

of this Act from complying with any law relating to equal employment opportunity.

Mr. CASTLE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker I ask unanimous consent that the amendments be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DESIGNATION OF HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS FOR REMAINDER OF SECOND SESSION OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

October 20, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable CONSTANCE A. MORELLA to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions for the remainder of the second session of the One Hundred Fifth Congress.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the designation is accepted.

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON TOMORROW

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under Calendar Wednesday on tomorrow be dispensed with.

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

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING SALE OR DIVERSION OF GREAT LAKES WATER

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 566) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President and the Senate should take the necessary actions to prevent the sale or diversion of Great Lakes water to foreign countries, businesses, corporations, and individuals until procedures are established to guarantee that any such sale is fully negotiated between and approved by the governments concerned, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. RES. 566

Whereas the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin are precious public natural resources, shared and held in trust by the Great Lakes States and the Canadian Provinces;

Whereas the Great Lakes need to be carefully managed and protected in order to meet current and future water needs within the Great Lakes Basin and the Canadian Provinces;

Whereas any new diversions of Great Lakes waters for use outside of the Great Lakes Basin will have significant adverse effects on the environment, economy, and welfare of the Great Lakes region;

Whereas the Province of Ontario, Canada, has authorized an Ontario company to divert water from the Great Lakes for sale to Asia;

Whereas 4 of the Great Lakes contain international waters, and are defined as "boundary waters" in the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 between the United States and Canada, and therefore any new diversion of Great Lakes water would affect the relations between the Government of the United States and the Government of Canada;

Whereas as trustees of the Great Lakes Basin's natural resources, the Great Lakes States and Provinces have a shared duty to protect, conserve, and manage the renewable but finite waters of the Great Lakes Basin for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of all their citizens, and future generations; and

Whereas the most effective means of protecting, conserving, and managing the water resources of the Great Lakes is through the joint pursuit of unified and cooperative principles, policies, and programs mutually agreed upon, enacted, and adhered to by each and every Great Lakes State and Province: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the President and the Senate should act to prevent the sale or diversion of Great Lakes water to foreign countries, businesses, corporations, and individuals until procedures are established to guarantee that any such sale or diversion is fully negotiated and approved by representatives of the United States Government and the Government of Canada, in consultation with any Great Lakes State or Province that could be impacted by such a sale or diversion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) is recognized for one hour.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to just note that this is a measure introduced by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK). The minority on our committee asked that committee consideration be waived so the resolution could be brought to the floor today. I am pleased to support the minority's request.

This resolution has the bipartisan co-sponsorship of Members from Great Lakes states responding to a unilateral move by a Canadian province to authorize a private company to sell Great Lakes water to Asia.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 566 is a resolution that is meant to send the message that we, the House of Representatives,

are serious about protecting our Great Lakes and will not sit idly by and allow our Great Lakes water to be sold to foreign countries.

This resolution was originally introduced last spring after the Province of Ontario in Canada approved a permit that allows the Nova Group, an Ontario-based company, to divert three billion liters of water from Lake Superior over the next five years and sell it to Asia.

After considerable public outcry against this proposal, the Ministry of the Environment of Ontario announced that the permit issued to the Nova Group would be canceled.

Recently, however, the Nova Group asked the Ontario environmental appeal board to overturn the decision withdrawing the permit and to allow it to proceed with its bid to export fresh water to several Asian countries. Hearings are scheduled on the permit for this fall.

Allowing the diversion of billions of liters of water from the Great Lakes would create dangerous consequences for the Great Lakes region and the United States.

This permit could open the door for additional water diversion opportunities, putting the waters of all the Great Lakes on the world market.

This could lead to larger scale diversions of water in the future that could have adverse effects on the environment, economy, and welfare of the Great Lakes region.

H. Res. 566 calls on the President and the Senate to prevent the sale or diversion of Great Lakes water to foreign countries until it is possible to fully negotiate this proposal and its implications.

Mr. Speaker, we could literally be opening up Pandora's box with the sale of Great Lakes water to foreign countries. We cannot afford to turn our Great Lakes into a tradable commodity.

We must pass this legislation and send the message to Canada that our Great Lakes are not for sale to foreign countries.

