

of its policies, practices, and procedures to ascertain how to reduce the time and costs associated with the licensing of hydroelectric projects.

Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility to take whatever measures we can to ensure that our constituents will not suffer as a result of any breakdown in the supply of, or shortages of heating oil. The American people deserve no less than that. And that is why I support this measure.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am supporting H.R. 2884 because it contains provisions of vital interest to the American people, such as reauthorizing the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. However, I am concerned about the inclusion in this legislation of the National Oilheat Research Alliance Act of 2000.

This legislation essentially creates a new tax in order to increase the power of the Washington D.C.-based trade association, the National Association for Oilheat Research and Education. This legislation authorizes this trade association to hold a referendum on the establishment of the National Oilheat Research Alliance. Voting rights are based on volume of sales, and the Alliance is established upon an approval of the industry representing two-thirds of sales by volume. This has the effect of giving the biggest interests in the oilheat industry the most voting power.

Once the Alliance is established, an "assessment," which is essentially a tax, is levied on the sale of fuel oil. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated that this would amount to \$16–\$17 million annually. The legislation authorizes the Alliance to bring suits in Federal court to ensure all distributors and retailers comply with the assessments. The use of these funds would be directed by industry towards programs (1) to enhance consumer and employee safety and training, (2) to provide for research, development, and demonstration of clean and efficient oilheat utilization equipment, and (3) for consumer education.

The legislation contains explicit language stating that funds cannot be used for advertising, promotions, or consumer surveys in support of advertising or promotions. However, there is no precise line between advertising and consumer education. For example, television and radio spots educating consumers about the benefits of oilheat might not appear to violate the prohibition on advertising.

Under this legislation, the National Association for Oilheat Research and Education is designated by name as the sole organization who designates at least 56 of the 61 members to the Alliance. The Alliance would determine the use of all of the \$16–\$17 million in assessments. By levying a tax on fuel oil sales which is enforceable in Federal courts, the oilheat industry is assured that all sectors of the industry—from small retail marketers to large wholesale distributors—will contribute to their national efforts—whatever they decide them to be. It is a virtual certainty that these costs will be passed onto consumers.

The National Oilheat Research Alliance Act of 2000 is an anti-consumer mandate that consolidates power in an entity controlled by the biggest interests and will favor their concerns over those of consumers and small businesses. It levies a new tax on consumers for which they will receive little or no benefit and give those funds to a trade association controlled D.C.-based entity to do with as they

see fit. This is an inappropriate use of congressional authority. I hope we can correct this mistake in the future.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2884, titled the Extend Energy Conservation Programs Under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. The 1975 Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) was one of several measures enacted during the 1970s to deal with chronic U.S. energy supply disruptions and shortages. Among other things, the law authorized the creation of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to be available to reduce the impact of oil import disruptions. The reserve includes 575 million barrels of crude oil stored in five salt caverns in Louisiana and Texas. EPCA also authorized U.S. participation in an international agreement to coordinate the responses of oil consuming nations to oil supply disruptions in order to minimize their global impact. EPCA's authorization expired on March 31, 2000.

The measures includes provisions that permit the Energy Department to purchase oil from certain marginal wells if the price of oil falls below \$15 per barrel. (Marginal wells are generally defined as those producing fewer than 15 barrels per day. The provisions are intended to ensure that marginal wells are not closed down during periods of extraordinarily low oil prices.)

The bill authorizes, President Clinton's request for the, establishment of a two million-barrel regional home-heating-oil reserve in the Northeast. It specifies that oil could be released from the reserve only if the president finds that there is a severe energy supply interruption, and specifies certain other conditions under which oil may be released from the reserve. I would hope that the conditions for release of oil in the future from the national reserve will not just be based on hindsight because often conditions that created a past crisis are not repeated.

The measure also includes the following other provisions that were not included in the bill as passed by the House in April. This bill would also expand the existing federal weatherization program of the Energy Department. In addition permits the state of Alaska, rather than the federal government, to regulate certain small (under five megawatts) hydroelectric power projects in Alaska. Further this bill establishes an oil-heat research program to be funded by assessments of two-tenths of one cent per gallon on distillate heating oil.

I would encourage my colleagues to vote in support of this conservation effort although it is being addressed seven months after the original legislation expired.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 2884.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONSIDERING MEMBER AS
PRIMARY SPONSOR OF H.R. 1239

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered as the primary sponsor of H.R. 1239, a bill originally introduced by Representative Bruce Vento of Minnesota, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprints under clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

MORGAN STATION

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5143) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3160 Irvin Cobb Drive in Paducah, Kentucky, as the "Morgan Station".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5143

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MORGAN STATION.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3160 Irvin Cobb Drive, in Paducah, Kentucky, shall be known and designated as the "Morgan Station".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Morgan Station".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 5143.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, we have before us H.R. 5143 designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3160 Irvin Cobb Drive in Paducah, Kentucky, as the Morgan Station. H.R. 5143 was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD), on September 7, 2000 and is supported by all Members of the House delegation from the State of Kentucky.

Fred Morgan, after whom the facility will be named, grew up in the Littleville community of Paducah's south side in Kentucky. Mr. Morgan served in the General Assembly of Kentucky for most of his 30-year span in public service. He devoted his time to improving education and helping the