

Mr. Chairman, the Heritage Foundation calls the EDA the No. 1 Federal boondoggle which could be eliminated tomorrow without hurting anyone at all, and they are right. The EDA duplicates the activities of 62 other community development programs and 340 Federal economic development-related programs administered by 13 separate agencies. We simply do not need it, first of all; and second, it does not work.

Now, when we have a problem around here and we do not want to make a decision, what do we do? We say, well, let us get the GAO to do a study of it to get the facts so we will know what to do. Well, the GAO has done a study of the EDA, and it says that it has had a very small effect on income growth rates during the period that the aid was received and no significant effects in the 3 years after the aid ceased. This does not compute to the good-paying, long-term jobs the EDA is said to create.

Mr. Chairman, the value of this program that will be argued here tonight is fiction. The Senate received testimony to this effect in June of this year, and consequently had decided to appropriate only \$250 million, I say only, but it is a lot of money, more than I would want, but it said, they have said \$250 million to the EDA. We have gone far above that. I urge my colleagues to approve this amendment and bring the EDA's funding in line with the Senate bill.

This has been a target of Presidents, this has been a target of almost every think tank that has looked at it and tried to evaluate it. It has been a target of the GAO. Instead of getting rid of it, let us at least bring it down to the Senate level.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, here we go again. This is an amendment to drastically cut the Economic Development Administration, and I strongly urge a "no" vote.

We debated the issue of EDA on this bill last year and the year before and the year before, and on and on. Last year 328 Members of this body, a majority of Republicans and Democrats, voted resoundingly to support the work of the EDA and to reject this cut. I urge the House again to defeat the Hefley amendment.

If we do not vote this amendment down, we will be depriving hard-hit communities in every State in this country of the vital assistance these programs provide. EDA gives our poorest urban and rural areas the tools to raise themselves up by their own bootstraps, to create new jobs, expand their local tax base, and leverage private investment. It gives them a hand, not a handout.

If one's town is hard hit by sudden and severe job losses when a plant shuts down, EDA is the place to go. If one's community has been devastated by a natural disaster, like the recent floods this year in the Midwest, EDA is

the place one can turn to. If one's district has suffered from cutbacks in the defense industry, EDA is the only Federal program dedicated to helping your community retool its economy. If my colleagues do not believe me, ask California.

Critics of the program fail to recognize that the EDA has been reformed, reduced, and streamlined over the last 3 years. This bill cuts EDA funding by 15 percent below the current level. Due to the congressional oversight by both the authorizing committee of this body and the Committee on Appropriations, EDA's grants are truly targeted to the most distressed areas. The development and selection of projects has been moved out of Washington and back toward the local and State levels, and EDA's bureaucracy has been cut by over one-third in the last 2 years.

In addition, since the vote last year, the House has continued to demonstrate its support for EDA programs. Our colleagues in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will soon approve an EDA reauthorization bill that reforms the programs and responds to the past criticisms of this program.

Mr. Chairman, clearly, there are communities that do not need help. They have infrastructure, they have industry, they have access to education, and all the requirements for a healthy regional economy. Other areas, that must rely on us and EDA to help them cope with job loss and defense cuts and other economic disasters, need us. They are the ones that need our help. They are the ones who are turning to us for our vote.

So I urge Members to do as they did last year and the year before and the year before by an overwhelming margin. Vote down this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will rise informally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. LATOURETTE] assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2266) "An Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 871) "An Act to establish the Oklahoma City National Memorial as a unit of the National Park System; to designate the Oklahoma City Memorial Trust, and for other purposes."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The Committee resumed its sitting.

PRIVILEGED MOTION OFFERED BY MR. BECERRA

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Chairman, I offer a privileged motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. BECERRA moves that the Committee do now rise.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the privileged motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. BECERRA].

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 103, noes 281, not voting 49, as follows:

[Roll No. 454]

AYES—103

Abercrombie	Ford	Miller (CA)
Ackerman	Frank (MA)	Mink
Allen	Furse	Moakley
Andrews	Gejdenson	Nadler
Barrett (WI)	Gephardt	Neal
Becerra	Gutierrez	Oberstar
Berry	Harman	Obey
Bishop	Hefner	Olver
Bonior	Hilliard	Owens
Borski	Hinchev	Pallone
Brown (OH)	Hoyer	Peterson (MN)
Carson	Jackson-Lee	Pomeroy
Chenoweth	(TX)	Rangel
Clay	Jefferson	Roybal-Allard
Clayton	Johnson (WI)	Sanchez
Clyburn	Kaptur	Sawyer
Conyers	Kennedy (RI)	Serrano
Coyne	Kennelly	Skelton
Davis (FL)	Kilpatrick	Slaughter
DeFazio	LaFalce	Snyder
DeGette	Lantos	Stark
Delahunt	Levin	Strickland
DeLauro	Lewis (GA)	Stupak
Dellums	Lowey	Tauscher
Deutsch	Maloney (NY)	Taylor (MS)
Doggett	Markey	Thompson
Doolittle	Martinez	Thurman
Edwards	McCarthy (MO)	Tierney
Engel	McDermott	Torres
Eshoo	McGovern	Towns
Evans	McKinney	Velazquez
Farr	McNulty	Vento
Fattah	Meehan	Waters
Fazio	Millender-	Waxman
Filner	McDonald	Woolsey

NOES—281

Aderholt	Brady	Costello
Bachus	Brown (CA)	Cox
Baesler	Brown (FL)	Cramer
Baker	Bryant	Crane
Baldacci	Bunning	Crapo
Barcia	Burr	Cunningham
Barr	Burton	Danner
Barrett (NE)	Buyer	Davis (IL)
Bartlett	Callahan	Deal
Barton	Calvert	DeLay
Bass	Camp	Dickey
Bateman	Campbell	Dicks
Bentsen	Canady	Dingell
Bereuter	Cannon	Dixon
Berman	Capps	Dreier
Bilbray	Cardin	Duncan
Bilirakis	Castle	Dunn
Blagojevich	Chabot	Ehlers
Blumenauer	Chambliss	Ehrlich
Blunt	Christensen	Emerson
Boehlert	Clement	English
Boehner	Coble	Ensign
Bono	Combest	Etheridge
Boswell	Condit	Everett
Boucher	Cook	Fawell
Boyd	Cooksey	Foley