I'd like to thank Chairman GILMAN, Mr. HAMILTON, Chairman GALLEGLY, and Mr. ACKERMAN for their help on this matter. I would especially like to thank Mr. LATOURETTE of Ohio and Mr. BONIOR of Michigan for their leadership on this issue.

I urge my colleagues to support this non-binding resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AFRICA: SEEDS OF HOPE ACT OF 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4283) to support sustainable and broad-based agricultural and rural development in sub-Saharan Africa, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "Africa: Seeds of Hope Act of 1998".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings and declaration of policy.

TITLE I—ASSISTANCE FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

- Sec. 101. Africa Food Security Initiative.
Sec. 102. Microenterprise assistance.
Sec. 103. Support for producer-owned cooperative marketing associations.
Sec. 104. Agricultural and rural development activities of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.
Sec. 105. Agricultural research and extension activities.

TITLE II—WORLDWIDE FOOD ASSISTANCE AND AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

Subtitle A—Nonemergency Food Assistance Programs

- Sec. 201. Nonemergency food assistance programs.
Subtitle B—Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act of 1998

- Sec. 211. Short title.
Sec. 212. Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act.
TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
Sec. 301. Report.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF POLICY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The economic, security, and humanitarian interests of the United States and the nations of sub-Saharan Africa would be enhanced by sustainable, broad-based agricultural and rural development in each of the African nations.

(2) According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the number of undernourished people in Africa has more than doubled, from approximately 100,000,000 in the late 1960s to 215,000,000 in 1998, and is projected to increase to 265,000,000 by the year 2010. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the term “under nutrition” means inadequate consumption of nutrients, often adversely affecting children’s physical and mental development, undermining their future as productive and creative members of their communities.

(3) Currently, agricultural production in Africa employs about two-thirds of the workforce but produces less than one-fourth of the gross domestic product in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the World Bank Group.

(4) African women produce up to 80 percent of the total food supply in Africa according to the International Food Policy Research Institute.

(5) An effective way to improve conditions of the poor is to increase the productivity of the agricultural sector. Productivity increases can be fostered by increasing research and education in agriculture and rural development.

(6) In November 1996, the World Food Summit set a goal of reducing hunger worldwide by 50 percent by the year 2015 and encouraged national governments to develop domestic food plans and to support international aid efforts.

(7) Although the World Bank Group recently has launched a major initiative to support agricultural and rural development, only 10 percent, or \$1,200,000,000, of its total lending to sub-Saharan Africa for fiscal years 1993 to 1997 was devoted to agriculture.

(8)(A) United States food processing and agricultural sectors benefit greatly from the liberalization of global trade and increased exports.

(B) Africa represents a growing market for United States food and agricultural products. Africa’s food imports are projected to rise from less than 8,000,000 metric tons in 1990 to more than 25,000,000 metric tons by the 2020.

(9)(A) Increased private sector investment in African countries and expanded trade between the United States and Africa can greatly help African countries achieve food self-sufficiency and graduate from dependency on international assistance.

(B) Development assistance, technical assistance, and training can facilitate and encourage

commercial development in Africa, such as improving rural roads, agricultural research and extension, and providing access to credit and other resources.

(10)(A) Several United States private voluntary organizations have demonstrated success in empowering Africans through direct business ownership and helping African agricultural producers more efficiently and directly market their products.

(B) Rural business associations, owned and controlled by farmer shareholders, also greatly help agricultural producers to increase their household incomes.

(b) DECLARATION OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States, consistent with title XII of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, to support governments of sub-Saharan African countries, United States and African nongovernmental organizations, universities, businesses, and international agencies, to help ensure the availability of basic nutrition and economic opportunities for individuals in sub-Saharan Africa, through sustainable agriculture and rural development.

TITLE I—ASSISTANCE FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

SEC. 101. AFRICA FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE.

