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□ 1910

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, I was at home in Wisconsin taking care of my amazing wife and our new baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following ways: H. Res. 574—A Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives find Lois G. Lerner, Former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with a subpoena duly issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform "yea;" H.R. 863—To establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum of 2013, as amended "yea;" H. Con. Res. 83—Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha "yea;" H. Res. 565—Calling on Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of conservative non-profit groups by the Internal Revenue Service "yea."

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113–108)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To The Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency, unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions of the Government of Syria declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004—as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13399 of April 25, 2006, Executive Order 13460 of February 13, 2008, Executive Order 13572 of April 29, 2011, Executive Order 13573 of May 18, 2011, Executive Order 13582 of August 17, 2011, Executive Order 13606 of April 22, 2012, and Executive Order 13608 of May 1, 2012—is to continue in effect beyond May 11, 2014.

The regime's brutal war on the Syrian people, who have been calling for freedom and a representative government, endangers not only the Syrian people themselves, but could yield greater instability throughout the region. The Syrian regime's actions and policies, including supporting terrorist organizations and impeding the Lebanese government's ability to function effectively, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect the national emergency declared with respect to this threat and to maintain in force the sanctions to address this national emergency.

In addition, the United States condemns the Asad regime's use of brutal violence and human rights abuses and calls on the Asad regime to stop its violent war and allow a political transition in Syria that will forge a credible path to a future of greater freedom, democracy, opportunity, and justice.

The United States will consider changes in the composition, policies, and actions of the Government of Syria in determining whether to continue or terminate this national emergency in the future.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *May 7, 2014.*

□ 1915

ELECTRIFY AFRICA ACT OF 2014

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2548) to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty alleviation and drive economic growth, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2548

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Electrify Africa Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to improve access to affordable and reliable electricity in Africa in order to unlock the potential for economic growth, job creation, food security, improved health, education and environmental outcomes, and poverty reduction.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) 589,000,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa, or 68 percent of the population, did not have access to electricity, as of 2010;

(2) in sub-Saharan Africa, electricity services are highly unreliable and they are at least twice as expensive for those with electricity access compared to other emerging markets;

(3) lack of access to electricity services disproportionally affects women and girls, who often shoulder the burden of seeking sources of heat and light such as dung, wood or charcoal and are often more exposed to the associated negative health impacts. Women and girls also face an increased risk of assault from walking long distances to gather fuel sources;

(4) access to electricity creates opportunities, including entrepreneurship, for people to work their way out of poverty;

(5) a lack of electricity contributes to the high use of inefficient and often highly polluting fuel sources for indoor cooking, heating, and lighting that produce toxic fumes resulting in more than 3,000,000 annual premature deaths from respiratory disease, more annual deaths than from HIV/AIDS and malaria in sub-Saharan Africa;

(6) electricity access is crucial for the cold storage of vaccines and anti-retroviral and other lifesaving medical drugs, as well as the operation of modern lifesaving medical equipment;

(7) electricity access can be used to improve food security by enabling post-harvest processing, pumping, irrigation, dry grain storage, milling, refrigeration, and other uses;

(8) reliable electricity access can provide improved lighting options and information and communication technologies, including Internet access and mobile phone charging, that can greatly improve health, social, and education outcomes, as well as economic and commercial possibilities;

(9) sub-Saharan Africa's consumer base of nearly one billion people is rapidly growing and will create increasing demand for United States goods, services, and technologies, but the current electricity deficit in sub-Saharan Africa limits this demand by restricting economic growth on the continent;

(10) approximately 30 African countries face endemic power shortages, and nearly 70 percent of surveyed African businesses cite unreliable power as a major constraint to growth;

(11) the Millennium Challenge Corporation's work in the energy sector shows high projected economic rates of return that translate to sustainable economic growth and that the highest returns are projected when infrastructure improvements are coupled with significant legislative, regulatory, institutional, and policy reforms;

(12) in many countries, weak governance capacity, regulatory bottlenecks, legal constraints, and lack of transparency and accountability can stifle the ability of private investment to assist in the generation and distribution of electricity; and

(13) without new policies and more effective investments in electricity sector capacity to increase and expand electricity access in sub-Saharan Africa, over 70 percent of the rural population, and 48 percent of the total population, will potentially remain without access to electricity by 2030.

SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

Congress declares that it is the policy of the United States—

(1) in consultation with sub-Saharan African governments, to encourage the private sector, international community, African Regional Economic Communities, philanthropies, civil society, and other governments to promote—

(A) the installation of at least an additional 20,000 megawatts of electrical power in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020 to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth;

(B) first-time direct access to electricity for at least 50,000,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020 in both urban and rural areas;

(C) efficient institutional platforms with accountable governance to provide electrical service to rural and underserved areas; and

(D) the necessary in-country legislative, regulatory and policy reforms to make such expansion of electricity access possible; and

(2) to encourage private sector and international support for construction of hydroelectric dams in sub-Saharan Africa that—

(A) offer low-cost clean energy consistent with—

(i) the national security interests of the United States; and

(ii) best international practices regarding social and environmental safeguards, including—

(I) engagement of local communities regarding the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of such projects;

(II) the consideration of energy alternatives, including distributed renewable energy; and

(III) the development of appropriate mitigation measures; and

(B) support partner country efforts.

