

the Congress and the White House intend. Instead of serving the Nation's interest in promoting commercial space, bureaucracies serve their self-interest in expanding turf, accreting regulatory power, and stifling creativity. The bill I am introducing today reverses the increasing bureaucratization of commercial space and the tendency by the Government to grow and stifle this industry. The Commercial Space Act of 1997 levers the legislative and regulatory process for space launch, space re-entry, and remote sensing back to the track it was meant to be on when Congress enacted and the White House approved commercial space legislation.

We designed this bill around the Clinton administration's space policies, in particular, as they relate to remote sensing, space transportation, and navigation from space. We designed this bill around those policies because they are good policies. They strike an appropriate balance among our Nation's interest in promoting commercial space activity, creating high-tech jobs, protecting our national security, preserving the public safety, and increasing our technical competitiveness. We've insisted that Federal agencies and departments do the things they are obligated to do. We've strengthened some of the policies and set specific limits on the power and authority of the Federal Government. By taking these steps, we're creating a stable business environment in which the commercial sector can raise capital, develop a business plan, hire employees, and offer a space good or service with the expectation that the Government won't keep changing the rules.

The bill does several things, but let me limit my comments to the highlights.

First, we direct NASA to study the prospects for commercial development, augmentation, or servicing of the international space station, including the funds that we might save through greater commercial involvement.

Second, we amend the Commercial Space Launch Act to give the commercial sector the legal ability to reenter Earth's atmosphere and return space payloads to Earth. This is a vital portion of the bill, as a handful of companies are building commercial reusable launch vehicles which will need to reenter Earth's atmosphere and land after delivering their payloads to orbit. NASA's own X-33 program is leading technology in this direction, so Congress and the White House must act soon to make commercial reentry from space legal.

Third, the bill confirms and supports the President's policies on the global positioning system [GPS]. GPS is a space-based system that people can use to determine their precise position on Earth. Although it is a military system, the Reagan administration decided a decade ago that its signal would be available to civilian users. Since then, the civil and commercial uses of GPS have exploded. According to a RAND Corp. study, the global market for nonmilitary GPS goods and services could reach \$8.47 billion by the year 2000. Other governments are considering entering this area of space activity. Because our national security and economic interests are better served if the U.S. system becomes the world standard, the bill encourages the President to enter into regional agreements with foreign governments to secure the U.S. GPS as the world's standard. This encouragement will strengthen the administration's negotiating position by presenting a united front overseas

without tying its hands to reach the best agreement.

Fourth, the bill streamlines the process of obtaining a license to operate a commercial remote sensing satellite. The Government has issued seven licenses to the industry to image the Earth from space, enabling our commercial sector to compete with a host of corporate, government, and quasi-private entities from other countries seeking to dominate global remote sensing markets. U.S. leadership of this industry is crucial if we are to ensure that its benefits accrue to Americans and that the global industry remains under the control of the United States. If we allow foreign entities to lead the industry, then we will lose insight into and control over the use of high-resolution remote sensing imagery during times of crisis. This bill lays the foundation to ensure that American industry can set the pace of technical change in the industry so that we do not cede control over it to another country.

Fifth, the bill requires the Government to procure commercial space transportation services, instead of buying rockets. When the aviation industry began in this country, the Government procured air mail services from the commercial sector, allowing the market to determine the pace of innovation in the industry. The results of this decision made America's aeronautics industry the world's leader in just a few decades. We need to do the same thing for space and bring market mechanisms into the process of launching Government payloads. The bill does make appropriate exceptions, including giving the Defense Department considerable discretion in areas of national security.

This bill is based on legislation, H.R. 3936, that the House passed under suspension last year. That bill had broad bipartisan support and we worked very closely with the administration to ensure that it was consistent with President Clinton's objectives. After all, the President's policies help achieve our goals. This is one area where there is very little political disagreement. In the end, a Republican Congress and a Democratic White House can look back on a spirit of cooperation among the Nation's elected officials last year. The bill didn't become law because it was sent to the Senate in the waning days of the 104th Congress. By sending this bill to the Senate during the first session of the 105th Congress, we will be giving the Senators enough time to review and pass the bill. I hope that we can maintain the same level of cooperation and compromise as we experienced last year. Just as we worked on a bipartisan basis in the House last year, and just as we worked with the administration to move the bill forward, I am looking forward to working with the bill's supporters in the Senate this Congress.

