

2011, thereby keeping the water on the east side of the valley. Through the replacement of the existing restoration plan, we will be able to establish both an environmentally and economically responsible San Joaquin River restoration. This will include a year-round, live river on the San Joaquin but will also ensure a robust east side agriculture economy.

I call on my colleagues to support this bill and these vital provisions which will ensure that farmers in the San Joaquin Valley have water to irrigate their fields, grow crops that feed this nation, and put thousands of people back to work.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Chair, I am deeply troubled by the latest attacks on healthcare organizations such as Planned Parenthood that provide preventive and family planning care for millions of women and men across this country.

These centers play key roles in the lives of many who cannot always acquire preventive services elsewhere.

At a time when Americans continue to struggle to afford basic healthcare, eliminating Title X funding would have a devastating impact on women, men and teens in our communities.

As one of the nation's leading advocates for reproductive health, providing access to contraception to breast and cervical cancer screenings, Planned Parenthood serves a very important purpose. I vow to continue my strong support for these vital healthcare services.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to language in H.R. 1 that would prevent the Department of Housing and Urban Development from spending money on the Sustainable Communities Initiative. The language in the bill is short-sighted and represents a missed opportunity for communities around the country. Not only will it end a very successful HUD program that has helped

communities large and small plan for growth and coordinate economic development investments, but it could halt a very successful partnership between HUD, the Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency that promotes interagency coordination.

Despite the obvious connections between housing, transportation, and land use, these three agencies have not always worked well together in the past. But Secretaries Donovan, LaHood, and Administrator Jackson and their agencies have spent the last year cutting down red tape and coordinating investments to meet multiple economic, environmental, and community objectives.

These efforts not only save money, but they make government more efficient and ensure that the federal government is a better partner to local communities. As we reduce federal investments and watch our communities struggle, this seems like something all members of the House can get behind.

The Sustainable Communities Initiative at HUD provides resources to help communities realize their own visions for more economically competitive communities that generate more jobs, lower housing and transportation costs, and use limited public funds more wisely. Another important function of the Sustainable Communities Initiative at HUD is to provide competitive grant funding. Working with the DOT and EPA, the Initiative offers grants to communities to integrate transportation, housing, land use and energy planning using state of the art data and tools.

These grants go to communities all around the country, large and small, urban and rural. The interest in these has been extraordinary. In 2010, when HUD announced the challenge grants, a total of 630 communities requested \$1.2 billion in funding. HUD was only able to award 61 grants worth \$69 million. HUD's sustainable communities regional planning grants were as popular: 225 regions applied for \$450 million, and HUD was able to award 45 regions a total of \$98 million. This funding is helping to create jobs, drive economic development, provide housing and transportation choices, increase walkability, and improve quality of life.

Eliminating the Sustainable Communities Initiative will deprive the communities who weren't awarded funding in the last round from the opportunity to have their projects funded next time. Because the bill also rescinds unobligated funds, projects that were awarded grants and are already in the pipeline could be cancelled. Even though the grants have been awarded, many of the final contracts have not been signed.

I'd like to highlight a number of the 2010 Community Challenge Planning Grant projects that could be threatened as a result of the bill we have on the Floor today.

The City of Augusta, GA, Augusta State University, and other partners will be awarded \$1.8 million for the Augusta Sustainable Development Implementation Program, which will help plan the redevelopment of the Priority Development Corridor, a 4.5 mile north-south "spine" in the core of Augusta. The project will include a multi-modal transportation corridor; a revision of current codes to facilitate a vibrant, mixed-use, mixed-income development; and a plan for green, affordable housing in Georgia's second-largest city.

The City of Covington, KY, will be awarded \$359,000 to create a Downtown Action Plan

with the active involvement of citizens and stakeholders. Among other things, the plan will increase the number of workers who live downtown near jobs, decreasing traffic and pollution. Partners in the project include the National Development Council, Northern Kentucky University Center for Economic Analysis and Development, Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky, Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments, Northern Kentucky Area Planning Council and the Covington Business Council.