SEC. 5. DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE, MULTIYEAR STRATEGY.

(a) STRATEGY.—The President shall establish a comprehensive, integrated, multiyear policy, partnership, and funding strategy to encourage countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, to provide sufficient electricity access to people living in rural and urban areas in order to alleviate poverty and drive economic growth. Such strategy shall maintain sufficient flexibility and remain responsive to technological innovation in the power sector.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a report setting forth the strategy described in subsection (a).

(2) REPORT CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include a discussion of the elements described in paragraph (3), and should include a discussion of any additional elements relevant to the strategy described in subsection (a).

(3) REPORT ELEMENTS.—The elements referred to in paragraph (2) are the following:

(A) The general and specific objectives of the strategy described in subsection (a), the criteria for determining success of the strategy, a description of the manner in which the strategy will support partner country efforts to increase production and improve access to electricity, and criteria and indicators used to select partner countries for focused engagement on the power sector.

(B) Development, by partner country governments, of plans and regulations at the national, regional, and local level to increase power production, strengthen existing electrical transmission and distribution infrastructure, bolster accountable governance and oversight, and improve access to electricity.

(C) Administration plans to support partner country efforts to increase new access to electricity, including a description of how the strategy will address commercial and residential needs, as well as urban and rural access.

(D) Administration strategy to support partner country efforts to reduce government waste, fraud, and corruption, and improve existing power generation through improvement of existing transmission and distribution systems, as well as the use of a broad power mix, including renewable energy, and the use of a distributed generation model.

(E) Administration policy to support partner country efforts to attract private sector investment and public sector resources.

(F) A description of the Administration's strategy for the transfer of relevant technology, skills, and information to increase local participation in the long-term maintenance and management of the power sector to ensure investments are sustainable and transparent, including details of the programs to be undertaken to maximize United States contributions in the areas of technical assistance and training.

(G) An identification of the relevant executive branch agencies that will be involved in carrying out the strategy, the level and distribution of resources that will be dedicated on an annual basis among such agencies, timely and comprehensive publication of aid information and available transmission of resource data consistent with Administration commitments to implement the transparency measures specified in the International Aid Transparency Initiative by December 2015, the assignment of priorities to such agencies, a description of the role of each such agency, and the types of programs that each such agency will undertake.

(H) A description of the mechanisms that will be utilized by the Administration, including the International Aid Transparency Initiative, to coordinate the efforts of the relevant executive branch agencies in carrying out the strategy to avoid duplication of efforts, enhance coordination, and ensure that each agency undertakes programs primarily in those areas where each such agency has the greatest expertise, technical capabilities, and potential for success.

(I) A description of the mechanisms that will be established by the Administration for monitoring and evaluating the strategy and its implementation, including procedures for learning and sharing best practices among relevant executive branch agencies, as well as among participating countries, and for terminating unsuccessful programs.

(J) A description of the Administration's engagement plan, consistent with international best practices, to ensure local and affected communities are informed, consulted, and benefit from projects encouraged by the United States, as well as the environmental and social impacts of the projects.

(K) A description of the mechanisms that will be utilized to ensure greater coordination between the United States and foreign governments, international organizations, African regional economic communities, international fora, the private sector, and civil society organizations.

(L) A description of how United States leadership will be used to enhance the overall international response to prioritizing electricity access for sub-Saharan Africa and to strengthen coordination among relevant international forums such as the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the G8 and G20, as well as the status of efforts to support reforms that are being undertaken by partner country governments.

(M) An outline of how the Administration intends to partner with foreign governments, the international community, and other public sector entities, civil society groups, and the private sector to assist sub-Saharan African countries to conduct comprehensive project feasibility studies and facilitate project development.

(N) A description of how the Administration intends to help facilitate transnational and regional power and electrification projects where appropriate.

SEC. 6. USAID.

(a) LOAN GUARANTEES.—It is the sense of Congress that in pursuing the policy goals described in section 4, the Administrator of USAID should identify and prioritize—

(1) loan guarantees to local sub-Saharan African financial institutions that would facilitate the involvement of such financial institutions in power projects in sub-Saharan Africa; and

(2) partnerships and grants for research, development, and deployment of technology that would increase access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa.

(b) GRANTS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator of USAID should consider providing grants to—

(1) support the development and implementation of national, regional, and local energy and electricity policy plans;

(2) expand distribution of electricity access to the poorest; and

(3) build a country's capacity to plan, monitor and regulate the energy and electricity sector.

(c) USAID DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''USAID'' means the United States Agency for International Development.

SEC. 7. LEVERAGING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT.