As important as this bill is, it is not the last and final word on commercial space development or Government's role in it. It takes several very solid, but incremental steps down the path the American people have said they want to go. The changes we are making here are vital to providing the stable business environment that any young and growing industry needs to expand. To paraphrase Neil Armstrong as he leapt to the lunar surface 28 years ago, these small steps add up to one giant leap.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. WALTER H. CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 84) establishing the Congressional budget for the U.S. Government for the fiscal year 1998 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 1999, 2000, and 2002.

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the budget resolution. Though I have strong doubts about some of its provisions and fully oppose others, I am confident that this budget is, on balance, in the best interest of my constituents and the country.

This budget is a victory for fiscal responsibility. It offers sensible tax relief while increasing our commitment to education, health and environmental protection—all while achieving a balanced budget by 2002.

The capital gains tax reductions will help small businesses, family farms and high-tech companies throughout this country. Lower interest rates will free up capital, allow greater expansion for growing sectors of our economy, and reward risk-taking entrepreneurs. The likely \$500,000 exemption of profits from home sales will encourage home ownership and give many taxpayers flexibility with their largest financial asset.

I am particularly pleased that the new budget proposal calls for the strongest Federal support of education in 30 years. It strengthens the Head Start program to include an additional 200,000 young children by 2002 and provides for 1 million tutors for older students who need help catching up. The expansion of the Pell Grant programs and \$35 billion in education tax credits will increase access for working families and their children to help them help themselves through the wonders of higher education.

I believe in welfare reform, but I opposed the rank unfairness in last year's bill that sought to end all benefits to legal immigrants. The provisions to restore benefits to elderly disabled legal immigrants will help impart some fairness to welfare reform. I also support the tax incentives for businesses to help increase welfare-to-work opportunities.

This budget also restores health insurance for half of our Nation's 10 million uninsured children. While this is a good start, we must do more. No child in this country should be without health insurance. We should see this provision as a start in addressing this critical need throughout our country.

As the Representatives of one of the most beautiful districts in the Nation, I am pleased that the agreement also provides funding to double the pace of cleanup at Superfund toxic waste sites; increases funding for community redevelopment of contaminated urban areas (so called "brown fields"); and increases funding for ensuring the beauty of our National Parks.

But like many of my colleagues here today, I am concerned about the amount of savings—\$155 billion—to the Medicare program. These cuts will force a rise in seniors' premiums of perhaps more than \$5 per month by

the year 2002 and put additional financial burdens on physicians and hospitals. I fear that such deep cuts could do serious damage to the quality of health care provided to seniors and I hope that we can work together here in the House to ensure that these cuts are done as responsibly as possible.

In addition, there are many wasteful Government programs that were not included in the agreement that could save billions of taxpayer dollars and lessen the cuts to important programs like Medicare.

For example, mining laws are still governed by a law written in 1872, which gives away billions of dollars in mineral rights on taxpayer land for almost nothing. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that updating this law would save \$1.5 billion over 5 years and protect the environment. We also continue to subsidize the building of roads in our national forests and to sell taxpayer-owned timber at below market rates, at a cost of \$300 million annually. Subsidies for the cotton and sugar programs cost taxpayers billions each year.

I also have questions about the Pentagon's budget. While I am a strong supporter of our armed services, we must subject the Pentagon's \$263 billion annual budget to the same scrutiny at the rest of the Federal Government.

As with any major piece of Federal legislation that covers such a broad range of issues, there is a lot to like and dislike about the proposed budget agreement. But we must not succumb to the temptation to abandon the process because there may be particular provisions with which we disagree.

I believe that we must return a measure of civility to our public discourse. We mustn't fall into the abyss that the last Congress found itself in. Only by speaking with one another in a civil and honorable fashion can we hope to accomplish what the people of all our districts have sent us here to do.

Republicans and Democrats will not work in a bipartisan fashion on every issue, nor do I believe that they should. While there are distinct differences between our two parties, these disagreements should be seen as an illustration of the strength of our democracy. But we cannot let these differences stand in the way of making compromises that move our country forward, and Congress should not return to the frustrating and unproductive days of the recent past.

This budget resolution breaks the choke hold of partisan rancor that has been squeezing civility from our political life. This agreement is clear evidence that only by working together in a bipartisan fashion can we bring about solutions to very complex issues.

I urge my colleagues to support this budget resolution.

TRIBUTE TO THE
STEPHANPOULOS FAMILY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a family that has demonstrated an unflinching commitment to community service. Tonight, the annual Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter [NCS] will honor the Stephanopoulos family at a Greek festival benefit in Manhattan.

Rev. Dr. Robert Stephanopoulos, a priest of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America for 38 years, has been dean of the Creek Orthodox Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity since 1982. He is renowned ecumenist, theologian, lecturer, and pastor and has developed innovative social outreach programs in the greater Catholic community.

