

MOFFAT COUNTY TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Moffat County, located in North-western Colorado. The historic county celebrates its 100th anniversary this month. It stands as a reminder of the pioneering spirit that drove westward expansion and made this country great. It's roughly 14,000 residents are proud to call Moffat home and eagerly await February 27th, when the county officially celebrates its centennial.

Moffat County is known best for its open space and fossil discoveries, but has a history rooted in western railroad expansion. David Moffat, the man after whom the county was named, made it a point to run his railroad through Craig, the county seat, on its way to Salt Lake City. The railroad became the backbone of the county's economy. It made the area ideal for farming and ranching. Craig, in fact, became the world's largest shipping point for wool in the 1950s. Not long after, oil and natural gas supplies were discovered and further drove growth in both the economy and population of the area.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent a proud and historic community like that of Moffat County, Colorado. It is no surprise that the hardworking and self-reliant residents of the area have maintained a strong county for 100 years. There is no doubt that those same people will ensure Moffat County survives for another 100 years.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 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. PAYNE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution, which severely cuts critical funding for State and USAID and, if enacted would severely undermine U.S. development programs in Africa, U.S. National Security, and our domestic economy. The House bill provides State and USAID \$43.2 billion.

Development and diplomacy are the United States' first line of defense. Stable democracies and prosperous communities are less likely to pose a threat to their neighbors or to the United States.

State and USAID work to help countries and communities in Africa and across the world to become more stable, democratic, and prosperous. When conflicts do arise, State and USAID work to transition countries from violence to stability to long-term development and to prevent struggling states from becoming failed states. Doing so reduces the burden on our military and enhances our diplomacy.

The House bill would cut humanitarian assistance accounts by more than 40 percent below 2010 levels, devastating our ability to help victims of natural disasters and undermining U.S. leadership around the world.

The International Disaster Assistance account allows us to respond to international disasters like the earthquake in Haiti and the flood in Pakistan. The House bill provides \$429 million, taking this account back to 2008 levels—a 50 percent reduction to the 2010 level. This significant reduction will severely limit our ability to respond to natural disasters; we will simply be unable to respond to earthquakes and other disasters the way we did in Haiti.

In Sudan, more than 1.6 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Darfur would not receive critical health care, access to water, or support with livelihood activities. Instead of reintegrating approximately 300,000 returnees to South Sudan in the wake of the referendum, USAID would be able to assist fewer than 150,000.

In West Africa, proposed budget cuts would significantly hamper efforts to reduce and maintain acute malnutrition rates below emergency levels in drought-affected areas of Burkina Faso and Niger.

The House mark will also end a cost-effective local and regional purchase program which enables the U.S. to feed hungry people by purchasing food locally at a significantly lower cost to the U.S. taxpayer.

U.S. food aid continues to play a critical role by helping people in need and supporting broader U.S. national security objectives by demonstrating the goodwill of the United States, especially in Afghanistan and Pakistan. U.S. food aid also supports domestic interests by the purchase of agricultural commodities from American farmers and the shipping of commodities abroad on U.S. ships.

Reducing Title II food aid from the FY 2011 request of \$1.690 billion to \$1.003 billion forces dramatic cuts in food aid programs around the world, as well as decreasing purchases from U.S. farmers and the use of U.S. ships.

This cut would require reductions in the largest emergency food aid programs, to include Sudan, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Given the average cost of emergency food aid of \$44 per beneficiary, this would mean up to 15 million people might not receive such life-saving assistance due to the proposed reduction.

The bill reduces funding for refugee relief by \$670 million or 40 percent below 2010 levels, representing a shift in U.S. policy of historical, unprecedented and devastating proportions. This reduction will drastically reduce the U.S. ability to protect and assist refugees in places of critical national security, such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and the Horn of Africa.

For example, a reduction of this magnitude jeopardizes U.S. support for 1.6 million Afghan refugees living in Pakistan and another 100,000 Afghan refugees returning to Afghanistan this year alone. Also, some 230,000 Burmese refugees in Thailand, Malaysia, Bangladesh and India would be at risk. And, security in the Horn of Africa and supporting peace in Sudan would also be at risk as some 3,000–5,000 Somalis are fleeing into Kenya each month and 270,000 Darfuris in Sudan and Chad will go largely unassisted.