In pursuing the policy goals described in section 4, the President should direct the United States' representatives to appropriate international bodies to use the influence of the United States, consistent with the broad development goals of the United States, to advocate that each such body—

(1) commit to significantly increase efforts to promote investment in well-designed power sector and electrification projects in sub-Saharan Africa that increase energy access, in partnership with the private sector and consistent with the host countries' absorptive capacity;

(2) address energy needs of individuals and communities where access to an electricity grid is impractical or cost-prohibitive;

(3) enhance coordination with the private sector in sub-Saharan Africa to increase access to electricity;

(4) provide technical assistance to the regulatory authorities of sub-Saharan African governments to remove unnecessary barriers to investment in otherwise commercially viable projects; and

(5) utilize clear, accountable, and metric-based targets to measure the effectiveness of such projects.

SEC. 8. OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Overseas Private Investment Corporation should—

(1) in carrying out its programs and pursuing the policy goals described in section 4, place a priority on supporting investment in the electricity sector of sub-Saharan Africa, including renewable energy, and implement procedures for expedited review of and, where appropriate, approval of, applications by eligible investors for loans, loan guarantees, and insurance for such investments;

(2) support investments in projects and partner country strategies to the extent permitted by its authorities, policies, and programs, that will—

(A) maximize the number of people with new access to electricity to support economic development;

(B) improve the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity;

(C) provide reliable and low-cost electricity, including renewable energy and on-grid, off-grid, and multi-grid solutions, to people living in rural and urban communities;

(D) consider energy needs of individuals where access to an electricity grid is impractical or cost-prohibitive;

(E) reduce transmission and distribution losses and improve end-use efficiency; and

(F) reduce energy-related impediments to business and investment opportunity and success;

(3) encourage locally-owned, micro, small- and medium-sized enterprises and cooperative service providers to participate in investment activities in sub-Saharan Africa; and

(4) publish in an accessible digital format measurable development impacts of its investments, including appropriate quantifiable metrics to measure energy access at the individual household, enterprise, and community level; and

(5) publish in an accessible digital format the amount, type, location, duration, and measurable results, with links to relevant reports and displays on an interactive map, where appropriate, of all OPIC investments and financings.

(b) AMENDMENTS.—Title IV of chapter 2 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended—

(1) in section 233 (22 U.S.C. 2193)—

(A) in subsection (b), by inserting after the sixth sentence the following new sentence: ''Of the eight such Directors, not more than five should be of the same political party.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) INVESTMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The Board shall take prompt measures to increase the loan, guarantee, and insurance programs, and financial commitments, of the Corporation in sub-Saharan Africa, including through the use of an investment advisory council to assist the Board in developing and implementing policies, programs, and financial instruments with respect to sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, the investment advisory council shall make recommendations to the Board on how the Corporation can facilitate greater support by the United States for trade and investment with and in sub-Saharan Africa. The investment advisory council shall terminate on December 31, 2017.'';

(2) in section 234(c) (22 U.S.C. 2194(c)), by inserting ''eligible investors or'' after ''involve'';

(3) in section 235(a)(2) (22 U.S.C. 2195), by striking ''2007'' and inserting ''2017'';

(4) in section 237(d) (22 U.S.C. 2197(d))—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting '', systems infrastructure costs,'' after ''outside the Corporation''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting '', systems infrastructure costs,'' after ''project-specific transaction costs''; and

(5) by amending section 239(e) (22 U.S.C. 2199(e)) to read as follows:

''(e) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The Board shall appoint and maintain an Inspector General in the Corporation, in accordance with the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).''.

(c) ANNUAL CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY AND REPORT.—

(1) SURVEY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For each of calendar years 2014 through 2016, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation shall conduct a survey of private entities that sponsor or are involved in projects that are insured, reinsured, guaranteed, or financed by the Corporation regarding the level of satisfaction of such entities with the operations and procedures of the Corporation with respect to such projects.

(B) PRIORITY.—The survey shall be primarily focused on United States small businesses and businesses that sponsor or are involved in projects with a cost of less than $20,000,000 (as adjusted for inflation).

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than each of July 1, 2015, July 1, 2016, and July 1, 2017, the Corporation should submit to the congressional committees specified in subparagraph (C) a report on the results of the survey required under paragraph (1).

(B) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report should include the Corporation's plans to revise its operations and procedures based on concerns raised in the results of the survey, if appropriate.

(C) FORM.—The report shall be submitted in unclassified form and shall not disclose any confidential business information.

(D) CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The congressional committees specified in this subparagraph are—

(i) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(ii) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

SEC. 9. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Trade and Development Agency should—

(1) promote United States private sector participation in energy sector development projects in sub-Saharan Africa through project preparation activities, including feasibility studies at the project, sector, and national level, technical assistance, pilot projects, reverse trade missions, conferences and workshops; and

(2) seek opportunities to fund project preparation activities that involve increased access to electricity, including power generation and trade capacity building.

