

**Rep. Louise M. Slaughter**

**Floor Statement- Suspension Authority**

**December 12, 2012**

I thank the gentleman for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

M./ Speaker,

I haven't seen an honest day's work from this Congress in quite a while. Earlier this year, CBS News reported that it costs \$24 million a week to run the House of Representatives. Yet for the last month, the Majority has spent this money on shuttling us back and forth to Washington- and then asking us to sit here and bide our time.

No more. It's time to get down to brass tacks and give the American people a return on their multi-million dollar investment.

We should start right here and right now, by passing a tax cut for the middle class.

The Senate has already passed such a tax cut, and Members from both sides of the aisle agree that we cannot let middle class tax cuts expire.

With such common ground, there is no reason for delay. We should take up the Senate bill and middle class tax cuts this week.

Once those tax cuts are passed, we can move on to the countless other issues that demand our attention.

We can extend unemployment insurance, which is set to expire on January 1<sup>st</sup>. We can provide support for the millions of Americans who are struggling to recover from Hurricane Sandy. And we can begin an open debate on renewal of the Violence Against Women Act, and a new five-year Farm Bill.

Historians have called this Congress the least productive in history and the Majority seems intent to keep that title. They have spent two years taking vote after vote to unsuccessfully repeal healthcare and even more time providing tax cuts to Big Oil.

In these last few weeks, it's time that we finally get down to work. In the final hours of this Congress, the Majority should help solve our nation's most pressing issues, not actively choose to leave our work unfinished.

Today's rule would give the Majority the freedom to spend the rest of the month on minor, non-controversial legislation. I refuse to give this blank check to a Majority that has yet to show interest in completing our outstanding work.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing today's rule so that we can finally get back to work. Today should be the day that we begin providing real solutions for those who we represent.

I RESERVE the balance of my time.