(a) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN CARRYING OUT THE INITIATIVE.—In providing development assistance under the Africa Food Security Initiative, or any comparable or successor program, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development—

(1) shall emphasize programs and projects that improve the food security of infants, young children, school-age children, women and food-insecure households, or that improve the agricultural productivity, incomes, and marketing of the rural poor in Africa;

(2) shall solicit and take into consideration the views and needs of intended beneficiaries and program participants during the selection, planning, implementation, and evaluation phases of projects;

(3) shall favor countries that are implementing reforms of their trade and investment laws and regulations in order to enhance free market development in the food processing and agricultural sectors; and

(4) shall ensure that programs are designed and conducted in cooperation with African and United States organizations and institutions, such as private and voluntary organizations, cooperatives, land-grant and other appropriate universities, and local producer-owned cooperative marketing and buying associations, that have expertise in addressing the needs of the poor, small-scale farmers, entrepreneurs, and rural workers, including women.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, if there is an increase in funding for sub-Saharan programs, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development should proportionately increase resources to the Africa Food Security Initiative, or any comparable or successor program, for fiscal year 2000 and subsequent fiscal years in order to meet the needs of the countries participating in such Initiative.

SEC. 102. MICROENTERPRISE ASSISTANCE.

(a) BILATERAL ASSISTANCE.—In providing microenterprise assistance for sub-Saharan Africa, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall, to the extent practicable, use credit and microcredit assistance to improve the capacity and efficiency of agriculture production in sub-Saharan Africa of small-scale farmers and small rural entrepreneurs. In providing assistance, the Administrator should use the applied research and technical assistance capabilities of United States land-grant universities.

(b) MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall continue to work with other coun-

tries, international organizations (including multilateral development institutions), and entities assisting microenterprises and shall develop a comprehensive and coordinated strategy for providing microenterprise assistance for sub-Saharan Africa.

(2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Administrator should encourage the World Bank Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest to coordinate the strategy described in such paragraph.

SEC. 103. SUPPORT FOR PRODUCER-OWNED COOPERATIVE MARKETING ASSOCIATIONS.

(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to support producer-owned cooperative purchasing and marketing associations in sub-Saharan Africa;

(2) to strengthen the capacity of farmers in sub-Saharan Africa to participate in national and international private markets and to promote rural development in sub-Saharan Africa;

(3) to encourage the efforts of farmers in sub-Saharan Africa to increase their productivity and income through improved access to farm supplies, seasonal credit, technical expertise; and

(4) to support small businesses in sub-Saharan Africa as they grow beyond microenterprises.

(b) SUPPORT FOR PRODUCER-OWNED COOPERATIVE MARKETING ASSOCIATIONS.—

(1) ACTIVITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development is authorized to utilize relevant foreign assistance programs and initiatives for sub-Saharan Africa to support private producer-owned cooperative marketing associations in sub-Saharan Africa, including rural business associations that are owned and controlled by farmer shareholders.

(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Administrator—

(i) shall take into account small-scale farmers, small rural entrepreneurs, and rural workers and communities; and

(ii) shall take into account the local-level perspectives of the rural and urban poor through close consultation with these groups, consistent with section 496(e)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2293(e)(1)).

(2) OTHER ACTIVITIES.—In addition to carrying out paragraph (1), the Administrator is encouraged—

(A) to cooperate with governments of foreign countries, including governments of political subdivisions of such countries, their agricultural research universities, and particularly with United States nongovernmental organizations and United States land-grant universities, that have demonstrated expertise in the development and promotion of successful private producer-owned cooperative marketing associations; and

(B) to facilitate partnerships between United States and African cooperatives and private businesses to enhance the capacity and technical and marketing expertise of business associations in sub-Saharan Africa.

SEC. 104. AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES OF THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to encourage the Overseas Private Investment Corporation to work with United States businesses and other United States entities to invest in rural sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in ways that will develop the capacities of small-scale farmers and small rural entrepreneurs, including women, in sub-Saharan Africa.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Overseas Private Investment Corporation should exercise its authority under law to undertake an initiative to support private agricultural and rural development in sub-Saharan Africa, including issuing loans, guaranties, and

insurance, to support rural development in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly to support intermediary organizations that—

(A) directly serve the needs of small-scale farmers, small rural entrepreneurs, and rural producer-owned cooperative purchasing and marketing associations;

(B) have a clear track-record of support for sound business management practices; and

(C) have demonstrated experience with participatory development methods; and

(2) the Overseas Private Investment Corporation should utilize existing equity funds, loan and insurance funds, to the extent feasible and in accordance with existing contractual obligations, to support agriculture and rural development in sub-Saharan Africa.

SEC. 105. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES.