(b) FOCUS.—In pursuing the policy goals described in section 4, project preparation activities described in subsection (a) should focus on power generation, including renewable energy, improving the efficiency of transmission and distribution grids, including on-grid, off-grid and mini-grid solutions, and promoting energy efficiency and demand-side management.

SEC. 10. PROGRESS REPORT.

Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and post through appropriate digital means, a report on progress made toward achieving the policy goals described in section 4, including the following:

(1) The number, type, and status of policy, regulatory, and legislative changes implemented in partner countries to support increased electricity generation and access, and strengthen effective, accountable governance of the electricity sector since United States engagement.

(2) A list of power sector and electrification projects United States Government instruments are supporting to achieve the policy goals described in section 4, and for each such project—

(A) a description of how each such project fits into the national power plans of the partner country;

(B) the total cost of each such project and predicted United States Government contributions, and actual grants and other financing provided to such projects, broken down by United States Government funding source, including from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of the Treasury, and other appropriate United States Government departments and agencies;

(C) the predicted electrical power capacity of each project upon completion, with metrics appropriate to the scale of electricity access being supplied, as well as total megawatts installed;

(D) compliance with international best practices and expected environmental and social impacts from each project;

(E) the estimated number of women, men, poor communities, businesses, schools, and health facilities that have gained electricity connections as a result of each project at the time of such report; and

(F) the current operating electrical power capacity in wattage of each project.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous materials they may want to in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Electrify Africa Act is a direct response to the problem that nearly 600 million people living in sub-Saharan Africa do not have access to reliable electricity.

The Electrify Africa Act offers a market-based response to that problem, and it does this through U.S. private sector investment to develop affordable, reliable energy in Africa. Most importantly, I think it does so at no additional cost to the taxpayer.

Why do we want to help increase energy access to the African continent? To create jobs, to improve lives. It will improve lives in Africa. It will create jobs there and here in the United States. It is no secret that Africa has great potential as a trading partner and could help create jobs here in the U.S.

As the Foreign Affairs Committee investigated how to make better use of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, landmark legislation that we passed over a decade ago to expand trade with Africa, we learned that the lack of affordable, reliable energy made the production of goods for trade and export nearly impossible.

How impossible? I will just give you an example. We were in Liberia looking at the interrupted power that is always a problem there. Even at our own Embassy, the cost of ruining that diesel generator is $10,000 a day sometimes when they have to get that thing up and running in order to keep power generated. You can imagine the problem when you are talking about a country with as much power generation and as much electricity as the size of the electricity that lights up the Dallas Cowboys stadium. That is the problem that one country has. You can imagine what it would mean if we could bring online electricity in order to electrify the subcontinent.

I would also remind the Members that the United States is not alone in its interests in enhancing trade with Africa through investment and energy. The example I would give you is China, because China has stepped in to direct $2 billion towards energy projects on the continent. As I speak, the Chinese Premier is in Africa signing deals that favor Chinese companies over American businesses. If the United States wishes to tap into the potential consumer base there in sub-Saharan Africa, we must act now.

This bill will also have a tangible impact on people's lives, as I said. As former chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, I have seen firsthand how our considerable investments in improving access to health care, improving access to education in Africa are undermined by the lack of reliable energy. In many places, schoolchildren are forced to study by inefficient, dangerous kerosene lamps. Cold storage of lifesaving vaccines is almost impossible without the existence of reliable electricity. Too many families resort to using charcoal and other inefficient and highly toxic sources of fuel whose fumes in Africa today cause more deaths than HIV/AIDS and malaria, combined.

Many of us on the committee have worked to transform our foreign assistance programs that offer extensive Band-Aids to policies that support economic growth. The Electrify Africa Act is part, frankly, of a very important transition here. This bill mandates a clear and comprehensive U.S. policy, providing the private sector with the certainty that it needs to invest in African electricity at no cost to the U.S. taxpayer. In fact, the bill is predicted to generate savings by requiring the Overseas Private Investment Corporation to focus on these energy priorities and undertake much-needed permanent reforms.

I reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2548, the Electrify Africa Act, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to begin by thanking our chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. ROYCE, for working with us in a bipartisan manner on this important legislation and for his longstanding commitment to improving U.S.-Africa relations and lifting Africans out of poverty.

Mr. ROYCE has long, for many years on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, worked with and been very concerned about Africa. This bill is, in part, a culmination of his hard work and his longstanding dedication.

In the United States, we take reliable electricity for granted. When we flip the switch, we expect the lights to come on. This winter many of us were frustrated when storms knocked out our power. Life was harder as we impatiently waited for the electricity to be restored. Imagine if the power never came back and that was your life every day, year in and year out. That is the stark reality facing many families in Africa.

Indeed sub-Saharan Africa is one of the most energy-deficient regions of the world, with nearly 70 percent of the population, more than half a billion people, lacking access to electricity. In some countries the figure is even higher: in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 85 percent of the population has no power; in Kenya, 82 percent of the population has no power; and in Uganda, 92 percent. These are truly staggering statistics.

