

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I believe the increased authorizations for national missile defense are unnecessary and unwarranted. Rather than accelerating program elements, I believe we should have a renewed debate, not only about the technological components of NMD, but also about the strategic and foreign policy questions it raises. Until those questions are fully debated before the American people, it is, in my view, unwise to increase NMD authorization levels.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report before us makes significant improvements to our Nation's defense. It takes significant steps to address issues associated with operations tempo and aging equipment. And, as important, it gives the members of our uniformed services not only the weapons, training, and equipment they need to prepare for the next war, but also the peace of mind that comes from a home and work environment reflective of the important role they perform for America and all Americans.

I urge adoption of the conference report.

MODIFYING RATES RELATING TO REDUCED RATE MAIL MATTER

SPEECH OF

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Postal Service, I am pleased to join Chairman MCHUGH in the consideration of S. 2686, legislation introduced in the Senate, S. 2686, on June 7, 2000, by Senator THAD COCHRAN, the Chairman, and Senator DANIEL K. AKAKA, the Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Subcommittee on International Security Proliferation and Federal Services. This measure will provide much needed postage rate relief for nonprofit mailers and address serious shortcomings in the current United States Postal Service (USPS) rate case proposal that is now before the Postal Rate Commission (PRC).

On Friday, October 6, the United States Senate approved passage of S. 2686, legislation drafted by the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, the Postal Service, and others that is designed to protect preferred postal rates for nonprofit mailers.

S. 2686, which will protect nonprofit or preferred mailers from double-digit rate increases, is identical to H.R. 4636, legislation I introduced on June 12, 2000. I was joined in the introduction of this bill by Congressman STENY H. HOYER, Ranking Minority Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government, and Congressman DANNY K. DAVIS and Congressman MAJOR R. OWENS, both members of the Subcommittee on the Postal Service. To date a number of members have co-sponsored my bill.

The practice of designating certain types of mail for preferred rates was initiated by the Congress more than 50 years ago. In 1993, deficit reduction legislation eliminated federal financial support for nonprofit mailers, but mandated that nonprofit rates be lower than rates for commercial mailers.

In January of this year, the Postal Service Board of Governors proposed postage rate increases for all classes of mail. The USPS formally filed the rate request which is pending before the PRC. The proposed postal rate increase for all classes of mail is designed to raise \$3.7 billion in new revenues—beginning in 2001. Under the current rate request, rates for nonprofits will surpass rates for corresponding commercial mail. The USPS attributed the increase to inaccurate cost data and have suggested that the “average” increase for mailers is approximately 6.4%. Unfortunately, for nonprofits and magazine industry, the hit is double-plus the average increase.

To its credit, the Postal Service requested and proposed legislation to fix the nonprofit rate anomaly. The legislative fix was drafted by the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers with the assistance of the Magazine Publishers of America, National Federation of Nonprofits, Direct Marketing Association, and others. These organizations worked with the postal service to craft an acceptable legislative solution to the nonprofit rate problem in the current rate case before the PRC. You are all to be commended. Without the legislation, the nonprofit periodical preferred rate will disappear.

How does S. 2686 correct the rate anomaly? The bill would “lock-in” the rate relationship between nonprofit and commercial Standard A and Periodical rates, which would prevent nonprofit mail from current and future “rate shock” by doing the following:

Set nonprofit Periodical rates at 95% of the commercial counterpart rate. Excluding the advertising portion, nonprofit mailers would receive a 5% discount off the commercial rate.

Set the revenue per piece for nonprofit Standard A mail to reflect a 40% discount over the revenue per piece received by commercial Standard A mail.

Set Library rates at 95% of the rates for the Special subclass of Standard B mail.

Passage of the bill is necessary before the Postal Rate Commission completes deliberations on the current rate case.

Mr. Speaker, before I close I would like to thank Chairman MCHUGH and his staff, Robert Taub and Heea Vazirani-Fales, for their hard work in ensuring a compromise on this matter, PRC Chairman Ed Gleiman for his efforts to keep Congress focused on fixing the problem, Neal Denton of the Alliance for keeping the coalition together and on track even in the face of last minute challenges, the Postal Service for being proactive and Nanci Langley, Deputy Minority Staff Director for the Senate Subcommittee on International Security Proliferation and Federal Services and Dan Blair, Senior Counsel, Senate Governmental Affairs Committee for all of their help and support. I must also commend and thank the Government Reform Committee Chairman, Congressman DAN BURTON for keeping all the parties together for the good of the nonprofit community. I close by thanking the Ranking Government Reform member, Congressman HENRY A. WAXMAN for his support, hard work, and co-sponsorship of H.R. 4636, and for bringing the bill to the attention of the Corrections Day Group.

And so, on behalf of local charities, hospitals, churches, educators, arts organizations, nonprofit publications, and a host of others including Girard College, the Center for Science

in the Public Interest, the National Association of Independent Schools, and Chicago WILDERNESS Magazine, and the cosponsors of H.R. 4636, I ask that my colleagues support S. 2686 and urge its swift adoption.

RECOGNIZING CELANESE CHEMICALS, CLEAR LAKE PLANT AS A LA PORTE-BAYSHORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HONOREE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 16, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Celanese Chemicals Clear Lake Plant Site for being honored as the La Porte-Bayshore 2000 Industry of the Year. Celanese's commitment to building a better future for the LaPorte/Bayshore community has made it an example that all industry can follow.

Since 1967, Celanese Chemicals and its employees have been responsible members of the Clear Lake, Deer Park, La Porte-Bayshore, and Pasadena areas, all in my district. Celanese Chemicals, Clear Lake Plant Site, is a world leader in the production of organic materials and production of bulk commodity chemicals. Located on 1,000 acres, the plant's continuous program of innovation and improvement has increased the original plant's capacity to more than five billion pounds annually.

The Clear Lake Plant is specifically engineered for synergistic production. The synergy increases efficiency, minimizes waste and helps ensure quality. Products are shipped worldwide via pipeline, oceangoing tankers, barges, rail, and highway tank trucks. Celanese provides products to other petrochemical companies, specialty chemical companies, and consumer products companies around the world.

Dedication to worker safety and environmental performance has also been a hallmark of this company. Its proactive environmental and safety programs have received recognition from many organizations, including the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, the Chemical Manufacturers Association, and the Texas Chemical Council. In addition to being an integral part of the area economy, the company contributes greatly to the community. As a participant in Chemical Manufacturers Association's Responsible Care program, the plant takes part in community advisory panels, which creates dialogue with plant leadership and the local community. The plant is also a member of several community chambers of commerce and community service organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Celanese Chemicals, on being named the La Porte-Bayshore Chamber of Commerce 2000 Industry of the Year. This is well deserved for their hard work in expanding business, producing products vital to our lives, their commitment to environmental protection and worker safety, and their many contributions to the community.