Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 782, a commonsense measure aimed at protecting the channels of communication between Federal employees and management.

One of the key factors that is driving the continuous improvement initiatives in government and the private sector is employee involvement. In fact, employee involvement and employee empowerment are cornerstones in the administration's national performance review and are essential to an agency's ability to explore new paths in solving problems.

For employees, who speak on behalf of employee associations, having an entree to management is vital in the process. For management, having this feedback system is essential in staying abreast of emerging workplace concerns and in developing solutions that reduce conflict and costly potential grievances.

And for years, no one questioned this beneficial relationship between employees and management. However, a Justice Department interpretation of title 18, section 205 prohibits employee representatives from expressing the views of an employee organization or association before a government agency. In fact the employee could be prosecuted if he/she does so.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to imagine being prosecuted for offering suggestions to make a day care facility safer and more enjoyable for our children. I ask you to imagine being arrested because as a representative of blacks in government or the Professional Managers Association you raise concerns about new hiring initiatives in your agency, or as a representative of the Coalition for Effective Change you had the nerve to comment on suggestions to improve the efficiency of the organization.

The Justice Department was correct in its interpretation of the law, but in doing so, it compromised the spirit of the law and the spirit of cooperation between employees and management.

H.R. 782 restores the voice of these employees and the spirit of the law, without overextending the rights of employee associations or infringing on the responsibilities of executives. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 782.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I hope that the House will approve this legislation that will revise rules for representational activities of Federal employees.

This is commonsense government and, as a cosponsor, I am pleased to see H.R. 782 included on today's agenda. The legislation authored by Congressman WOLF will resolve existing problems that make it illegal for Federal employees to express the view of an employee organization or association to a governmental agency.

This has been a troublesome issue for child care groups, credit unions, recreational associations, and other employee organizations. This bill will allow members of such groups to discuss all matters except judicial proceedings and grant requests.

In my view, the 1962 ethics provisions, as interpreted by the Department of Justice in 1994, were never intended to prohibit such communication. It does not make sense to stop the president of a credit union from discussing his needs or issues with representatives of the agency or Department. In fact, open discussion benefits both the organizations, the employees involved, and the employer.

I thank the Committee on the Judiciary for reporting the legislation and I urge its adoption.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and (three-fifths having voted in favor thereof) the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL CONFEREE ON H.R. 4, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from California [Mr. CUNNINGHAM] is appointed as a conferee on H.R. 4.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will notify the Senate of the change in conferees.

COMMUNICATION FROM HONORABLE SAM M. GIBBONS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The Chair laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable SAM M. GIBBONS, Member of Congress:

SAM M. GIBBONS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 18, 1995.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House that a member of my staff has been served with a subpoena issued by the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

After consultation with the General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and precedents of the House.

Sincerely,

SAM M. GIBBONS,
U.S. Congressman.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 5 p.m. today.

FISHERIES ACT OF 1995

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 716) to amend the Fishermen's Protective Act.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Fisheries Act of 1995''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—HIGH SEAS FISHING COMPLIANCE

Sec. 101. Short title.
Sec. 102. Purpose.
Sec. 103. Definitions.
Sec. 104. Permitting.
Sec. 105. Responsibilities of the Secretary.
Sec. 106. Unlawful activities.
Sec. 107. Enforcement provisions.
Sec. 108. Civil penalties and permit sanctions.
Sec. 109. Criminal offenses.
Sec. 110. Forfeitures.
Sec. 111. Effective date.

TITLE II—IMPLEMENTATION OF CONVENTION ON FUTURE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES

Sec. 201. Short title.
Sec. 202. Representation of United States under convention.
Sec. 203. Requests for scientific advice.
Sec. 204. Authorities of Secretary of State with respect to convention.
Sec. 205. Interagency cooperation.
Sec. 206. Rulemaking.
Sec. 207. Prohibited acts and penalties.
Sec. 208. Consultative committee.
Sec. 209. Administrative matters.
Sec. 210. Definitions.
Sec. 211. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—ATLANTIC TUNAS CONVENTION ACT

Sec. 301. Short title.
Sec. 302. Research and monitoring activities.
Sec. 303. Definitions.
Sec. 304. Advisory committee procedures.
Sec. 305. Regulations and enforcement of Convention.
Sec. 306. Fines and permit sanctions.
Sec. 307. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 308. Report and savings clause.
Sec. 309. Management and Atlantic yellowfin tuna.
Sec. 310. Study of bluefin tuna regulations.
Sec. 311. Sense of the Congress with respect to ICCAT negotiations.

TITLE IV—FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE ACT

Sec. 401. Findings.
Sec. 402. Amendment to the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967.
Sec. 403. Reauthorization.
Sec. 404. Technical corrections.

TITLE V—FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT IN CENTRAL SEA OF OKHOTSK

Sec. 501. Short title.
Sec. 502. Fishing prohibition.