The lack of reliable electricity has a major impact on day-to-day life and many negative consequences. In desperation, people burn anything they can find for heat and cooking: wood, plastic, trash, and other toxic materials. These dirtier fuels cause greater harm to people's health and also to the environment.

Many businesses have had a hard time succeeding because they are forced to pour expensive diesel fuel into generators day and night or deal with constant power outages from unreliable electrical grids. Hospitals cannot provide adequate services because they are unable to provide consistent cold storage, light, or power for lifesaving devices. The list goes on and on.

This legislation directs the executive branch to develop a strategy to increase electrification in Africa and to employ U.S. assistance programs to help accomplish that goal. This long-term strategy will focus not only on providing incentives for the private sector to build more power plants, but also on increasing African government accountability and transparency, improving regulatory environments, and increasing access to electricity in rural and poor communities through small, renewable energy projects.

Only by addressing all of these challenges in a comprehensive way will millions of people in Africa finally have access to electricity that will allow them to grow their economies and ultimately reduce their reliance on foreign aid.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment. It is a very important piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding to a dissenting opinion.

Mr. Speaker, one of the biggest complaints I hear is the practice of forcing taxpayers to underwrite the losses and risks of politically well-connected companies. Companies reap the profits; taxpayers pay for the losses.

Today the House considers a bill that perpetuates this policy with the objective of creating jobs not in America, but overseas. Quietly tucked into this bill is a provision to reauthorize the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, or OPIC, for another 3 years.

OPIC provides political risk insurance, loan guarantees, and direct loans to U.S. companies for their overseas investments, making U.S. taxpayers responsible for their losses. Recent beneficiaries include the Ritz-Carlton in Istanbul; Citibank branches in Pakistan, Jordan, and Egypt; and a SunEdison solar farm in South Africa.

According to the Congressional Research Service, this does nothing to help our economy. We are told it doesn't cost taxpayers because recent losses have been minimal and covered by fees. I remember similar assurances about Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Such assurances are good only until they are not good, and taxpayer exposure is monumental and growing.

This measure directs OPIC ''to prioritize investment in the sub-Saharan electricity sector.'' Yet one company doing so, Symbion, recently warned the Senate that it was owed $70 million at the end of February by utilities in just one African country.

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Reviewing OPIC's $10 billion portfolio in Africa, the Center for Global Development reported that if the money had been used for natural gas plants rather than renewables, an additional 60 million people would have had electricity. But that is not politically correct.

OPIC pays for the bad business decisions of large corporations and underwrites job creation abroad, all ultimately underwritten by hardworking American taxpayers. What is not to like about that?

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I share the gentleman's concern about corporate welfare. I have spent years pressing OPIC for greater transparency. Finally, in this measure we have a whole host of reforms.

But I will remind this body that years back we exposed and helped kill OPIC's investment funds that were helping political cronies.

I would also remind this body that we are only willing to give OPIC a short-term extension by redirecting it to focus on an area that lacks investment and will have a major impact on the long-term growth of a country, and that is electricity.

I can assure the gentleman from California that this committee will continue its OPIC oversight, but I should note that OPIC is not a free service. OPIC charges fees that generate a financial return for the U.S. Treasury. To ensure that OPIC is not crowding out the private sector, they must demonstrate that no commercial bank is willing to provide the financing package requested directly from OPIC, and this is the case in doing business in Africa.

The temporary authorization for OPIC, by the way, was included in the introduced version of the Electrify Africa Act and has remained in every following version.

I would also point out that this bill includes the significant reforms, additional reforms, that I and others have been trying to get into OPIC. For example, OPIC's operations will finally be transparent to the public, as the agency will be required to post specific information about all of its projects online, including each project's financing, the location, the partners. The bill also creates an OPIC inspector general. It forces OPIC's board to become for the first time in history bipartisan. This ensures that organizations interested in working with OPIC will be able to get a balanced perspective when reaching out to the agency.

I will also close in response by noting that OPIC's last multiyear authorization expired in 2007. The agency has been extended 28 times on appropriations bills and continuing resolutions with zero reforms. We come to the floor here in an open process to try to reform OPIC and to give it this mission. I think this legislation accomplishes a great deal on both fronts.

I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, when this bill was submitted it had, and continues to have, strong bipartisan support.

I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS), one of the original cosponsors on the bill, our ranking member on the Africa Subcommittee.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2548, the Electrify Africa Act of 2014, a bill that directs the President to expand electrification in Sub-Saharan Africa.

I would like to thank my good friends and colleagues, Chairman ED ROYCE and Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, and the committee staff, for all of the work that they have done on this important bill.

H.R. 2548 directs the President to establish a multiyear strategy to assist countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions to provide sufficient electricity access to people living in rural and urban areas in order to alleviate poverty and drive economic growth.