Nikki Stephanopoulos has dedicated much of her life to volunteer service. As a founding member of NCS, she has served on its board for 10 years; she is also the news and information officer of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

Father Robert and Niki's children are just as dedicated to social causes as their parents. Anastasia spent a year in Santiago, Chile, as a housemother for orphans and assisting in the administration of a school for children under the aegis of a Orthodox convent. Anastasia is now a nun at Convent of St. May Magdalene, situated in the slope of the Mount of Olives in the Garden of Gethsemane.

George, former senior advisor to President Clinton, is now a professor at Columbia University, an ABC news analyst and a Newsweek contributing columnist. He has spent two 6 week period working at refugee camps in the Sudan. Since his undergraduate days at Columbia University, George has participated in the Big Brother Program and other philanthropic efforts in New York and Washington.

Margarite is an active member of Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Cleveland, OH, where she served for many years on the board of trustees and for 5 years, chaired their 3-day Greek festival which attracted thousands of visitors every year. Margarite recently became the office manager for an orthopedic surgeon at Lenox Hill Hospital in Manhattan.

Andrew, who is currently vice president/A&R for the Track Factory, was very involved in the Rock The Vote campaign during the first Clinton campaign. During the campaign, he assisted in providing music for college events; following the election, he attended the signing of the motor-voter bill at the White House.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise with me in this tribute to the Stephanopoulos family. The Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter, whose benefit theme is "One Caring Family Can Make A Difference," has chosen an exemplary family to illustrate how one family can have an extraordinary impact on the lives of people in need. Thank you.

SPORTSMEN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Sportsmen's Bill of Rights. I am joined today by Representatives JOHN TANNER (TN), DON YOUNG (AK), SAXBY CHAMBLISS (GA), COLLIN PETERSON (MN), BOB SMITH (OR), RICHARD POMBO (CA), VIRGIL GOODE (VA), RICK HILL (MT), JAMES BARCIA (MI), and CHRIS JOHN (LA).

THE SPORTSMEN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

The Sportsmen's Bill of Rights is intended to provide a clear policy for Federal agencies to follow in their administration and management of our Federal public lands. This policy is for

Federal agencies, within the limits of the statutes that they administer, to allow access to the Federal public lands under their jurisdiction for the purpose of fishing and hunting. The policy also requires that in the administration of their authorities, the Federal agencies act so as to improve and enhance the quality of fishing and hunting opportunities on the Federal public lands.

The bill contains several exceptions and exclusions to take into account emergency situations, national security concerns, public safety, and accepted management practices. In particular, the bill cannot be used to force the opening of national parks and monuments administered by the National Park Service to fishing or hunting. Nor can it be used to force Federal agencies to change management mandates and priorities established by statute. Its intent is to guide the Federal land managing agencies in those areas where the basic authorizing legislation for management of a particular unit leaves room for discretion and judgment by the agency.

The policy established by this bill is driven by the recognition of the important role fishing and hunting play in America. Both are recreational activities for millions of Americans. They are also the driving forces in fish and wildlife conservation. With the growing urbanization that our country has gone through in the 20th century, Americans have separated from our connection with and understanding of the fishing and hunting activities of our great pioneers and settlers. But fishing and hunting are important recreational activities for almost 75 million people. Sportsmen spend more than \$48 billion every year on their outdoor recreation, supporting more than 1.3 million U.S. jobs. In addition, the enthusiasm of anglers and hunters for preserving their outdoor heritage was tapped 60 years ago to create a system for wildlife conservation recognized worldwide for its success at bringing back many species that were decimated during the 19th century.

Over 60 million Americans go fishing each year. Fishing activities range from the excitement of opening day in lakes and trout streams to the regular jaunts of parent and child to their favorite fishing hole, where they can relax and get away from the pace of modern life. Hunting is done by 14 million Americans, who take to the woods in the autumn to put venison in the larder or call the elusive turkey gobbler in the spring. For the individual, fishing and hunting bring out the qualities of independence and self-reliance that were so important to our forefathers. In their modern versions, fishing and hunting also require participants to be law-abiding and ethical good citizens of their communities. These are important values to retain and to inoculate in our children.

To a great extent, fishing and hunting are pursued by so many people because of their outdoors aspects. Since most people live in an urban or suburban environment, a visit to the woods, the fields or fishing streams is an important contact with the land. Fishing and hunting carries this contact a step further than other outdoor activities, because in addition to knowing how to get along in the outdoors, fisherman and hunters must have a knowledge of the fish and wildlife they pursue and their place in the environment. Together, the love of the outdoors and the understanding of