

and Infrastructure will forgo action on this bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I request you urge the Speaker to name members of the Committee to any conference committee named to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest in the Congressional Record during House Floor consideration of the bill. I look forward to working with the Committee on Homeland Security as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, March 16, 2017.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1372, the "Homeland Security for Children Act". I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will waive further consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing an action on this bill at this time, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure represented on the conference committee.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman,
Committee on Homeland Security.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1372, the Homeland Security for Children Act.

Mr. Speaker, children are not tiny adults, as was stated, but too often that is how the Federal policy treats them when there is not a deliberate effort to do otherwise.

The Department of Homeland Security, through its components, interacts with children regularly, and its policies have a direct impact on them. That is why I introduced H.R. 1372, the Homeland Security for Children Act.

H.R. 1372 would make integrating the unique needs of children a priority at the Department of Homeland Security. The bill directs the DHS Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans to solicit and incorporate feedback from children's organizations into Department-wide policies and activities.

Additionally, H.R. 1372 would formally authorize the existing children's

technical expert position at the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The position was established by former Administrator Fugate in response to a March 2015 recommendation by the FEMA National Advisory Council.

At the time, the National Advisory Council had concluded that FEMA had made progress integrating the unique needs of children into disaster plans since Hurricane Katrina, despite the fact that it did not have a technical lead to emphasize and address children's issues. As a result, State and local governments and emergency managers were unaware of guidance related to children's needs at the State and local level, leaving children vulnerable.

According to Save the Children, 80 percent of the National Commission on Children and Disasters' recommendations from 2010 still remain open. Whatever progress has been made in integrating the needs of children in disasters, it is clear there is still work left to be done.

H.R. 1372 will ensure FEMA and DHS has the expertise necessary to do its part to ensure the unique needs of children are integrated into relevant activities, plans, and policies.

The legislation has been endorsed by Save the Children, and former Administrator Fugate has said he supports efforts to authorize the children's needs technical expert at FEMA.

Mr. Speaker, the Homeland Security for Children Act is commonsense, bipartisan legislation that will ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable among us are adequately integrated into homeland security and disaster policies planning.

I would like to just state, Mr. Speaker, that this bill has been a long time coming. I was just reminded of its importance by a program that I watched on television the other day about the tornadoes in Oklahoma, where we lost 7 children in a school building that fell. It showed the disarray in the rest of the parents being able to be reunited with their children. This is a timely bill.

Before I yield back, I would like to thank Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for agreeing to exchange letters to expedite consideration of H.R. 1372 on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1372, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1372, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1730

U.S. WANTS TO COMPETE FOR A WORLD EXPO ACT

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 534) to require the Secretary of State to take such actions as may be necessary for the United States to rejoin the Bureau of International Expositions, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 534

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 "U.S. Wants to Compete for a World Expo Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Bureau of International Expositions (BIE) is the organization responsible for governing World Fairs and International Expositions.

(2) Section 1(a) of Public Law 91-269 (22 U.S.C. 2801(a)) found that "international expositions . . . have a significant impact on the economic growth of the region surrounding the exposition and . . . are important instruments of national policy".

(3) The United States has not been an active member of the BIE since 2001.

(4) State and local governments and private entities in the United States have continued to participate in international expositions held in foreign countries as a means of promoting United States exports and creating jobs, but face significantly higher costs for such participation because the United States is not an active member.

(5) State and local governments and private entities in the United States have expressed interest in an international exposition being hosted in the United States, but the bid of a United States city, region, or State to host an international exposition is unlikely to be successful if the United States is not a member of the BIE.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should rejoin the BIE immediately to promote domestic job creation, global branding, and tourism to the United States;

(2) the Secretary of State, in partnership with the Secretary of Commerce, State and local governments, and private and non-profit entities, should take all necessary steps to facilitate the timely submission of a request to rejoin the BIE; and

(3) funding for the participation of the United States in international expositions or other events facilitated by the BIE should continue to be privately solicited and sourced, in accordance with existing law.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State is authorized to take such actions as the Secretary determines necessary for the United States to rejoin and maintain membership in the BIE.

(b) AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS.—In addition to funds otherwise available to the Secretary to carry out this section, the Secretary is authorized to accept contributions for such purpose.

(c) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of State shall notify the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Foreign Relations and Appropriations of the Senate upon taking any action under subsection (a).

SEC. 5. CONTINUATION OF PROHIBITION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR WORLD'S FAIR PAVILIONS AND EXHIBITS.