The City of Flint, MI will be awarded \$1.5 million to replace its existing city master plan with an integrated plan for sustainable development. The outreach process will include neighborhood-level discussion about residents' vision for the plan. Among others, project partners include the Genesee County Chamber of Commerce, University of Michigan-Flint, Hurley Medical Center, and the Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

If this language passes, Grand Traverse County, MI could lose a \$400,000 grant to create a Housing Inventory and Assessment, a County Master Plan, neighborhood revitalization, and affordable housing. The City of Hattiesburg, MS could lose \$150,000 for a plan to lay the foundation for a commercial and residential mixed-use, mixed-income housing district. The City of Claremont, NH could lose \$58,000 to undertake a comprehensive zoning analysis that will identify tools to maintain its historic cityscape, encourage development to maximize use of existing infrastructure, drive private investment and economic development to downtown, and improve the quantity and quality of housing. Oklahoma City could lose \$500,000 to develop a plan that provides an inventory and analysis of existing land availability, identify additional lands that may be designated for industrial use, assess infrastructure needs of that land, set priorities to help guide investment, and facilitate new industrial development.

Many more communities, which I don't have time to list now, have received funding and assistance from the Sustainable Communities Initiatives.

Keep in mind that this is a voluntary grant program. These communities have approached HUD to seek funding to support their own visions for economic revitalization. The grant applications are created from the ground up by local governments in partnership with community and business organizations. An important aspect of each of these projects is citizen outreach and public engagement.

I hope my colleagues will join me in rejecting this short-sighted proposal.

INTRODUCING THE INVESTING IN
OUR FUTURE ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Investing in Our Future Act. This bill will discourage speculation in the financial markets, help us shrink the deficit, and help create a better world for future generations.

Today is the Global Day of Action when hundreds of organizations are calling on the world's governments to create financial transactions taxes to generate billions of dollars to

help battle the problems that threaten the planet.

Our deficit is now a record \$1.5 trillion. Most suggestions about how to reduce the deficit require cutting government programs and discretionary spending. These kinds of cuts hurt American families and don't stimulate our economy. I propose that we instead shrink our deficit by looking to the currency market.

Every day \$4 trillion in currency is traded by the world's largest financial institutions in the foreign exchange markets. U.S. banks generated \$7 billion in foreign exchange trading revenue in the first three quarters of 2010. Much of this trading is purely speculative. The banks attempt to outguess the market and in turn, destabilize the economy.

The Investing in Our Future Act will place a microtax of just 0.005 percent on the currency trades conducted on or on behalf of U.S. financial institutions. This small tax would not be enough to disrupt the larger currency market but it could decrease speculative trades by as much as 14 percent.

The billions generated by this tax will be divided between deficit reduction and causes that will help us build a better world. Forty percent of revenues would be reserved for deficit reduction.

Ten percent of revenues will go into a Child Care Assistance Trust Fund. These funds will be used for subsidized child care here in the United States, where six out of seven children who qualify for subsidized care do not receive it.

Fifty percent of revenues will be evenly divided between the fight against climate change and world poverty. The Global Change Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Trust Fund will receive 25 percent of all revenues. Climate change destabilizes our world because it contributes to extreme weather, food shortages, and poverty. The other 25 percent will go into a Multilateral Global Health Trust Fund. This trust fund will support programs in poor countries that lack adequate medical infrastructure to treat and prevent diseases like malaria, HIV/AIDs and tuberculosis.

By contributing the revenues from this bill toward these causes, we will be investing in a stable and healthy future for our own country and others across the globe. I urge my colleagues to support the Investing in Our Future Act.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA GAINING A PERMANENT SEAT ON THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution in support of the Republic of India gaining a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. Addressing a joint session of India's Parliament this past November 8, President Obama said that "the United States not only welcomes India as a rising global power, we fervently support it." I could not agree more. In recent years India has proven to be a solid and supportive ally of

the United States. As the international community looks to reform the policies and procedures of the Security Council, no nation deserves a seat at the table more than India.

As the world's most populous democracy—and second most-populous nation—India is an increasingly influential power, not only in its neighborhood in South Asia but also on the world's stage. India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, enjoys the second-largest labor force, and is rapidly becoming a major hub for high-tech industry, telecommunications, and automobile manufacturing. As a major export/import nation, India is an important trading partner for dozens of countries around the world.