(a) **DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.**—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and appropriate Department of Agriculture agencies, especially the Cooperative State, Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES), shall develop a comprehensive plan to coordinate and build on the research and extension activities of United States land-grant universities, international agricultural research centers, and national agricultural research and extension centers in sub-Saharan Africa.

(b) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—Such plan shall seek to ensure that—

(1) research and extension activities will respond to the needs of small-scale farmers while developing the potential and skills of researchers, extension agents, farmers, and agribusiness persons in sub-Saharan Africa;

(2) sustainable agricultural methods of farming will be considered together with new technologies in increasing agricultural productivity in sub-Saharan Africa; and

(3) research and extension efforts will focus on sustainable agricultural practices and will be adapted to widely varying climates within sub-Saharan Africa.

TITLE II—WORLDWIDE FOOD ASSISTANCE AND AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

Subtitle A—Nonemergency Food Assistance Programs

SEC. 201. NONEMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In providing nonemergency assistance under title II of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (7 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.), the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall ensure that—

(1) in planning, decisionmaking, and implementation in providing such assistance, the Administrator takes into consideration local input and participation directly and through United States and indigenous private and voluntary organizations;

(2) each of the nonemergency activities described in paragraphs (2) through (6) of section 201 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1721), including programs that provide assistance to people of any age group who are otherwise unable to meet their basic food needs (including feeding programs for the disabled, orphaned, elderly, sick and dying), are carried out; and

(3) greater flexibility is provided for program and evaluation plans so that such assistance may be developed to meet local needs, as provided for in section 202(f) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1722(f)).

(b) **OTHER REQUIREMENTS.**—In providing assistance under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of United States Agency for International Development shall ensure that commodities are provided in a manner that is consistent with sections 403 (a) and (b) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1733 (a) and (b)).

Subtitle B—Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act of 1998

SEC. 211. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the "Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act of 1998".

SEC. 212. BILL EMERSON HUMANITARIAN TRUST ACT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 302 of the Agricultural Act of 1980 (7 U.S.C. 1736f-1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting "OR FUNDS" after "COMMODITIES";

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) funds made available under paragraph (2)(B) which shall be used solely to replenish commodities in the trust."; and

(C) in paragraph (2) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

"(B) **FUNDS.**—Any funds used to acquire eligible commodities through purchases from producers or in the market to replenish the trust shall be derived—

"(i) with respect to fiscal years 2000 through 2002 from funds made available to carry out the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.) that are used to repay or reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for the release of eligible commodities under subsections (c)(2) and (f)(2), except that, of such funds, not more than \$20,000,000 may be expended for this purpose in each of the fiscal years 2000 through 2002; and

"(ii) from funds authorized for that use by an appropriations Act.";

(2) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) by striking "ASSISTANCE.—Notwithstanding" and inserting the following: "ASSISTANCE.—

"(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary may release eligible commodities under subparagraph (A) only to the extent such release is consistent with maintaining the long-term value of the trust.";

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) subject to the need for release of commodities from the trust under subsection (c)(1), for the management of the trust to preserve the value of the trust through acquisitions under subsection (b)(2)."; and

(4) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting "OF THE TRUST" after "REIMBURSEMENT" in the heading; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting "and the funds shall be available to replenish the trust under subsection (b)" before the end period.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) Title III of the Agricultural Act of 1980 (7 U.S.C. 1736f-1 et seq.) is amended by striking the title heading and inserting the following:

"TITLE III—BILL EMERSON HUMANITARIAN TRUST"

(2) Section 301 of the Agricultural Act of 1980 (7 U.S.C. 1736f-1 note) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

"This title may be cited as the 'Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act'."

(3) Section 302 of the Agricultural Act of 1980 (7 U.S.C. 1736f-1) is amended—

(A) in the section heading, by striking "reserve" and inserting "trust";

(B) by striking "reserve" each place it appears (other than in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(1)) and inserting "trust";

(C) in subsection (b)—

(i) in the subsection heading, by striking "RESERVE" and inserting "TRUST";

(ii) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking "reserve," and inserting "trust,"; and

(iii) in the paragraph heading of paragraph (2), by striking "RESERVE" and inserting "TRUST"; and

(D) in the subsection heading of subsection (e), by striking "RESERVE" and inserting "TRUST".