Nothing in this Act may be construed to authorize any obligation or expenditure prohibited by section 204 of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (22 U.S.C. 2452b) (relating to limitations on the obligation or expenditure of funds by the Department of State for a United States pavilion or exhibit at an international exposition or world's fair registered by the BIE).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. 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 material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 534, the U.S. Wants to Compete for a World Expo Act. As always, I appreciate the assistance of the ranking member, Mr. ENGEL, in expediting this legislation. I would like to commend two of our body here, Mr. TOM EMMER and Ms. BETTY MCCOLLUM. We thank them and their Minnesota colleagues for their leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will enable American citizens and our businesses and State and local governments to once again compete on an even footing against foreign countries to host a World Expo here in the United States. It does so by authorizing the Secretary of State to take those steps necessary to rejoin the Bureau of International Expositions. This BIE, as it is called, is the organization that governs World Expos, and it determines which cities get to host such an event.

The United States originally joined the BIE back in 1928, but it withdrew from active membership in 2001. Unfortunately, the rules of the BIE make it virtually impossible for bids from non-member nations to compete against bids from member nations. This bill will reverse this. It will reverse the longstanding position, and we can lend our support to a recent surge of American interest in once again hosting a World Expo in the United States.

Citizens from Minnesota have developed a comprehensive bid and are actively competing against cities in Argentina and Poland to host the 2023

World Expo, but since these countries are BIE members, the U.S. must rejoin the BIE in order for Minnesota to compete on an even playing field when the BIE makes its recommendations to the selection committee in May.

It is not just Minnesota that is interested in this. At least five other U.S. States and cities are actively exploring hosting a World Expo in the future, including Los Angeles and San Francisco from my home State of California. These cities know that World Expos create American jobs. They promote American exports. They enhance the image of America around the world. Indeed, in November, the Departments of Commerce and State submitted reports to the President certifying that the Minnesota proposal was in the national interest of the United States and had guaranteed financial support from State, from local, from private, and other sources.

Members should know that U.S. law requires that the cost of hosting or participating in a World Expo be funded entirely by private donors. This bill does not change that. In fact, it reaffirms that requirement. This bill also specifically authorizes the Department of State to accept private contributions in order to cover any costs associated with rejoining the organization. Indeed, the organizers of Minnesota's 2023 Expo bid have committed to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 534 in order to once again give the American people the opportunity to host a World Expo here in the United States.

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

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

I rise in strong support of the U.S. Wants to Compete for a World Expo Act. Let me thank our chairman, ED ROYCE, for his leadership of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. I also want to thank my colleagues from Minnesota, Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. EMMER, for their hard work on this measure.

World Fairs and World Expos explore and bring millions of people together from around the globe. They drive billions of dollars of investment to host cities, and they provide a forum for working toward new and creative solutions to serious problems. Across more than a century, these Expos have given us some of the world's most iconic architecture: the Golden Gate Bridge, the Space Needle, and the Eiffel Tower. They have brought together world leaders and experts to discuss topics ranging from nutrition to the future of energy.

The last Expo held in the United States was in 1984, and Minnesota is a potential candidate to host the 2023 World Expo. This Expo could bring in about 12 million visitors and \$4 billion of revenue to Minnesota and connect the public and private sector to discuss Wellness and Well-Being for All.

Mr. Speaker, we are at a grave disadvantage in competing for this event.

In 2001, at the direction of Congress, the State Department withdrew from numerous international associations, including the Bureau of International Expositions, or BIE. Then-Secretary of State Colin Powell warned that this action could force the U.S. to pay a higher fee for participation and decrease the chance of an American city being selected as a host city.

We are currently facing these consequences. As a nonmember of the BIE, the United States faces significantly higher costs to participate in expositions and will also face substantial barriers in hosting since preference is given to member nations.

Mr. Speaker, the remedy is simple. We must rejoin the BIE. Private sector companies have shown interest in paying membership dues, so rejoining the BIE would not be an additional burden to taxpayers.

Hosting the World Expo would increase revenue and tourism to Minnesota and the U.S. generally, put us at the forefront of international discussion on health, and increase our chances to hold specialized and World Expos in the future. I am proud of the hard work that has gone into this by my colleagues. I am glad once again that we are working in a bipartisan manner to pass legislation that advances our interests.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD two letters of support for this bill. One is from the administration, and the other is from ExpoUSA, the United States World's Fairs Council.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, April 24, 2017.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Department of State appreciates Congress' interest in facilitating the bids of states to host international expositions. Not only do such events potentially generate considerable economic benefits but they also create ideal opportunities for showcasing American commercial capabilities to interested international audiences. This is consistent with the President's policy to promote domestic job growth and American innovation.

