

traffic controllers, FBI agents, and everyone else upon whom our Nation depends to do their jobs well.

If this is what bringing business acumen to government function looks like, then it is pretty clear we need to prevent our government from becoming a dumpster fire like X or one of Trump's corrupt corporations.

We can't afford it, and the American people can't afford it.

Mr. Speaker, it is well past time that Congress removed Mr. Musk and his DOGI minions from our government and get down to doing the peoples' business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, once in a while we could cooperate with the President and those who are trying to do things to make our government run better ultimately for the benefit of the citizens of this country, the taxpayers.

So what we see with DOGE is that \$65 billion of savings have been found and many, many contracts that are illegitimate or unnecessary to the operations of the government or what people expect are being turned over and are being rescinded.

This includes the scandal that has been USAID. What started out as a good thing many years ago has been turned into something that is almost completely corrupt.

So let's take a look at some of the other items that DOGE has found: 104 DEI contracts eliminating \$1 billion in spending. I could go down a whole long list: \$168,000 for a Dr. Fauci exhibit and a \$45 million DEI scholarship in Burma.

What are we doing here when we have really difficult issues in our home districts and across the country as well as a \$2 trillion deficit?

So this isn't going to solve everything overnight, but it sure is a right step.

So why don't we have cooperation by Federal agencies that work for us but ultimately for the American people?

Here is the food chain: The people are on top. In a republic these are the voters who vote us in to carry out what they tell us they want done. Then we employ people at the different levels of different agencies to get that work done for us, which is ultimately the American people.

Why is that not being recognized here, that yes, we are supposed to hold them accountable, and yes, we are supposed to have oversight?

Ultimately, the oversight hearings don't work around here because it is 2 hours of running the clock out by the

bureaucracy. Now we have an administration that has the executive authority to do that oversight.

That is an important thing that keeps getting lost here. The administration has the executive authority to appoint people. That is what the entire administration is: people appointed by the executive branch, by the President. At the State level it is by a Governor. In a city it is by a mayor. It is not a foreign concept.

Certainly, it is something that the Democrats when they are in charge take advantage of. They appoint people to do things.

I didn't vote for Fauci, did I?

A whole lot of other people are wondering that too.

That is what gets done by the executive branch.

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Whether we are talking about Elon Musk, or whether we are talking about anybody in the President's Cabinet and the people that they appoint, yes, they are appointed positions. It is our job to rein them in and hold them in line to whatever their mission statement was, if they remember their mission statement, and to follow that.

The work that DOGE is doing is pretty darn good. Yes, there are some fits and starts here and there and some things that we need to modify and smooth out a little bit on some of the employment out there, but at least the people's tax dollars are finally being respected.

We want to keep going with this and work that out, but we would like to be able to work with the agencies and say: Where are the areas that we could do better in, and what personnel are extra to the process?

Certainly, when the government was shut down due to COVID and we saw which people are essential and which people are nonessential, that should have been pretty revealing right there. That is tough if you are on the non-essential list, but we have to remember that we hire people in government and we create the agencies to serve a task and a purpose for the people of the country. It is not a government jobs program. It is a get-a-job-done-for-the-people program.

#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA'S HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, one thing I point out here that came up last week in my home State of California as part of a considerable amount of savings we could do federally is to quit funding that high-speed rail project. It has been a boondoggle from day one.

Right at the end of the Biden administration, they put up nearly \$4 billion more at the end, so let's quickly review that. The original high-speed rail program was going to be \$33 billion to build the rail from San Francisco to L.A., and that has ballooned in the following years to \$130 billion.

It was supposed to be completed by 2020. All they have is about an 1,800-

foot-long bridge near Fresno done right now. They haven't laid any track. They have seized a lot of land. They have devastated a lot of agricultural land, parts of cities, important installations, et cetera, but they haven't laid any rail yet.

They are trying to first do the easy part between Merced, California, and an orchard somewhere outside of Bakersfield. They actually said at the time it is because they will have less resistance to building that portion. That is not going to help anybody in San Francisco or Los Angeles, where the population base is.

Basically, if it is timed versus Amtrak, I think you get from Merced to Bakersfield about 20 minutes faster, if they actually had a high-speed rail that ran all the way through on just this chunk of track. They don't, and they won't by at least 2033, 2035. To build out the whole thing will be a lot longer.

We had a conference meeting in Los Angeles at Union Station last week, and I was very pleased. This was called by our Secretary of Transportation, Sean Duffy, at the behest of the Trump administration. We had this opportunity to talk to the press, the people of California, and anybody who would listen about what such a boondoggle this high-speed rail project is. It demands \$4 billion of new money that we need to claw back and put toward something useful, such as fixing our highways, water infrastructure, or anything besides this boondoggle.

#### DEFENSE OF DEDICATED FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVANTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of our dedicated Federal public servants in the face of the relentless attacks from President Trump and Elon Musk.

Hardworking families in my district and people across the country are beginning to see this initiative for what it really is: a sham perpetrated by President Trump and run by an unelected billionaire, the richest person in the world, who has no idea how our government operates or what our public servants do for our communities.

Trump and Musk's goal is to undermine people's faith in public services, gain access to sensitive government data, and ultimately give away trillions of dollars in tax cuts for the rich. We know their game, and we are not playing it.

Last week, I met with union leaders who are representing our Federal workforce, including the American Federation of Government Employees, National Nurses United, the National Association of Letter Carriers, the American Postal Workers Union, and the Western New York Area Labor Federation.