(4) Section 208(d)(2) of the Agricultural Trade Suspension Adjustment Act of 1980 (7 U.S.C. 4001(d)(2)) is amended by striking "Food Security Commodity Reserve Act of 1996" and inserting "Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f-1 et seq.)".

(5) Section 901b(b)(3) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 U.S.C. App. 1241f(b)(3)), is amended by striking "Food Security Wheat Reserve Act of 1980 (7 U.S.C. 1736f-1)" and inserting "Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f-1 et seq.)".

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. REPORT.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in consultation with the heads of other appropriate agencies, shall prepare and submit to Congress a report on how the Agency plans to implement sections 101, 102, 103, 105, and 201 of this Act, the steps that have been taken toward such implementation, and an estimate of all amounts expended or to be expended on related activities during the current and previous 4 fiscal years.

Mr. GILMAN (during the reading). Mr. Speaker I ask unanimous consent that the Senate amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I do not intend to object, but under my reservation, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER). (Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation. It is well-supported in both houses of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the Africa Seeds of Hope Act (H.R. 4383) was originally sponsored by this Member with the support and assistance of the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) and many other Members from both sides of the aisle, including Chairman BEN GILMAN. This legislation is non-controversial legislation with strong bipartisan support in the House and Senate, tremendous grassroots support throughout the nation, and support from the Administration including the United States Department of Agriculture. It previously passed the House on voice vote on September 28, 1998. The Senate passed it this morning with very modest changes, which have bipartisan support in the House. The changes include deletion of some findings clauses and a sunset provision for the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust. The sunset provision, added at the request of the Senate

Budget Committee, insures that the operation and funding of this food aid trust will be revisited in the next farm bill.

Mr. Speaker, as the sponsor of this legislation, this Member would like to make clear that Section 212 of this legislation is a mechanism to enable USDA to fill the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust with funds or commodities that represent repayments to the Commodity Credit Corporation. The intent of this section is to enable USDA to use the \$20 million annual limit in funds or commodities to fill the trust and use it in times of emergencies. Therefore, 212(a) is an annual limitation only on inflows to the trust (capped at \$20 million annually) while outflows from the trust have no annual limitation and can equal the cumulative amount of the trust in any one year.

The Africa Seeds of Hope Act (H.R. 4283) was introduced by this Member on July 21, 1998, with the support of the distinguished gentleman from Indiana, the Ranking Democrat on the House International Relations Committee (Mr. HAMILTON). It is the successor bill to H.R. 3636, which was introduced on April 1, 1998. Because of some confusion regarding the two bills, this Member regrets that a few Members of Congress who wanted to be listed as a co-sponsor of H.R. 4283 were not added prior to the House passage of this legislation. Therefore, this Member would like to recognize that the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) strongly supported this legislation and would have liked to have been added as a co-sponsor.

This legislation was overwhelmingly passed by the House Committee on International Relations on July 22, 1998, and it was discharged by the House Committee on Agriculture on September 11, 1998.

The Africa Seeds of Hope Act helps U.S. agriculture while promoting sustainable development in Sub-Saharan Africa so Africans can be less dependent on U.S. humanitarian assistance in the future. That is why H.R. 4283 has the support of both agricultural and humanitarian organizations and the United States Department of Agriculture. This win-win combination of grass roots supporters has been the foundation of America's long-term, good-will building, humanitarian food aid efforts since World War II.

Mr. Speaker, the predominant organization responsible for stimulating the creation and support for this legislation is the organization Bread for the World, a nondenominational Christian organization led by Rev. David Beckmann.

The Africa Seeds of Hope Act has been endorsed by over 220 agricultural and humanitarian organizations including: the Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development (AIARD), the Coalition for Food Aid, numerous land grant colleges, InterAction and major U.S. private voluntary agencies such as CARE, World Vision, ACDI/VOCA, Catholic Relief Services, Technoserve, Africare, OXFAM, Islamic African Relief Agency USA, and the Mormon World Hunger Committee. In addition, this legislation has the support of most Christian denominations, Catholic religious communities, and mission groups. And, editorial pages from over twenty major newspapers across the country have endorsed H.R. 4283.