The House proposal also makes deep cuts in Global Health programs and Development

Assistance. Disease knows no borders. As such, USAID's programs to prevent and treat infectious diseases not only benefit the most vulnerable overseas, but also protect American citizens at home. Moreover, this Continuing Resolution would disproportionately cut programs that help the neediest people around the world by 25 percent versus an 11 percent reduction overall.

The proposed CR level cuts the Global Health Initiative by \$834 million from 2010 levels. While these cuts would have miniscule value in the goal of balancing the budget, they will have real, immediate, and devastating impact on the poorest.

I am deeply disappointed by the Appropriators' choice to step away from America's long-term humanitarian interests in improving and preserving lives around the world by helping people lift themselves out of poverty. There is living proof across the world that less than 1 percent of the total federal budget has helped poor farmers learn to grow more food more efficiently, provided a lifeline to millions with HIV—including pregnant women whose babies can now be born HIV-free—put millions of children under malaria-fighting bed nets by night and into schools by day, and strengthened America's friendships with millions of people, thus strengthening our own national security.

The cut to the PEPFAR program is \$513 million below 2010, a 10 percent reduction. At this level, the U.S. will be unable to provide treatment to more than 700,000 people in desperate need of life-saving HIV/AIDS treatment.

The House bill cuts USAID health programs by \$320 million (–13 percent) from 2010 levels and nearly 30 percent below the 2011 request. Reducing the USAID Global Health and Child Survival by this magnitude will have devastating effects on men, women, and children worldwide.

Under the proposed CR levels, 5 million children and family members will be denied treatment or preventative interventions for malaria, leaving millions to die. Moreover, 43,000 children and family members with tuberculosis will be denied treatment, of which 12,000 will likely die.

More than 16 million persons will be denied treatment for such debilitating conditions as blinding trachoma and onchocerciasis. Efforts would be scaled back in at least 10 countries where we were on track to interrupt transmission within five years of up to four of the NTDs. USAID will be forced to sever agreements with four major pharmaceutical companies that donate hundreds of millions worth of drugs for NTD treatment programs.

The bill would force USAID to scale back efforts in the 24 countries which collectively account for approximately one-half of all maternal and child deaths. 3,500 mothers will die, and more than 40,000 children under five—of which 16,000 are newborns—will perish in the absence of highly effective child survival interventions.

More than 500 thousand undernourished children will be deprived of highly effective nutrition interventions (e.g., community management of acute malnutrition, micronutrient supplementation, and nutrition education leading to dietary diversity).

Placing an all-account ceiling of \$440 million on family planning and reproductive health in 2011 amounts to a 32 percent cut from FY 2010 levels. This would result in 1.2 million

more abortions, 28,000 additional newborn deaths, and 4,000 additional maternal deaths—all stemming from denying 8.5 million women access to family planning services and by extension, 2.5 million additional unintended pregnancies.

The House FY 2011 Continuing Resolution would reduce the Development Assistance account by nearly \$750 million from 2010 levels, a 30 percent reduction, and \$1.2 billion from the 2011 request (– 40 percent).

Absent deep cuts to other ongoing programs, in areas such as education, microfinance, and water, the House bill would virtually eliminate funding for the Feed the Future Initiative and the Global Climate Change Initiative.

With world food prices at their highest since the 2007/2008 global food riots, and in view of the political volatility that food prices recently helped spark in the Middle East, it is more important than ever that the U.S. engage to improve long-term food security, and assist countries to avert short-term food crises. The recent events in Egypt that continue throughout the Middle East are a stark example of food insecurity's effect on stability.

Decimating the President's Feed the Future (FIF) Initiative will mean that more than 4 million women, children, and family members—most small farmers—will go hungry this year, remaining desperately mired in poverty. More than 18 million will be at risk of chronic hunger over a five-year period. Ending funding for research and development under FIF will expose wheat crops—including here in the United States, and in Afghanistan and Pakistan—to the threats of U.G. 99 wheat stem rust strain.

In just five out of our 20 focus countries, nearly 6.5 million small farmers, mostly poor and mostly women, will remain in the grips of hunger and poverty, unable to grow enough food to feed themselves and their families.

Alternatively, spreading the 30 percent reduction across the Development Assistance Account would have significant negative effects on many congressional priorities including interventions in basic and higher education, microfinance, rule of law and governance, trade, and financial sector reform.

Microfinance institutions in nearly 30 countries around the world will be forced to significantly scale back operations or shut their doors as funding dries up, resulting in 600,000 fewer women accessing financial services to sustain their businesses and contribute to the economic livelihoods of their families and communities.