India has a strategic role in addressing major global security issues, makes its participation in international decisions essential. Having already provided tens of thousands of troops for dozens of UN peacekeeping missions around the world, India has earned a permanent role for itself in security decision-making, global conflict resolution, and questions of war and peace. As a nation which has suffered more casualties from terrorism than almost any other, India's commitment to effective counterterrorism measures is aligned with the United States' goals, and India has proved an indispensable ally with respect to our efforts in South Asia.

Finally, India regularly participates in numerous regional and international organizations, including the G20, the World Trade Organization, the East Asian Summit, and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. India has thus demonstrated a commitment to international dialogue and constructive engagement, and, indeed, enjoys good relations with most countries around the world.

Mr. Speaker, India is already a nation of great influence, respect, ambition, and ability, and a trusted member of the international community. An overwhelming majority of the United Nations General Assembly recently elected India to serve as the Asian regional representative to the Security Council. The permanent membership of the Security Council reflects the reality of global power in the immediate aftermath of World War Two—not today's 21st century reality of rising powers. As President Obama and many other world leaders have pointed out, India deserves a permanent seat on a reformed Security Council, where its voice and clout will be a much-welcomed and much-needed addition to the global security regime. I strongly applaud this effort and urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING BENEDICT COZZI ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to congratulate Benedict Cozzi as he retires after a career as an operating engineer and union leader that has spanned more than four decades. Ben has been a remarkable presence in Connecticut's labor movement

and I, like so many others, consider myself fortunate to have benefitted from his knowledge and friendship.

A native of New Haven, Connecticut, Ben entered Boston University after graduating from high school, but it would be the employment he found during his breaks from school where he would find his calling as an operating engineer and a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 478. He soon left Boston University and spent the next twenty years operating the heavy machinery of the trade—bulldozers, backhoes, graders, loaders, combination machines, and cranes on construction sites throughout Connecticut. It was hard but honest work that Ben enjoyed and he also became increasingly involved with Local 478, serving as the steward on many jobs.

Ben has served on Local 478's Governing Board for more thirty years. He held the positions of Treasurer, Secretary, Referral Manager, and Business Agent for New Haven and Middlesex Counties before being elected Business Manager—the union's highest elected office and a position which he has held for the last decade. Through it all, and particularly as Business Manager, Ben has fought for the rights of thousands of Connecticut operating engineers, ensuring that they had jobs to go to, fair wages, safe work environments, and secure retirement benefits. His work has held to secure the economic viability of his members and their families.

Ben's leadership in the labor movement extends far beyond Local 478. He has also served as President of both the Connecticut State Building and Construction Trades Council and the Building Construction Trades Council of New Haven as well as Co-Chair of the Connecticut Construction Labor-Management Council, and Vice President of the Connecticut AFL-CIO. His expertise has also been sought out by community boards that directly impact his membership including the New Haven Workforce Alliance and the Construction Workforce Initiative. Ben was also asked to sit on two state boards the Workers' Compensation Advisory Board and the Second Injury Fund Advisory Board.

Ben has also dedicated countless hours to community service, volunteering his time and energies on behalf of a multitude of service organizations in our community. He has served as Chairman of the Board of Easter Seals Goodwill Industries, a Board Member of the Advocacy Council of Yale-New Haven Hospital as well as the Connecticut Yankee Council of the Boy Scouts of America. When a project needs a hands-on approach, Ben is the person you turn to. He assembled a team of 300 to participate in a walk to benefit the American Heart Association, volunteers to build Hannah's Dream—a playground for children with special needs, and has been responsible for coordinating Building Trades volunteers to construct the annual Easter Seal's Fantasy of Lights at Light House Point during the Christmas season. The impact of his community service on the lives of others is incalculable and we cannot thank him enough for all of the generosity and compassion he has shown to those in need.

It is difficult to imagine what Local 478, the Building Trades, and our community will be like without Ben Cozzi. He has been a fixture in the labor movement and in our community for decades. Today, as he celebrates his retirement, I am proud to have this opportunity