



## WHAT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS DONE FOR RURAL AMERICANS

### **STRENGTHENED RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

- Expanded the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans Program which furthers and improves access to business capital in rural communities
- Created the Rural Business Development Grant Program, which provides grants for projects that finance and facilitate development of small rural businesses to promote sustainable economic development in rural communities
- Reauthorized \$63 million in Value-Added Producer Grants, which help farmers diversify into new markets such as local and regional food systems and specialty crop production
- Formed new partnerships with community and technical colleges in an effort to reach more rural students and connect them with modern and innovative facilities and technologies

### **BOLSTERED ENERGY INNOVATION:**

- Provided loan guarantees for the development, construction, and retrofitting of commercial-scale biorefineries, thereby assisting rural Americans in developing clean energy sources
- Reauthorized a program extending payments to producers in an effort to support and expand the production of advanced biofuels refined from sources other than corn kernel starch; This program supports rural Americans in researching and developing clean energy sources
- Allocated payments to eligible biorefineries to replace fossil fuels with renewable biomass as a power source to operate the biorefineries. This program assists rural Americans in decreasing their dependency on environmentally-unfriendly energy sources
- Provided agricultural producers and rural small businesses with assistance to pursue renewable energy systems and improvements

### **EXPANDED TECHNOLOGICAL GROWTH:**

- Allocated \$7 billion to extend broadband internet access to millions of rural Americans
- Financed over 416 loan guarantees in an effort to furnish or improve electric power service in 41 states, thereby connecting nearly 800,000 new rural residents to the electric grid

### **RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE:**

- Signed an Executive Order raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 for individuals working on new federal service contracts
- Supported raising the federal minimum wage, which would benefit 28 million workers across the country. A full-time minimum wage worker makes \$14,500 a year. In addition, 19 million workers from all types of households would see a direct increase in their wages

## RURAL AMERICANS...

**ARE DIVERSE:** Over 15% of rural Americans are members of at least one racial or ethnic minority group

**ARE RELIGIOUS:** Rural Americans are more likely than those living in urban or suburban areas to be frequent Christian church-goers

**ARE BUSINESS ORIENTED:** Manufacturing, government, services, and wholesale and retail trade represented 68% and 76% respectively of total employment for the low and high-density rural population

**ARE FARMERS:** According to the EPA, there are 2.2 million farms in the United States

# THE GOP ON RURAL AMERICANS

Worked to cut funding for clean energy research

Opposed the FCC's Connect America Fund, which strives to extend broadband technology to rural Americans

Blocked legislation to raise the national minimum wage

Blocked the Buffett Rule, which would raise taxes on Americans earning more than \$1 million per year

"We have to get back to a shade of normalcy. Unemployment benefits aren't free". -**New York Congressman Tom Reed** on his opposition to extending long-term unemployment insurance

**Iowa US Senate candidate Sam Clovis** opposes having a minimum wage and called it "a form of taxation" and said an increase in the minimum wage would be "immoral."

**Nebraska State Senator Bill Kintner** said Americans in minimum wage jobs don't do work deserving of more adding, "It's a training wage" before people move on to better paying jobs - "It's not supposed to be a living wage."

"You know, folks mock Mitt Romney for what he said, but he's right. Forty-seven percent of American citizens pay zero in income taxes. It's just true... In fact, the bottom 30% of American citizens profit from the tax code because they're getting refundable tax credits back... I don't care if you're paying a dollar. You need to believe that you are involved in the process, and you need to have skin in the game." -**GEORGIA CONGRESSMAN ROB WOODALL**

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