

The resolution is well worth the time and concern of the American people. The purpose of the resolution is to make the message clear to the people of Gabon that the United States stands with them. We do not stand with any particular outcome of the election; we stand with the democratic process so that the people of Gabon might be free to express their preference in the process.

Secondly, to our good friend and long-time ally, the people of France, we wish to encourage them to encourage the democratic outcome. I view France as having a tremendous potential to doing good in Africa.

All we can accomplish, to be realistic, is to let the world know that we care, we do not turn ourselves away from the peoples of Africa, particularly at times when they are attempting a democratic resolution to the problems that have surfaced since they have come out of the Cold War period.

Gabon's democratic election, which we anticipate coming up this December, will be viewed by us with great interest. Those of us who devote our attention to African matters in this body will have a much easier time of convincing our colleagues to assist the peoples of Africa if that election goes as fairly and fully democratically as possible.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) for his intensive and extensive support of democracy in Africa, his continuing support, and for his eloquent remarks in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), a member of our Committee on International Relations.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to first of all say that exactly what was said by the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) is the goal here. It is not a specific result of the process, but it is the process.

And as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) has advanced this resolution, it is a resolution that hopes to see in this country, and in other countries in Africa, what we have seen over so much of the world in the last decade.

This truly, Mr. Speaker, been an extraordinary decade for democracy. In the last debate we heard about the democracy in Slovakia. We could talk about democracy in country after country in Eastern Europe. We could certainly talk about an incredible change in South America and in Central America in the last decade as democracy has held sway time and time again.

We need to stand for that same process in Africa. We need to stand not in opposition to any result or in favor of any result, but in favor of democracy. We need to stand as a beacon, as we

have to so many other countries in the world, of support in their efforts to have the kind of freedom that is only possible with a true democratic process.

As the country of Gabon approaches what we hope will be a fair and free and open election in December, followed by what we hope will be the implementation of the results of that election, I just want to encourage my colleagues to support the resolution, and to thank the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN) for all he has done in this Congress to encourage democracy all over the world, and to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for bringing this resolution forward.

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

Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) for his extensive work on our Committee on International Relations, and for his continued interest in bringing democracy to countries throughout the world.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I merely wish to thank our cosponsors of this measure. The gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) has spoken, but he did extraordinary work in ensuring that we were able to expedite this resolution. I would like to mention the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), the gentleman from California (Mr. DIXON), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON), the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SANFORD) and the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) and thank them for their assistance as well.

Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of our time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this may be the last suspension bill that our committee will be bringing to the floor this year, and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the leadership, our floor staffs, the cloakroom staffs, the Clerk's staff, especially in the Office of Legislative Operations, our stenographers and transcribers, and finally the parliamentarians for their many acts of assistance to our committee as we moved legislation during the past 2 years.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the members of our committee, the staffs of the members, and the committee staff on both sides for their dedication and cooperation that we have had over the past 2 years.

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 518.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to travel to Gabon recently with the gentleman from Texas, Mr. ARCHER, and the gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. TANNER. While there, we met with President Bongo and learned first-hand of the changes that have been made over the past eight years. In 1990, responding to popular demands, President Bongo convened a

National Conference to institute major political reforms. A new constitution was approved by participants from over 70 political parties and organizations as the first step away from single-party rule. Also in that year, the first multi-party elections were held, and opposition parties won 45% of the 120 seats in the National Assembly. Since 1990, a firm foundation for Gabon's democracy has been laid.

I am pleased that the International Foundation for Electoral Systems has a team in Gabon as I speak, conducting a pre-election assessment of the presidential elections to be held in December. I wish to recognize the cooperation of the gentleman from Texas, Mr. ARCHER, the gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. TANNER, the gentleman from New York, Mr. GILMAN, the gentleman from California, Mr. ROYCE, and Dr. Susan Rice, Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, in obtaining funding for this assessment team.

While in Gabon, I also witnessed the struggle for conserving the scarce natural resources of the rainforest and its inhabitants. In a step toward conscientious stewardship of Gabon's natural resources, the first national park of Gabon was recently established as a reserve for orphaned young gorillas. President Bongo has made a public commitment toward responsible use of natural resources, including the establishment of guidelines for the appropriate harvesting of Gabon's oil resources for trade on the local and international market. It is evident that much progress has been made toward positive economic, ecological, and political development in Gabon.

President Omar Bongo is to be commended for his efforts to establish democracy in the tumultuous region of Central Africa. To this end, my recent experiences and discussions have impressed upon me the importance of a free, fair, and transparent presidential campaign and election to stabilize Gabon's fragile, new democracy.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 518, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on the motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2807. An act to amend the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 to prohibit the sale, importation, and exportation

of products labeled as containing substances derived from rhinoceros or tiger.

The message also 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 House to the bill (S. 1260) "An Act to amend the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to limit the conduct of securities class actions under State law, and for other purposes."

#### TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATION ACT OF 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1274) to authorize appropriations for the National Institute of Standards and Technology for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate Amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Technology Administration Act of 1998".

#### SEC. 2. MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM CENTER EXTENSION.

Section 25(c)(5) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k(c)(5)) is amended by striking "which are designed" and all that follows through "operation of a Center." and inserting in lieu thereof "After the sixth year, a Center may receive additional financial support under this section if it has received a positive evaluation through an independent review, under procedures established by the Institute. Such an independent review shall be required at least every two years after the sixth year of operation. Funding received for a fiscal year under this section after the sixth year of operation shall not exceed one third of the capital and annual operating and maintenance costs of the Center under the program."