With greater access to electricity, Africa has the capacity to grow its economies, facilitating greater volumes of interregional, transcontinental, and international trade. Greater access to electricity also enables countries to expand human capacity and address the critical challenges of underemployment. Access to additional power will also help both individual countries and geographic regions address infrastructure challenges related to things such as roads, rail, and ports, all of which contributes to increasing the capacity of African nations and the continent as a whole.

Greater access to electricity improves the quality of life for not only urban, but rural communities. Even though we are well into the 21st century, it is difficult to imagine two-thirds of the population of Sub-Saharan Africa lives without electricity, including more than 85 percent of Africans living in rural areas. Not having electricity means children study by candlelight and doctors and midwives delivering babies who must rely on flashlights. A life without electricity means education, health care, and the basic needs of millions of Africans suffer.

In summary, I believe we are taking a giant step in the right direction by helping to address the issues of access to electrical power in Africa. This bill provides an opportunity to work with the governments and private sectors of African countries anxious to increase their individual and combined regional access to electricity. We all know that seven of the 10 fastest-growing economies are on the African continent. This is a great step forward toward addressing poverty and changing the paradigm in U.S.-Africa relations.

I agree with the chair of the committee who talked about the reforms to OPIC. I would differ with my colleague from California though, because I do believe that as the economies of Africa strengthen, that increases the ability for those countries and businesses on the continent to do business with U.S. companies, which, in my opinion, also increases jobs in the United States.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2548, the Electrify Africa Act of 2014.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I would like to once again point out that this is a bipartisan bill. The four original cosponsors are Chairman ROYCE and Chairman SMITH on the Republican side, myself as the ranking member, and Ms. BASS as the ranking member on the Africa Subcommittee on the Democratic side. So this is truly a bipartisan collaboration that is very important, well thought out, and I agree with everything the chairman said. This bill will reform OPIC and will reform how this kind of aid is done.

I would like to again thank Chairman ROYCE for being an outstanding partner in drafting this legislation and for his leadership in passing the bill out of our committee unanimously. That is another thing that I think is so important to what we do on the committee. We try to pass things in consensus and try to let everybody put his or her thoughts into the bill. This passed unanimously out of the committee, and that doesn't happen lightly or easily. It is done because lots of concerns were taken into consideration, things were ameliorated, things were changed, and what we have is a very, very good product.

As has been said, this legislation has the potential to impact millions of people in Sub-Saharan Africa. A doctor in Kenya will be able to treat a patient without worrying about her equipment shutting off, a child in Congo can continue studying long after the sun sets. The bottom line is that reliable access to electricity will help build African economies and reduce their reliance on foreign aid, saving the United States money.

I hope the Senate will also take action on this bill, again, which has broad bipartisan support in the Senate. I urge my colleagues to support this positive piece of legislation for Africa.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I do want to thank Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL of New York, as well as Chairman CHRIS SMITH and Ranking Member KAREN BASS of the Africa Subcommittee, for working closely with me to craft the Electrify Africa Act.

I will remind the Members that where the United States has left a void for economic investment in the world—and Africa is one of them—China has stepped in. In this case, we are speaking at a time when the Premier of China is on the ground right now in Sub-Saharan Africa. China has stepped in to direct $2 billion to African energy projects. This bill will counter China's growing commercial and strategic influence.

But what else will the bill do? Unlocking the constraint on African economic growth means a continent less reliant on aid. The bill promotes an all-of-the-above approach to electricity that includes natural gas and clean coal and hydro.

The CBO estimates that this bill will save the U.S. Treasury $86 million. Electrify Africa imposes permanent reform, as I mentioned, on the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. The bill focuses OPIC on promoting electricity in Africa. It forces oversight. It demands transparency on the institution, lays that out, and makes the OPIC board bipartisan.

There is every reason to support efforts that encourage economic independence, that strengthen trading partners and that compete with Chinese influence in a vital region, as someone once said.

I also want to recognize the wide range of enthusiasm for this bill. We have received letters of support from 35 African ambassadors, the Chamber of Commerce, the Corporate Council on Africa, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics—and we know from KAREN BASS' testimony why they are in support—and from the One Campaign. Many of these supporters have joined us today in the House gallery to watch this landmark vote.

The United States has economic and national security interests in the continued development of the African continent. This bill sets out a comprehensive, sustainable, market-based plan to bring close to 600 million Africans out of the dark and into the global economy, benefiting American businesses and workers at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support H.R. 2548, the Electrify Africa Act.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, today the U.S. House of Representatives considered legislation important to improving the quality-of-life and opportunities for the millions of people living in sub-Saharan Africa. H.R. 2548, the Electrify Africa Act, would require the United States to develop a comprehensive strategy to improve access to electricity for the nearly 600 million people currently living without it in those countries.

