

lakes and coastal areas. The Aquaculture Employment Act amends the Coastal Zone Management Act [CZMA] to authorize grants to States to formulate, administer, and implement strategic plans for marine aquaculture. This provision would enable States like Rhode Island that have no comprehensive plan for aquaculture development to get started in the process of creating jobs and economic development through aquaculture.

The legislation also creates a grant program modeled after a shellfish seeding program operating in Nantucket. Under this program, funds would be made available to States to expand ongoing projects relating to aquaculture, such as the State quahog transplant operations. By transplanting clams from high bacteria areas of Narragansett Bay to clean areas of the Bay, the clams are given the opportunity to clean themselves and eventually be ready for harvest.

This is not to say that development of a marine aquaculture industry will be easy. Difficult issues such as private use of public resources, conflicts with other coastal user groups, and the development of streamlined regulatory and permitting requirements will have to be addressed.

Other nations around the world have already recognized the potential of aquaculture and the important role that government can play in developing this industry. The governments of Japan, Norway, and Chile are supporting aquaculture development programs, and giving their citizens the opportunity to reap the accompanying economic rewards. In fact, these countries are exporting their aquaculture harvests of fish and shellfish to America.

This bill calls for a modest commitment of Federal resources, but it does not take a large Federal investment to join marine aquaculture and economic development. I urge my colleagues to join with me in support of its passage.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1977) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment to H.R. 1977, the Interior appropriations bill. My amendment reduces funding for two unnecessary aircraft and some vehicles to be used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These savings are then made available to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for two purposes.

In 1906, Congress enacted the Alaska Native Allotment Act to allocate lands to Native Alaskans. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 repealed the 1906 Allotment Act and an allottee must have filed an application with the Department of the Interior by De-

ember 18, 1971. It has been over 23 years since eligible allottees filed their applications and there still remains a need to resolve the on-going case load of Alaska Native allotment disputes at the Department of Interior. In February of 1994, the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, the Alaska Legal Services, and the Alaska Federation of Natives met to discuss solutions to resolve these disputes, propose to close the last of Native allotment cases and an attempt to finalize land dispute problems in this area. This amendment intends that half of these funds—\$442,000—be used for the Alaska Native allotment attorney fee program at the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This will provide funds for representatives for Native allottees with cases with pending at various stages of review within the Department of Interior and before the Interior Board of Land Appeals. The need for outside counsel in these cases is required because of the attorneys within the Department of Interior recognize a conflict of interest between the Native allottees and their institutional clients.

The remaining funds are to added to the Bureau's Wildlife and Parks program as additional funds for monitoring and enhancement of the salmon returns within the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim regions in Alaska. The Athabaskan, Yup'ik and Inupiaq Natives of western and interior Alaska live a subsistence way of life from harvests of different fish and mammals. Although these resources supply most of their food needs, they also need cash to purchase essentials such as gas, and nonperishable foodstuffs and harvesting equipment such as boats, outboard motors, nets, and rifles. Commercial fishing provides that small but necessary income since other jobs are scarce and seasonal in rural Alaska. Fishing income averages \$4,000 from about 7 weeks of fishing and the per capita income in the villages of these regions is about 60 percent of the U.S. national average. Beginning in 1990, chum salmon stocks in these regions declined significantly and spawning escapements were inadequate. For the upcoming fishing seasons, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is predicting below average return of salmon to these regions. This program fund is intended for salmon monitoring, enhancement and restoration and research projects in these regions.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2043, THE
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. ROBERT S. WALKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 1995

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 2043, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, fiscal year 1996. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Science has devised a visionary, yet prudent alternative to the two very different approaches we have seen thus far this budget year.

The first approach was contained in the President's Budget Request for NASA. It said, "don't worry, trust us, we'll cut NASA's budget by \$5 billion over the next 5 years." At the

time, the President didn't say how the budget would be cut by \$5 billion, but he said it could be cut without closing NASA field centers or cancelling programs.

To some of my colleagues, that promise sounded incredible—so much so that the Appropriations Subcommittee that pays NASA's bills, the Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies, took the exact opposite approach: it proposed closing NASA field centers and cancelling major science programs.

The role of the Science Committee is to provide guidance to the Nation's civil space program. We are operating under the fiscal imperatives that weigh upon all Members of the House. Our job is to propose a new direction for NASA that meets both the needs of the nation's space program and the budget of the nation's taxpayer. H.R. 2043 does just that.

THE PATH OF THE FUTURE

Our bill lays the groundwork for a direct path to the future by focussing NASA's energies on basic research and development. The International Space Station, which is fully authorized to completion in H.R. 1601, should be seen as the foundation on which this bill rests. H.R. 2043, builds on the commitment made to human space exploration by fully funding the Space Shuttle program and takes the first steps toward privatizing the Shuttle while maintaining safe and productive operations.

But that's not enough. H.R. 2043 also fully funds the Reusable Launch Vehicle initiative aimed at low-cost, simple, reliable space transportation systems whose operational vehicles will be entirely developed by the private sector. This basic research is fundamental to industry's being able to privately finance and profitably operate the next generation of space vehicles. With this program, Mr. Speaker, we will begin a new era in space, led not by large engineering bureaucracies, but by skillful space entrepreneurs.

We are fully funding the President's proposal to fund two reusable X-type vehicles, the X-33 and the X-34. The X-33 is intended to be the development "footprint" for a single-stage-to-orbit fully reusable launch vehicle; the actual step of capitalizing and developing this system will be the private sector's responsibility. The program is designed to make that next step technologically feasible. The X-34 is already changing the way NASA does business because it reverses the contracting relationship; reverse contracting means that industry can decide how NASA will contribute its expertise to the program, and not the other way around.

PIONEERING BASIC SCIENCE

We are committed in H.R. 2043 to complete development of the highest priority basic science missions in NASA. These programs, Gravity Probe-B, Cassini, the Advanced X-ray Astrophysics Facility [AXAF], the Mars Surveyor, the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy [SOFIA], represent the core science mission that NASA should be focusing on as it returns to its original mission as the Nation's leader in basic scientific, air and space research. Originally NASA had proposed terminating Gravity Probe-B, if possible, to make room for two new programs in infrared astronomy, SOFIA and the Space Infrared Telescope Facility [SIRTF]. Our bill makes the difficult choice to fund Gravity Probe-B and SOFIA, but not SIRTF.