As the Bureau of International Expositions (BIE) is the international organization responsible for selecting venues offered by bidders, the chances of U.S. bidders being selected would be greatly enhanced if the U.S. were to renew and maintain its membership in the BIE. H.R. 534, the "U.S. Wants to Compete for a World Expo Act", as amended, would provide the needed permissive authority for the Secretary of State to do so.

Further, the Department greatly appreciates the efforts of Congress to ensure the bill is consistent with similar authorizations. Insofar as BIE has advised of the need for United States membership to be renewed by May 12, 2017, to ensure timely consideration of the Minnesota Expo 2023 bid, the Department urges that, if possible, the bill be passed quickly. This will enable the Department to take the necessary steps to renew membership, enhancing prospects that state bids to host upcoming expositions will prevail. With the U.S. membership within BIE,

costs for states to bid and host will be decreased by half and provide long-term savings for U.S. businesses interested in participating in future expos, both domestically and internationally.

Finally, expeditious renewal of United States membership in the BIE will return the United States to the decision-making body for future World's Fairs and Expos, offsetting the growing influence of other countries, such as China.

The Office of Management and Budget has no objection to the views expressed in this letter.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH E. MACMANUS,
Bureau of Legislative Affairs.

EXPOUSA, THE UNITED STATES
WORLD'S FAIRS COUNCIL,
April 19, 2017.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
*Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. ELIOT ENGEL,
*Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE AND RANKING MEMBER ENGEL: On behalf of ExpoUSA and Minnesota's World's Fair Bid Committee, we write in support of The U.S. Wants to Compete for a World Expo Act (H.R. 534). This bill authorizes the United States to rejoin Bureau of International Exhibitions (BIE), the organization that coordinates World's Fairs, also known as Expos. Renewing membership in the BIE will promote public diplomacy, U.S. exports and travel and tourism. It will also ensure that U.S. cities wanting to host Expos will have that opportunity to compete against cities around the world. H.R. 534 has gained bipartisan and national support.

While the U.S. has not hosted a World's Fair in more than 30 years, there's been a surge of local interest over the past few years. Houston, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Philadelphia have actively considered bidding for future Expos, and the U.S. Government gave official support for Minnesota's bid to host a World's Fair in 2023 focused on health and wellness. After passing a rigorous review by the United States Commerce Department, State Department, and the White House, the State Department formally recommended Minnesota's bid to the BIE. Minnesota will now compete against Buenos Aires, Argentina and Lodz, Poland. Voting will take place at the BIE General Council meeting in November 2017.

Under current rules, the BIE is required to discriminate against bids from non-member countries if there are competing proposals from member countries. Since Argentina and Poland are BIE members, the U.S. must rejoin the BIE in order for Minnesota to compete against these foreign bidders when the BIE makes its recommendations to the selection committee in May. Therefore, Congress must pass legislation authorizing the Secretary of State to rejoin the BIE by May 13, 2017 in order for Minnesota's bid to be viable.

Expos held in the U.S. are local initiatives that are funded entirely by the private sector; therefore no taxpayer money will be used to pay for Expo 2023. Additionally, if Congress acts to rejoin the BIE, ExpoUSA stands ready to pay the costs of BIE membership with private sector funds, including membership dues both past and current, in order to save money by reducing fees and to give Minnesota and the U.S. a renewed voice in the BIE.

World's Fairs are the largest gatherings held on the planet, generating billions of dol-

lars in economic activity for the region and country in which they are held. Expo 2023 will attract 12 million visitors, generating 22,000 jobs in the upper Midwest region, paying an annual wage of \$47,000, and another 18,000 jobs nationwide in the tourism, travel, and hospitality sectors. Total economic impact in the Twin Cities metropolitan area will be \$1.4 billion. International visitor spending will total \$581 million, and on average will stay 6 days in Minnesota and another 5 days in other locations around the United States.

We ask for your support in expeditiously moving legislation authorizing the United States to rejoin the BIE.

Thank you for consideration of our request and for your interest in helping cities like Minneapolis/St. Paul bid on future World's Fairs.