Almost 70 percent of the population in sub-Saharan Africa lives in energy poverty, without access to even basic electricity services. The connection between energy poverty and economic poverty cannot be ignored. For those of us in the United States with access to reliable electricity, it is difficult to truly comprehend what life would be like without the services electricity provides: the ability to simply flip a light switch to have light at any hour of the day, or charge your cell phone; refrigeration of foods, medicines, and life-saving vaccines; indoor cooking; use of the Internet; advanced health care technology; clean water and sanitation services. The list goes on and on.

But consider how different our lives would be if we did not have access to affordable and reliable electricity—what it would be like if we had to travel miles each day to gather fuel sources to cook our food; had to rely only on daylight to accomplish tasks; had no access to clean water and other sanitation services; and no access to life-saving medical technology readily available in other parts of the world but that require electricity to work. That is the reality for the hundreds of millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa. They struggle each day to provide for their basic needs. Affordable and reliable access to electricity would transform these regions, providing opportunities for economic growth and a better quality-of-life.

What I consider especially important about H.R. 2548 is that this bill recognizes that a "one-size-fits-all" energy strategy will not benefit these countries and their populations. This legislation calls for an appropriate mix of energy options, non-renewable and renewable, to address the energy poverty endemic to these regions. In its report, the House Foreign Affairs Committee notes that coal, natural gas, and oil are all available potential energy sources to generate electricity in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as solar, hydropower, and geothermal.

An all-inclusive energy mix is vital to addressing energy accessibility and reliability in impoverished parts of the world. Regions and countries should responsibly generate power using the energy resources that are most readily available to them and that provide the most affordable and reliable option. If the energy source to generate the electricity is available but so expensive that people cannot afford to use it, then what good does it do? Similarly, an electricity supply too dependent on intermittent sources does not benefit a health care provider trying to perform a procedure using medical equipment reliant on a consistent source of electricity or administer vaccines that must be kept refrigerated.

The current Administration has unfortunately sought to dictate what sources of energy can be used in developing nations, promoting some and discriminating against others, namely cheap and abundant coal-fired power. This only does a disservice to the people who need the services and opportunities that electricity provides. H.R. 2548 reminds us of the consequences of not having access to affordable and reliable electricity, something I think many of us take for granted. It further reminds us about the importance of an all-of-the-above energy mix to our country's access to cheap and reliable electricity, economic stability, and quality-of-life. I am pleased that the Electrify Africa Act recognizes these realities, establishing a framework for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to pursue the energy development that makes the most sense for them.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGLE, thank you for introducing this important legislation H.R. 2548, the Electrify Africa Act, which my subcommittee Ranking Member KAREN BASS and I have joined you in sponsoring. We acknowledge the importance of this legislation, and we hope our colleagues share our enthusiasm for what this bill can accomplish.

Congress' interest in Africa is not only longstanding, but also varied. Some of focus on development, and some are more interested in trade. Others are keen to meet the humanitarian needs of the continent, while still others believe education is the key to Africa's future success. All of those elements are important, but none of them can be accomplished fully without electricity, which is in far too short a supply throughout Africa.

In Africa's largest cities, there are plenty of lights, and in Lagos, Accra, Nairobi, Dakar, Johannesburg, Addis Ababa or Lusaka the modern way of life is thriving—day or night. Unfortunately, in many other cities, electricity is fleeting, and in too many rural areas it is simply scarce. Generators provide the power by which many companies are forced to do business, and in many homes, generators are needed to ensure that modern activities can continue when the government-provided power flickers out. This is so expensive that many Africans are forced to rely on more basic means of providing light once night approaches, but in the 21st century, the people of Africa must not be dependent on the sun or candles and lanterns to deliver their light. Certainly, these means cannot power their cell phones, televisions or other technology on which today's societies thrive.

We all want Africa to join in the development the rest of the world enjoys, yet that is not possible without a steady source of energy. Manufacturing is only a notion without the power to move assembly lines and produce goods. Vaccines and other medicines will last only so long without refrigeration, and that requires steady electrical power. A student studying by candlelight or by the light of a lantern is a quaint notion that can no longer be the reality of young Africans striving to build a better life.

H.R. 2548 will improve access to affordable, reliable electricity in sub-Saharan Africa, where more than two-thirds of Africans lack access to electricity. This bill does not provide electricity as a gift; it facilitates cooperation between our government and African governments in finding the most efficient and effective means of establishing electric power for their citizens. By requiring our Administration to create a comprehensive multiyear strategy, H.R. 2548 ensures that there is a mutually agreeable plan that can be implemented by future Administrations and Congresses in collaboration with willing African partners. This bill also calls on U.S. representatives to international institutions to leverage other international support for providing electricity to Africa.

