

REGARDING SECTION 110 OF THE
ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION REFORM
AND IMMIGRANT RESPONSIBILITY
ACT OF 1996

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I am in support of repealing Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. While I certainly support the goal of enhanced immigration enforcement through better record-keeping at our nation's borders, implementing Section 110 prior to the establishment of a speedy automated entry-exit system will cause serious problems on the borders. Specifically, mandatory documentation will create massive traffic delays that would clog both the Northern and Southern borders, and obstruct trade and tourism nationwide.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service does not have the technology in place to carry out the entry-exit system required by Section 110 without unacceptable delays at all border crossings. As a representative from the State of Washington, my constituents will be adversely affected by the implementation of Section 110. In 1999, Washington State alone exported close to \$3 billion worth of goods to Canada. Applying Section 110 without adequate technology in place will create lines of waiting vehicles stretching several miles that would severely cripple trade, travel, and tourism between Washington State and Canada.

Likewise, in 1999, Washington State had close to 5.5 million border crossings at its 5 border stations. Of this, over 300,000 crossings were at the border station in Oroville, Washington, which is in my district. Oroville is a relatively small community in Central Washington that is not equipped to handle the extensive traffic jams that would be caused by Section 110. The City of Oroville recently adopted Resolution 391, and I submit the resolution to be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In the Resolution, the City of Oroville requests that Congress delay the implementation of Section 110 until the United States Attorney General has addressed and resolved the issues and concerns relating to implementation.

Until technologies are developed to allow for extensive record-keeping at our border stations while ensuring timely border crossings, it is simply unreasonable to try and implement Section 110.

RESOLUTION NO. 391

A resolution to urge the United States Congress ("Congress") to repeal or delay the implementation of Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 ("Act").

Whereas, Section 110 of the Act requires the establishment of an automated entry-exit control system at all airports, seaports and land border crossings to "collect a record of departure for every alien departing the United States and match the records of departure with the record of the Alien's arrival in the United States";

Whereas, implementation of Section 110 will add to the congestion at international crossings and increase the size and amount of delays and holdups at border crossings;

Whereas, delays and holdups at the border crossings will limit the potential for indus-

try expansion and will have negative national and international economic impacts on efficiency, service and jobs;

Whereas, trade and tourism between the United States and its North American neighbors has grown considerably since the enactment of NAFTA;

Whereas, trade and tourism are becoming an increasingly important sector of both the local border economies and the national economy;

Whereas, the World Travel and Tourism Council predicts that travel and tourism will ultimately account for 100 million jobs in this decade;

Whereas, through steady, incremental efforts, current alien arrival and departure data collection and sharing systems at ports of entry may be improved in ways that will advance important national objectives including expanded trade, travel and tourism, enhanced national security and law enforcement;

Whereas, future advances in data collection technology will enable federal, state and local governments and the private sector to increase the flow of goods and persons across our national borders.

Whereas, the appropriate agencies within the Administration, through advances in technology over time, may be able to recommend to Congress how to improve alien arrival and departure data collection and sharing systems at land and sea ports of entry in ways that advance important national objectives, including expanded trade, travel and tourism, enhanced national security and law enforcement;

Whereas, any such recommendations from the appropriate agencies should involve cooperative efforts between the public and private sectors including federal, state and local governments to ensure appropriate realization of these objectives;

Whereas, the technology to collect the data required by Section 110 of the Act is not yet commercially feasible;

Whereas, it is of critical importance that the data collection system created pursuant to Section 110 of the Act not interfere with the ebb and flow of goods and persons across our national borders.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of the City of Oroville, That that City of Oroville urges the United States Congress to delay implementation of Section 110 of the illegal immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 until the United States Attorney General has addressed and resolved the issues and concerns of this resolution in coordination with the private sector and state and local governments.

Passed this 2nd day of May, 2000.

DAVID K. REYNOLDS, *Mayor.*

KATHY M. JONES, *Clerk-Treasurer.*

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM CEN-
TENNIAL ACT

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act. I am joined in this important effort by the distinguished chairman of the House Resources Committee, DON YOUNG, the ranking Democratic member of the Committee, GEORGE MILLER, the ranking Democratic subcommittee member, ENI

FALEOMAVAEGA, the Dean of the House of Representatives, JOHN DINGELL, and our colleague, DUKE CUNNINGHAM.

Since becoming chairman of the House Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, I have held many hearings on the operation, maintenance, and management of our nation's National Wildlife Refuge System. This unique system of Federal lands provides essential habitat for hundreds of fish and wildlife species, including more than 258 species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

The first wildlife refuge was created at Pelican Island, FL, in 1903 by President Theodore Roosevelt. Today the System has 521 refuges and 38 wetland management districts, which are located in all 50 States and the 9 Commonwealths, Territories, and island possessions. These units range in size from the smallest of less than one acre, the Mille Lacs National Wildlife Refuge in Minnesota, to the largest of 19.3 million acres in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. Money for refuge land acquisition primarily comes from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund.

During the past 5 years, my subcommittee has taken a leadership role in approving legislation to improve our National Wildlife Refuge System. Without question, the most important change was the enactment of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. This landmark Act, P.L. 105-57, was sponsored by Chairman DON YOUNG and, for the first time, it created a comprehensive "organic law" governing the management of the world's largest and most diverse network of lands devoted to fish and wildlife. This historic measure also created a statutory shield to ensure that hunting and fishing and other forms of wildlife-dependent recreation will continue within the Refuge System, and it facilitates these traditional activities where compatible with conservation.

The second improvement, which I was honored to sponsor, was the National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhancement Act. This legislation will improve the infrastructure of the Refuge System by encouraging volunteer activities. In 1999, over 28,000 individuals volunteered more than 1.3 million hours, which was worth more than \$11 million in services. These services included staffing visitors centers, conducting hunter safety classes, landscaping, and operating heavy equipment. My bill, which was signed into law on October 5, 1998, will encourage additional volunteers by establishing up to 20 pilot projects for the purpose of hiring full-time volunteer coordinators. It also made it easier for interested individuals and groups to donate money or services to a particular refuge.

Finally, during the past 4 years, a bipartisan group of Members, including myself, DON YOUNG, GEORGE MILLER, ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, JOHN DINGELL, and others have vigorously lobbied the House Appropriations Committee to increase funding to reduce the Refuge System's operations and maintenance backlog. Together with the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE), we were successful in persuading our Appropriations colleagues to increase funding for this account by \$86 million, which is a down payment on the maintenance backlog. While these increases were significant, there is