Senate. I hope they move it when we get back. We’ve got an energy bill bottled up in the Senate. I hope they move it when we get back. It is in the Nation’s interests that we move those two bills.

And finally, in order to make sure people can find work—and I’m worried about the fact that the evil ones hit us and it caused

people to lose their job—in order to make sure they can find work, we’ve got to have good, sound economic policy coming out of Washington, DC. And that starts with understanding how jobs are created.

One way you can create jobs is to lower people’s taxes. If people have more money to spend, it means somebody has got to produce more for them. And the producers then need to hire people. It’s Economics 101. Except sometimes people in Washington haven’t taken the course. *[Laughter]* We passed a meaningful tax cut, and now some of them want to take it away from you by delaying it.

*Audience members.* Boo-o-o!

*The President.* Yes, I agree. The best way—the worst thing to do is, in the face of this recession, is to not let people have their tax break. It doesn’t make any economic sense. And that’s why we’re not going to let them—that’s why we’re not going to let them repeal this tax cut.

And not only that, we can help workers who got laid off. We need to extend the unemployment benefits, and we need to help them with their health care. And we can do that, if we make our mind up to put people’s lives ahead of partisan politics. But I’m going to remind the folks in Washington that what people don’t want is an unemployment check; what they want is a permanent paycheck. And therefore we’ve got to put plans in place that stimulate our economy, that creates jobs, that says to employers, if you buy equipment, you get a little extra in order to help people find work.

No, we can do a better job in Washington, DC, of addressing this economic downturn. And I’m confident when the people’s voice rises up, the good folks up there elected to represent you all and everybody else will hear you loud and clear.

One of the things that the evil ones didn’t figure out was how strong we are. Oh, they knew we had a nice military, but they didn’t think we’d use it. They made a bad mistake. But what they also don’t