I call on my colleagues to join with us in voting for H.R. 2548. In doing so, we will not only provide power for Africa, but we also will energize our dreams for Africa's current and future development.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2548, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

URGING BURMA TO END PERSECUTION OF ROHINGYA PEOPLE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 418) urging the Government of Burma to end the persecution of the Rohingya people and respect internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 418

Whereas over 800,000 Rohingya ethnic minority live in Burma, mostly in the western Rakhine state;

Whereas currently, approximately 140,000 Rohingya are internally displaced in central Rakhine state and hundreds of thousands have fled to neighboring countries, including at least 231,000 in Bangladesh, at least 15,000 in Malaysia, and many more in Thailand and Indonesia;

Whereas the current Government of Burma, like its predecessors, continues to use the Burma Citizenship Law of 1982 to exclude from approved ethnic groups the Rohingya people, despite many having lived in northern Rakhine state for generations, and has thereby rendered Rohingyas stateless and vulnerable to exploitation and abuse;

Whereas the Rohingya have historically experienced other particularized and severe legal, economic, and social discrimination, including restrictions on travel outside their village of residence, limitations on their access to higher education, and a prohibition from working as civil servants, including as doctors, nurses, or teachers;

Whereas authorities have also required Rohingya to obtain official permission for marriages and have singled out Rohingya in northern Rakhine state for forced labor and arbitrary arrests;

Whereas the Government of Burma has forcefully relocated Rohingya into relief camps, where they lack decent shelter, access to clean water, food, sanitation, health care, the ability to support themselves, or basic education for their children;

Whereas a two-child policy sanctioned solely upon the Rohingya population in the districts of Maungdaw and Buthidaung in northern Rakhine state restricts the rights of women and children, prevents children from obtaining Burmese citizenship, denies Rohingyas access to basic government services, and fosters discrimination against Muslim women by Buddhist nurses and midwives;

Whereas the United States Department of State has regularly expressed since 1999 its particular concern for severe legal, economic, and social discrimination against Burma's Rohingya population in its Country Report for Human Rights Practices;

Whereas the level of persecution, including widespread arbitrary arrest, detention, and extortion of Rohingya and other Muslim communities, has dramatically increased over the past year and a half;

Whereas communal violence has affected both Muslims and Burma's majority Buddhist population, but has overwhelmingly targeted Burma's ethnic Muslim minorities, which altogether comprise less than 5 percent of Burma's population;

Whereas violence targeting Rohingyas in Maungdaw and Sittwe in June and July of 2012 resulted in the deaths of at least 57 Muslims and the destruction of 1,336 Rohingyas homes;

Whereas on October 23, 2012, at least 70 Rohingyas were killed, and the Yan Thei village of the Mrauk-U Township was destroyed;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reported possessing credible evidence of the deaths of at least 48 Rohingyas in Du Chee Yar Tan village in Maungdaw Township, Rakhine state in January 2014, and human rights groups reported mass arrests and arbitrary detention of Rohingya in the aftermath of this violence;

Whereas Burmese officials have denied the killings of Rohingyas in Du Chee Yar Tan village in January 2014 and responded to international media coverage of the violence with threats against media outlets, including the Associated Press;

Whereas violence has also targeted Muslims not of Rohingya ethnicity, including riots in March 2013 in the town of Meiktila that resulted in the death of at least 43 Burmese Muslims, including 20 students and several teachers massacred at an Islamic school, the burning of at least 800 homes and 5 mosques, and the displacement of 12,000 people;

Whereas on October 1, 2013, riots involving more than 700 Buddhists in Thandwe township resulted in the death of 4 Kaman Muslim men and the stabbing death of a 94-year-old Muslim woman;

Whereas over 4,000 religious, public, and private Rohingya structures have been destroyed;

Whereas Rohingyas have experienced and continue to experience further restrictions on their practice of Islam, culture, and language;

Whereas the violence against ethnic Muslim populations, including the Rohingya and other Muslim groups, is part of a larger troubling pattern of violence against other ethnic and religious minorities in Burma;

Whereas the Government of Burma expelled Medecins Sans Frontieres from Rakhine state, leaving Rohingya communities and others without access to health care and life-saving treatment for malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV; and

Whereas the Rakhine state threatens to ban all unregistered nongovernmental organizations from operating in Rakhine state, severely limiting the provision of necessary services to Rohingyas and others in need: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the initial steps Burma has taken in transitioning from a military dictatorship to a quasi-civilian government, including the conditional release of some political prisoners, and calls for more progress to be made in critical areas of democracy, constitutional reform, and national reconciliation in order for Burma to achieve its own goal of political liberalization;

(2) calls on the Government of Burma to end all forms of persecution and discrimination of the Rohingya people and ensure respect for internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma;

(3) calls on the Government of Burma to recognize the Rohingya as an ethnic group indigenous to Burma, and to work with the Rohingya to resolve their citizenship status;

(4) calls on the United States Government and the international community to put consistent pressure on the Government of Burma to take all necessary measures to end the persecution and discrimination of the Rohingya population and to protect the fundamental rights of all ethnic and religious minority groups in Burma; and

(5) calls on the United States Government to prioritize the removal of state-sanctioned discriminatory policies in its engagement with the Government of Burma.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous materials in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 418. This is a bipartisan resolution offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) calling on the government of Burma to end its persecution of the Rohingya Muslims and respect the human rights of all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma.