

Our military requires modern facilities. New buildings can improve productivity, reduce waste and improve morale. The money spent in this bill is a long-term commitment to our defense capabilities.

This bill funds a new ramp to replace one used by the 445th Airlift Wing on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, which is partially in my district and partially in the 7th District. The current ramp is costly to maintain, and it is in such bad condition that it is a safety hazard. Another project at Wright-Patterson is a laboratory building to conduct environmental and toxics research.

I want to commend the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON), for his great work, and the ranking minority Member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER), for their work in crafting this bill and bringing it to the floor. The bill was approved by the Committee on Appropriations on a voice vote. It has support on both sides of the aisle. The rule is open, it was adopted by a voice vote of the Committee on Rules, and I support the rule and bill and urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his courtesy in yielding me time to discuss the bill today.

Mr. Speaker, I am planning on supporting the rule and the underlying bill, but I am concerned that we are not taking full advantage of the opportunity in the military construction arena. One of the greatest threats to national security in this country and worldwide is the disease, poverty, pollution, unrest and misery that is produced. We have serious problems here at home that is part of the legacy of 60 years of war, amongst them some of our production facilities at Hanford, Rocky Flats. We have chemical weapons, toxic waste and unexploded ordnance.

One of the most powerful tools of government to lead is to lead by example. I think one of the ways the government can do that is to follow the rules and model the behavior that we want the rest of society to follow. One of the biggest, richest and most visible opportunities for the United States to lead by example in ways to promote livable communities is dealing with the military.

The Department of Defense manages the world's largest dedicated infrastructure. It covers 40,000 square miles, a physical plant worth over \$500 billion. The bill before us could give many opportunities. One that we see in the Department of Defense is on-base housing programs. The military housing privatization initiative that is being continued is an example to allow funding. It allows the service to partner with civilian developers to build and renovate family housing on military

installations, to convey housing units to private companies, while retaining the land in Federal hands, to provide military members with the same type of housing that the people that they defend have the opportunity to live in, and create communities that look, feel and work like those outside a military base. But, unfortunately, we are losing an opportunity here for the Federal Government to be a better partner with the local communities in which they are situated.

I would hope that as we move forward with this through the legislative process and in subsequent years, that we reverse the presumption that we have a situation where the Department of Defense plays by the local land use and planning rules of the local community.

For instance, we saw in 1999 the Army proposed to develop a 700,000 square foot private shopping center on Fort Hood that would have severely affected the surrounding business community in Collin, Texas. We have an opportunity here to avoid having the Federal Government impose massive highway and infrastructure requirements on States and communities without their being able to realize any offsetting tax benefits.

I note that on the Senate side, in Section 8168 of the Defense Appropriations Act, it permits the City of San Antonio to exercise these responsibilities for the Brooks Air Force Base Demonstration Efficiency Project.

This should not be the exception. This should be the rule. We should be cooperating with local communities, we should be playing by their planning and zoning rules, we should be leading by example.

I am pleased that the bill has many other positive things, a 72 percent increase in the cleaning up of the environmental problems associated with base closings, but I hope that the committee will work with us to make sure that the military is a better partner with local communities to provide livability wherever our facilities are located.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I endorse the rule and the bill.

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

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and that I be permitted to include tabular and extraneous material on H.R. 4425.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REYNOLDS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 502 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4425.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4425) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, with Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON).

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to present to the House the recommendation for the military construction appropriations bill for fiscal year 2001. This is a bipartisan bill, and I want to thank my ranking member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER), for his assistance in putting this bill together this year once again. We have tried to work together to solve many of the problems that our military faces today. We have gone out and looked at various locations. We have gone around the world together a number of times looking at the various projects, trying in a learning mode to get a bill that we can all agree upon.

This bill presented to the House today totals \$8.6 billion. This represents a \$293 million, or 3 percent increase from last year's appropriation. However, the bill reflects a reduction of \$1.3 billion or 13 percent from the enacted level just 4 years ago. The bill is within the 302(b) allocation for both budget authority and outlays. The recommendations before the House are solid, and fully fund priority projects for the services and our troops.

The legislation helps meet the needs of our military families and improving our national security infrastructure. It is fiscally responsible, while supporting the housing, child care, and medical needs of our military.

Within the \$8.6 billion provided, we have been able to address quality-of-life issues, including \$759 million for