Sincerely,

MARK RITCHIE,
*President and CEO,
Minnesota World's
Fair Bid Committee,
Board Member,
ExpoUSA.*

MANUEL DELGADO,
Chairman, ExpoUSA.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER). He is the author of this bill. He has worked very hard preparing this legislation for passage.

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding. I thank Chairman ED ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL as well, and the entire staff on the Committee on Foreign Affairs for working to get this important legislation to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, when many Americans look back in our Nation's history, they remember the iconic nature of the 1962 World's Fair in Seattle or the 1939 and 1964 World's Fairs in New York. Those events highlighted the best the United States had to offer in science, technology, and innovation, all while bringing visitors and revenue to this great country.

While the United States remains a global leader in these fields, our country has been noticeably absent over the past three decades when it comes to hosting a World's Fair. In fact, New Orleans was the last city in the United States to host a World's Fair in 1984. But it is time for that to change and to bring this incredible event back to our great country.

Thankfully, in recent years there has been an upsurge of local interest in hosting a World's Fair. Exploratory committees in Houston, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, and San Francisco are actively considering bidding to host a future World's Fair. Currently, my home State of Minnesota is competing against Argentina and Poland to do just that, with the goal of hosting the 2023 World Expo. However, under the current rules, the Bureau of International Expositions will not give bids submitted by a nonmember country the same consideration as those from a country who is a member of the organization.

For those of you who may not know, the Bureau of International Expo-

sitions is the intergovernmental organization in charge of overseeing and regulating World Expos. Despite being one of the founding members in 1928, the United States has not been a member since 2001. The U.S. must renew its membership so Minneapolis and every city across the country can have an opportunity to host a World's Fair.

That is why I have introduced and I am happy to see H.R. 534 under consideration before the House today. The U.S. Wants to Compete for a World Expo Act provides the Secretary of State with the authority to rejoin the Bureau of International Expositions so that U.S. cities can compete against foreign cities to host a World Expo. The 6-month World Expo, held every 5 years, can draw millions of visitors and generate billions of dollars in tourism, construction, and other job-creating economic activity, all while promoting exports of U.S. products around the world.

In Minnesota's case, a 2016 economic analysis conducted by Rockport Analytics found that hosting the 2023 World Expo will attract 12 million visitors, create almost 22,000 jobs, yield \$185.3 million in State and local tax revenue, and generate \$1.5 billion in total economic benefits. This legislation also has safeguards for protecting taxpayers and ensuring proper use of funds. Recognizing the difficult fiscal climate our country currently faces, H.R. 534 authorizes the use of private funds to pay outstanding as well as future membership dues. It also maintains taxpayer safeguards which prohibit tax dollars from being used to fund a United States pavilion or exhibit at an international exposition or World's Fair.

By approving this legislation today, we will give American cities the ability to compete with other cities around the world to host future Expos and World's Fairs where we can showcase American innovation and success while continuing to be wise stewards of the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars.

Again, I thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL in helping bring this legislation to the floor today. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation, and I look forward to bringing the next World's Fair back to the United States.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

World Expos are designed to showcase a nation's products, the technology, the innovative spirit. And what nation on Earth produces more innovative products and technology than the United States or has a better or more skilled workforce?

Simply put, when Americans compete in the world on an even footing, America wins. It is therefore in our interest to once again compete to host a World Expo.

This bill does that by empowering our fellow citizens to mount competitive private bids to bring a World Expo to the U.S., and it does so while maintaining a sound legal requirement that participation in Expos continue to be privately funded. It goes further to permit private funding for the relatively modest cost to rejoin the BIE. That is why this measure has the support of Members from both parties and the administration, which has written that H.R. 534 is consistent with the President's policy to promote domestic job growth and American innovation.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this measure and give our fellow Americans the chance to compete and win a World Expo for America. I again thank the bill's committed sponsors, Representatives TOM EMMER and BETTY MCCOLLUM. I want to give a special thanks to Sean O'Neill, a detailee on my staff, whose skill and dedication have made today's consideration of this measure possible.