Mr. Speaker, a recent article in the Washington Post entitled "Africa's Agricultural Rebirth" quoted a Vice-Minister of Agriculture

from Ethiopia as saying "You cannot detach economic development from food self-sufficiency." That profound truth is the essence of the Africa Seeds of Hope Act.

There may be some people who believe or give the impression they believe that an admittedly very important trade liberalization effort alone can remedy all of Africa's woes. And, equally wrongheaded are some in the non-governmental organization community who initially expressed their opposition to trade liberalization, saying it would only hurt Africa's poor. The Africa Seeds of Hope Act bridges these disparate and unnecessarily conflicting ideological points of view with a reconciling view. That view is that liberalized trade plus targeted foreign assistance to Africa's small farmers, together, can best help Sub-Saharan Africa prosper.

Several months ago, with this Member's support, the House of Representatives passed the African Trade Growth and Opportunities Act. In doing so, the House took the very important step toward greater trade with a continent in desperate need of private-sector led economic growth. By focusing on sustainable agriculture, research, rural finance, and food security, the Africa Seeds of Hope Act is directly aimed at helping the 76 percent of the Sub-Saharan African people who are small farmers thus providing another important step towards increased African trade. Improving the efficiency of these farmers is crucial to ensuring that our overall trade strategy is successful. As a longtime supporter of aid to Africa through the creation of the Development Fund for Africa and other mechanisms, this Member will tell his colleagues that this Member believes H.R. 4283—in conjunction with any new Africa trade initiatives—will help coordinate and focus America's resources on both trade and aid in Africa.

If trade is to prosper in Sub-Saharan Africa, we need to better direct our scarce aid resources so that they stimulate private sector investment or help ease the suffering in those places either overlooked by the private sector or suffering from natural disasters. Our legislation attempts to refine our assistance programs for Sub-Saharan Africa and ensure that agriculture and rural development are not neglected. For example, this legislation requires the Agency for International Development (AID) to reverse its negative funding trend for international agricultural research and development. This will address the legitimate concern of U.S. land grant institutions that the Agency for International Development was increasingly ignoring sustainable agriculture in its development mandate. Also, the micro-enterprise program is recognized by this legislation and emphasized as an excellent tool to help remedy rural finance and investment shortcoming in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Moreover, H.R. 4283 attempts to better coordinate our international agricultural research programs with our domestic agricultural research so that farmers in Africa, as well as farmers in the United States, can benefit from AID funded agricultural research. The Africa Seeds of Hope Act refocuses our food assistance programs on long-term development assistance instead of being evaluated on the basis of short-term or immediate results that are often antithetical to their original purpose. This will enable non-governmental organizations and private voluntary organizations to design and implement food assistance pro-

grams that are cost-effective and ultimately succeed in graduating people and countries from those programs.

Finally, H.R. 4283 also establishes a Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust in honor of the late, distinguished and much admired Congressman from Missouri who was a leader on America's food aid efforts. This important mechanism allows the United States Department of Agriculture to purchase surplus agricultural commodities when prices are low, isolate them from the market, and distribute them at times of international disasters and famines. This cost-effective mechanism is especially beneficial to U.S. farmers because it takes U.S. commodities off of the market when commodity prices are at their lowest, such as now. The Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust is a worthy tribute to our late colleague, and this Member would like to thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON) for allowing us to further honor her late husband in this manner.

Finally, this Member would like to thank the distinguished gentlewoman from California (MAXINE WATERS), the distinguished gentlewoman from Georgia (CYNTHIA MCKINNEY) and the distinguished gentlewoman from North Carolina (EVA CLAYTON) for their special effort with the Congressional Black Caucus on behalf of the Africa Seeds of Hope Act. And this Member would like to thank the distinguished woman from Connecticut (NANCY JOHNSON) and the distinguished women from the District of Columbia (ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON) for their work with the Congressional Woman's Caucus on behalf of this legislation.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, the Africa Seeds of Hope Act is legislation that benefits farmers in Africa as well as the United States.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is a very significant measure. I rise in support of the measure, and I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for bringing it to the floor at this time.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to further add my voice of support.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the initial request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IRAN NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION PREVENTION ACT OF 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4851) to withhold voluntary proportional assistance for programs and projects of the International Atomic Energy Agency relating to the development and completion of the Bushehr nuclear power plant in Iran, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.