to solve the numerous issues that are devastating the Nation.

The President's speech didn't address the root causes of inflation, a crisis that is crushing many American families.

I found it ironic that Biden talked about securing the border when, throughout his entire time in office, he has actively ignored the unprecedented number of illegal crossings, which are due to his open border policies currently in place.

Finally, I am incredibly disappointed that he made no plan to restore American energy independence. We can produce affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy right here at home in States like my home State of Oklahoma.

Frankly, his address focused a lot on rehashing and disguising Build Back Better while lacking concrete solutions to the pressing issues negatively impacting the lives of American people.

ECONOMIC PROGRESS

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, at last night's State of the Union, President Biden had every reason to cite his extraordinary job creation record, the fastest job growth in U.S. history. After only one year in office, the President's American Rescue Plan was at the center of this achievement. Our economic growth was the fastest in nearly 40 years. As a result, the United States had a faster recovery than every other advanced economy in the G7.

This progress has been made even while the United States is trying to defeat COVID–19. As chair of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, I was particularly pleased to hear the President emphasize infrastructure, making goods move faster and cheaper, because this can only add to the historic job creation record he has achieved.

CALIFORNIA'S DEVASTATING 2021 FIRE SEASON

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I would like to point out to the Members here tonight once again that California had a very devastating fire season last year. The whole Western States of America have.

The Dixie fire alone was nearly 1 million acres in my district. Several other fires add up into the six-digit figures.

What we really need to do is have the United States Forest Service identify a fire within the first 24 hours of when a fire occurs and then pounce on it and put the fire out—no more monitoring fire.

Some other colleagues and I will be looking at legislation to put that in place. We were promised by the Forest Service that would be their policy. We need to enforce that. We need to have that be the dedication they have toward taking care of these Federal lands.

Indeed, there are multi-uses for people, for timber, for preservation. But when they go up in smoke, it just becomes a horrific environmental problem: first, air quality, and then the ash, the silt that is going to wash into our streams and oceans and water storage.

The Forest Service needs to get on the job.

SUPPORTING THE PACT ACT

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the PACT Act that Chairman TAKANO and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs brought before us today. I was very pleased to vote for it.

When those who go to serve our country abroad or even here at home come back to civilian life, they often carry with them the injuries of toxic exposure, such as burn pits, and we have a moral obligation for their care.

Madam Speaker, to shift to a different subject, as we watch the slaughter in Ukraine, I would urge the Government of the United States and the President of the United States to mobilize our National Guard Partnership for Peace programs across the various States. Ohio is linked to Serbia and Hungary, and Illinois to Poland.

There are ways for us as a country to use idle aircraft, like C–130 sitting on the ground in this country, where the American people want to donate blankets and bandages in ways of caring for those who are being killed and injured, who are hungry in the Nation of Ukraine. That is an unrealized asset we have.

We could do that overnight if we had the will to do it, the Partnership for Peace, the State Partnership for Peace, which is part of the U.S. Department of Defense under the National Guard Bureau.

Madam Speaker, I ask the President to help us help Ukraine.

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SECURE THE BORDER

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I was shocked when President Biden said ''we need to secure the border'' during his State of the Union address. In his first year in office, over 2 million illegal immigrants were apprehended at the southern border, deportations decreased by 70 percent, and 11,000 migrants were arrested who had previous criminal convictions.

Actions speak louder than words, and when Mr. Biden halted construction of President Trump's border wall and attempted to reverse the remain in Mexico policy, we knew that he didn't want to secure the border. The Biden administration's open border policies put immense strain on law enforcement as they work to combat the fentanyl crisis wreaking havoc on our communities.

In fact, Cumberland County, Tennessee, Sheriff Casey Cox recently took a trip to the southern border to gain a better understanding of the issue after a local 18-year-old woman died of a fentanyl overdose. Much like on my own trips to the border, Sheriff Cox observed how understaffed and ill-prepared we are to face the crisis under the Biden administration.

Madam Speaker, I urge the President to back up his words with action and do what he said: secure the border.

AMERICANS CANNOT MAKE ENDS MEET

(Ms. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, last night President Biden delivered a powerful speech on the state of our Union in this very Chamber. He outlined the historic achievements of the past year and spoke directly to the American people about his vision to continue building a better America.

Despite the progress we have seen, too many of our fellow Americans still cannot make ends meet. Too many families are struggling to afford rising food, childcare, housing, and gas prices. And too many of our neighbors remain locked out of the promise of America.

I stand with President Biden in his call to continue building our economy from the bottom up and the middle out. It is time to lower costs for families by reducing prescription drug prices, expanding access to affordable healthcare, and investing in pre-kindergarten education.

It is time to increase pay by raising the minimum wage and protecting the right to organize. And, yes, it is time to extend the child tax credit.

Last night, I was honored to host Shaneice Ball of Cleveland as my guest for the State of the Union. As a State-tested nursing assistant and a mom of three with one on the way, Shaneice is the epitome of resilience, tenacity, and the American people's ability to persevere through tough times.

WE CANNOT FORGET ABOUT OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, with regard to what is going on in Ukraine, I stand with everybody in saying it is an absolutely horrific