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

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. 534, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1745

RELATING TO EFFORTS TO RESPOND TO THE FAMINE IN SOUTH SUDAN

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 187) relating to efforts to respond to the famine in South Sudan, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 187

Whereas on February 20, 2017, famine was formally declared in parts of South Sudan;

Whereas South Sudan is the world's newest nation and for the past three years has experienced an ongoing armed conflict and the deliberate hindrance by the Government of South Sudan of humanitarian access to opposition communities in need;

Whereas due to this deliberate action on the part of the Government of South Sudan and the armed opposition to prolong the conflict South Sudan is experiencing a "man-made" famine currently affecting 100,000 people;

Whereas according to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) food insecurity is already prevalent in South Sudan and the ongoing conflict is exacerbating the situation;

Whereas the United Nations has reported that 4,900,000 people, over 40 percent of the population, are in urgent need of food, agriculture, and nutritional assistance;

Whereas there are 1,900,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) residing in South Sudan and according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) an average of approximately 2,400 South Sudanese refugees arrive in Uganda every day;

Whereas 1,000,000 children in South Sudan are suffering from malnutrition in part due to the deliberate actions of the Government of South Sudan, at the same time according to United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) there are more than 17,000 child soldiers forced into combat;

Whereas an anticipated 5,500,000 people are at risk for starvation by mid-year and without urgent humanitarian intervention civilians will continue to die from acute malnutrition and millions more will remain at risk;

Whereas failure to act prior to the upcoming rainy season May to August, will further impede humanitarian efforts;

Whereas the areas where famine has been declared have seen some of the most intense fighting;

Whereas USAID has been a leading provider of humanitarian support to South Sudan, including more than 620,000 tons of life-saving food assistance since the conflict broke out in 2013; and

Whereas support provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNICEF, and the World Food Program have been critical in reducing the number of civilians at risk of severe malnutrition; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(A) the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development should continue to provide immediate and robust assistance to respond to the famine in South Sudan by providing food and other essential resources and to collaborate with international relief organizations, such as World Food Program and others in an effort to reach vulnerable populations; and

(B) the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development should be encouraged to continue to provide desperately needed and locally appropriate food aid through the Food for Peace and Emergency Food Security Programs; and

(2) the House of Representatives—

(A) calls upon the Government of South Sudan to declare and observe a cessation of hostilities to allow food and essential supplies to reach affected civilians;

(B) urges specifically that the Government of South Sudan allow immediate and unrestricted humanitarian access to southern Unity, where the famine is currently underway;

(C) condemns all threats and violence against civilian populations and aid workers, including the over 70 humanitarian aid workers killed since the conflict began and the brutal attack by the South Sudanese military on humanitarian aid workers, including Americans, at the Terrain Camp in July 2016;

(D) condemns the multiple instances in which security forces have looted humanitarian assistance destined for civilians in need; and

(E) supports effort of the United States Government, working with partners in the international community, including the United Nations, the African Union, and the European Union, to facilitate humanitarian access to affected areas, and encourages greater diplomatic pressure on the parties to return to the negotiation table to stop the violence, and to allow full humanitarian access.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from California (Ms. BASS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, in July of 2011, all of us here celebrated the establishment of the world's newest nation. Finally, South Sudan had emerged after more than 20 years of brutal suppression by the government in Khartoum and a war that saw some of the worst human rights atrocities of our time. They emerged out of that.

Tragically, though, the celebration was short-lived. By December of 2013, a long-simmering rivalry between two leaders—South Sudan's ethnic Dinka President and ethnic Nuer Vice President—exploded in violence, and South Sudan became embroiled in yet another deadly civil conflict.

Today, over 100,000 people are starving to death; 5.5 million people—half of the population—are at risk of starving by July; and 3.6 million people have been displaced by conflict and famine with 7,000 newly displaced South Sudanese crossing the Ugandan border each and every week.

In February, famine was declared in two of the areas that have experienced the heaviest fighting.

Let's be clear: the famine unfolding across South Sudan is completely man-made. The leaders who have unleashed this horror upon the citizens that they are meant to represent—Salva Kiir and Riek Machar—have plundered billions of dollars in oil revenues and donor investment, manipulated ethnic tensions, and armed proxy militias. They have, as we can share with you, recruited child soldiers, killed U.N. peacekeeping forces, and forcibly displaced millions of their citizens—civilians who have been run from their homes.

Lifesaving humanitarian supplies have been looted by the government and by the opposition. The government has blocked humanitarian access through bureaucratic manipulation and through sheer brute force. Humanitarian workers have been deliberately targeted. They have been abused, raped, and murdered with impunity. Yes, humanitarian workers. South Sudan is now the most dangerous place in the world for humanitarians.

It is also the most dangerous place for their own citizens because they are treated the same way by these two so-called leaders. And those South Sudan leaders have, in effect, become exactly