#### SEC. 3. MALCOLM BALDRIGE QUALITY AWARD.

(a) ADDITIONAL AWARDS.—Section 17(c)(3) of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3711a(c)(3)) is amended by inserting "unless the Secretary determines that a third award is merited and can be given at no additional cost to the Federal Government" after "in any year".

(b) CATEGORIES.—Section 17(c)(1) of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3711a(c)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(D) Health care providers.

"(E) Education providers."

#### SEC. 4. NOTICE.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—Section 31 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act is redesignated as section 32.

(b) NOTICE.—The National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 271 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 30 the following new section:

#### "NOTICE

"SEC. 31. (a) NOTICE OF REPROGRAMMING.—If any funds authorized for carrying out this Act are subject to a reprogramming action that requires notice to be provided to the Appropriations Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, notice of such action shall concurrently be provided to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

"(b) NOTICE OF REORGANIZATION.—

"(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall provide notice to the Committees on Science and Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Appropriations of the Senate, not later than 15 days before any major reorganization of any program, project, or activity of the Institute.

"(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term "major reorganization" means any reorganization of the Institute that involves the reassignment of more than 25 percent of the employees of the Institute."

#### SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE YEAR 2000 PROBLEM.

With the year 2000 fast approaching, it is the sense of Congress that the National Institute of Standards and Technology should—

(1) give high priority to correcting all 2-digit date-related problems in its computer systems to ensure that those systems continue to operate effectively in the year 2000 and beyond; and

(2) develop contingency plans for those systems that the Institute is unable to correct in time.

#### SEC. 6. ENHANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) EDUCATIONALLY USEFUL FEDERAL EQUIPMENT.—The term "educationally useful Federal equipment" means computers and related peripheral tools and research equipment that is appropriate for use in schools.

(2) SCHOOL.—The term "school" means a public or private educational institution that serves any of the grades of kindergarten through grade 12.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology should, to the greatest extent practicable and in a manner consistent with applicable Federal law (including Executive Order No. 12999), donate educationally useful Federal equipment to schools in order to enhance the science and mathematics programs of those schools.

(2) REPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall prepare and submit to the President a report. The President shall submit the report to Congress at the same time as the President submits a budget request to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code.

(B) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report prepared by the Director under this paragraph shall describe any donations of educationally useful Federal equipment to schools made during the period covered by the report.

#### SEC. 7. TEACHER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT INSTITUTE PROGRAM.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 271 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 19 the following:

"SEC. 19A. (a) The Director shall establish within the Institute a teacher science and technology enhancement program to provide for professional development of mathematics and science teachers of elementary, middle, and secondary schools (as those terms are defined by the Director), including providing for the improvement of those teachers with respect to the understanding of science and the impacts of science on commerce.

"(b) In carrying out the program under this section, the Director shall focus on the areas of—

"(1) scientific measurements;

"(2) tests and standards development;

"(3) industrial competitiveness and quality;

"(4) manufacturing;

"(5) technology transfer; and

"(6) any other area of expertise of the Institute that the Director determines to be appropriate.

"(c) The Director shall develop and issue procedures and selection criteria for participants in the program.

"(d) The program under this section shall be conducted on an annual basis during the summer months, during the period of time when a majority of elementary, middle, and secondary schools have not commenced a school year.

"(e) The program shall provide for teachers' participation in activities at the laboratory facilities of the Institute, or shall utilize other means of accomplishing the goals of the program as determined by the Director, which may include the Internet, video conferencing and recording, and workshops and conferences."

#### SEC. 8. OFFICE OF SPACE COMMERCIALIZATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Department of Commerce an Office of Space Commercialization (referred to in this section as the "Office").

(b) DIRECTOR.—The Office shall be headed by a Director, who shall be a senior executive and shall be compensated at a level in the Senior Executive Service under section 5382 of title 5, United States Code, as determined by the Secretary of Commerce.

(c) FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE; DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR.—The Office shall be the principal unit for the coordination of space-related issues, programs, and initiatives within the Department of Commerce. The primary responsibilities of the Director, in carrying out the functions of the Office, shall include—

(1) promoting commercial provider investment in space activities by collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information on space markets, and conducting workshops and seminars to increase awareness of commercial space opportunities;

(2) assisting United States commercial providers in the efforts of those providers to conduct business with the United States Government;

(3) acting as an industry advocate within the executive branch of the Federal Government to ensure that the Federal Government meets the space-related requirements of the Federal Government, to the fullest extent feasible, using commercially available space goods and services;

(4) ensuring that the United States Government does not compete with United States commercial providers in the provision of space hardware and services otherwise available from United States commercial providers;

(5) promoting the export of space-related goods and services;

(6) representing the Department of Commerce in the development of United States policies and in negotiations with foreign countries to ensure free and fair trade internationally in the area of space commerce; and

(7) seeking the removal of legal, policy, and institutional impediments to space commerce.

#### SEC. 9. EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE TECHNOLOGY.

Section 5 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3704) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(f) EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE TECHNOLOGY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary, shall establish for fiscal year 1999 a program to be known as the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Technology (referred to in this subsection as the "program"). The purpose of the program shall be to strengthen the technological competitiveness of those States that have historically received less Federal research and development funds than those received by a majority of the States.

"(2) ARRANGEMENTS.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary, shall—

"(A) enter into such arrangements as may be necessary to provide for the coordination of the program through the State committees established under the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research of the National Science Foundation; and