Over 20,000 Afghans will no longer have the tools they need to begin or sustain a microenterprise in the midst of the conflict, increasing the risk that they will turn to other, illicit economic livelihoods, like poppy production, to feed their families.

As many as 300,000 rural microenterprises and over 600,000 smallholder farmers will no longer be able to access the vital services and growing markets they need to generate cash income, break the cycle of subsistence agriculture, and chart a pathway out of poverty.

A 30 percent cut in Development Assistance for water would mean that than 700,000 persons will be deprived access to clean drinking water and sanitation which, according to WHO, is one of the largest causes of mortality in the world—diarrhea-related disease kills nearly 2 million every year, 90 percent of whom are children under 5.

Out of the approximately 64 million children benefitting from our education assistance worldwide, over 19 million will lose access to schooling opportunities. 10 million girls will be deprived access to basic education, causing further social and financial marginalization.

I urge my colleagues to vote NO on the Continuing Resolution and any amendments that would strip critical and life saving programs in Africa and the developing world.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF GWEN-DOLYN “GWEN” APPELQUIST MAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the life of northwest Florida's beloved Gwen Appelquist May.

Mrs. Appelquist was a pioneer in the local business community who used her success and acumen to help support numerous charities and service organizations in the Pensacola community. Mrs. Appelquist worked for nearly 40 years in the real estate business in northwest Florida. She formed her own company, Appelquist and Associates, in 1977, and her tireless work ethic was the key to her success. She was noted for being the first one in the office, often beginning work at 5:00 a.m., and the last to leave.

Her leadership in the business community was unquestioned. She was highly respected and, in 1993, was chosen as chairwoman of the Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. The Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce also awarded her with the Business Leader of the Year Award. She served in leadership positions at a number of local organizations, including co-chairwoman at Covenant Hospice and president of United Way of Escambia County. She also served as a board member for Baptist Hospital and the Council on Aging Foundation.

Mrs. Appelquist was noted for her dedication to her clients; however, her commitment and hard work were best personified by her support for charitable organizations in the northwest Florida community. Retirement was never one of Mrs. Appelquist's goals. Following her career in real estate, Mrs. Appelquist joined the Studer Group, a health care consulting organization, where she worked as Executive Director of charitable giving.

To some, Gwen Appelquist May will be remembered as a leader in the business community. To others, she will be remembered for her charitable work northwest Florida. To her family, she will always be remembered as a loving and devoted mother and spouse. She was an inspiration to those who knew her, and her service to the Pensacola community is her lasting legacy.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life of Gwen Appelquist May. My wife Vicki and I offer our continued prayers for her entire family.

RECOGNIZING ESTELLE WALLINGFORD

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize someone who has been a valuable asset during her time as an intern in my office, Estelle Wallingford.

Estelle came to my office from Australia as a participant in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme. Already an accomplished student at the University of Melbourne where she studies Political Science and Philosophy, as well as Economics, she left the Australian summer to join us in DC as winter set in this January. During her time in my office, Estelle has been a quick learner, picking up and understanding the similarities and differences between our U.S. Congress and Australia's Parliament. At the same time, she has excitedly shared her knowledge and culture with my staff, leading them in their first ever celebration of Australia Day.

Estelle's love of Australia and desire to share it with others in the United States was exemplified by her efforts to revive the House's Friends of Australia Caucus. During a project to update a listing of Congressional Member Organizations for my office, she realized that there are caucuses fostering friendship between the United States and a number of other nations, but not one for Australia. I am proud to report that through her efforts to reach out to other Members of Congress and her own embassy, Estelle's vision of the Friends of Australia Caucus is already taking shape.

I join my colleagues in congratulating Estelle Wallingford on her accomplishments during her time in the United States and thank her for her hard work and knowledge she has imparted to me and my staff. I wish her the best in her future endeavors as she returns home, to Australia.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM T. SKOWRONSKI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize William T. Skowronski, the Chief of the Northeast District Office of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Bill is retiring on February 24 after 39 years with the OEPA.

Bill Skowronski graduated from Cleveland State University in 1972 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He became a Registered Professional Engineer and went on to become District Engineer in the Public Wastewater Control Group; a Supervisor in the Industrial Wastewater Pollution Control Group; and the Manager of the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste Management, before becoming the District Chief in 1987.

In his long and distinguished career, Bill Skowronski has served on many boards and committees and has received numerous awards for his service. He is an ex officio member of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, Northeast Ohio's Metropolitan Planning Organization; a member of the