

H.R. 2620 also provides \$4.2 billion in advanced appropriations for the Section 8 Housing Certificate Program, which will be counted against the levels established in next year's Budget Resolution. This advanced appropriation is on the list of permissible appropriations under section 201 of H. Con. Res. 84.

I am somewhat concerned about several purported "offsets" in this bill. The bill claims \$7 million from the repeal of a provision that was already signed into law. It claims another \$121 million in savings from a veterans-related provision that already passed the House. Obviously, these savings can only be used once.

As Chairman of the Budget Committee, I am obligated to report to the Congress on how the appropriations bills compare to the Budget Resolution. Under existing law, this bill is consistent with the Budget Resolution and does not violate the Budget Act.

Nevertheless, the existing process with respect to emergencies is broken and needs to be fixed. At the very least, both Congress and the President should set aside resources for emergencies and restrict the use of these resources for legitimate emergencies.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, as chairman of the House Science Committee I rise in strong support of the FY 2002 VA, HUD and Independent Agencies appropriations bill. My good friends Chairman WALSH, and Ranking Minority Member MOLLOHAN have put together a bill that is very good for science, good for the space program, good for education, and good for the environment. That's a winning combination, one that's good for America. I thank them for their leadership.

Chairman WALSH shares my belief that basic research provides the foundation for economic growth and for the tremendous advances we have made in areas like biomedical research. The appropriation for the National Science Foundation contained within this bill reflects these beliefs. And the committee is to be commended for the 9 percent increase that he provided for the Foundation.

The bill also contains funding for the National Mathematics and Science Partnerships Program that was proposed by President Bush and that is authorized by my bill—H.R. 1858—that was unanimously reported out of the Science Committee. This program will bring colleges and universities and school districts together to form partnerships to improve the quality of elementary and secondary math and science education. Funding is also included to enable elementary and secondary teachers to participate in research projects conducted at State, Federal, and university labs.

I want to particularly thank the committee for including funding for the Noyce Scholarship Program. Named for the co-founder of Intel, this program provides scholarships to talented mathematics, science, and engineering students in exchange for a commitment to teach two years for each year of scholarship. I look forward to working closely with Chairman WALSH to retain this funding as the bill goes to conference.

The chairman is also to be commended for a bill that protects and expands NASA's scientific programs in Science, Aeronautics, and Technology while striking the right balance for the space station.

This bill sends a clear signal that Congress is not going to bail NASA out for its management failures. It also makes clear that we're willing to work with the Administration to iden-

tify additional resources to improve station capabilities, if we see the right management reforms and performance improvements at NASA. With that in mind, requiring the White House Office of Management and Budget to certify that NASA is containing its costs before obligating additional funds makes a lot of sense. Moreover, we should require the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to certify that those additional funds will benefit the research effort.

Through careful fiscal management, we can ensure that the space station benefits science in the long run. The bill sets us on that path.

I particularly appreciate the committee's commitment to new space technology and its effort to bridge the gap between NASA and the Air Force. By directing additional funding into the Air Force Research Lab, the bill encourages NASA and the Air Force to pool their efforts on technologies that will benefit both agencies and the American people. Space based radar technology, for example, is vital to our national security, but also has immense applications in Earth science. A development program that reduces the cost of synthetic aperture radar technology will benefit both.

Similarly, the bistatic radar technology developed at Rome Research site has immense potential for upgrading our national launch range tracking capabilities at a low cost. By demonstrating this technology, we may finally break the logjam that has undermined our space launch competitiveness.

Let me turn for a moment to the budget for the Environmental Protection Agency. I appreciate the efforts of Chairman WALSH and his colleagues to provide a responsible budget to help meet the nation's environmental needs. On the whole, the bill is good news for EPA.

Clearly, many of us would prefer to see higher funding levels for some of the agency's programs, but the gentleman from New York has done an admirable job of balancing competing needs and working within difficult fiscal constraints.

As chairman of the Science Committee, I am particularly pleased the bill increases funding for the Science and Technology account from \$640 million in the budget request to \$680 million.

As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Congressional Water Infrastructure Caucus, I am pleased the bill rejects the proposed cut to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund but am disappointed it doesn't provide at least \$1.35 billion for the program. I appreciate the constraints facing the chairman but would encourage the committee to find a way to fund some of the important, water infrastructure and ecosystem restoration programs, such as the new sewer overflow control grants program and the reauthorized Clean Lakes program. I hope there are opportunities down the road to target assistance for such efforts.

I would also continue to note my concern with the Superfund program. The bill provides \$1.27 billion. The appropriators are doing their best under the circumstances. Congress needs to change the circumstances; comprehensive reform and, at a minimum, a reauthorization of the corporate environmental income tax—twelve one hundredths of a per cent (which expired on December 31, 1995) should be the next course of action.

Mr. Chairman, this is a good bill for science, a good bill for the space program, and a good

will for the environment. It aptly illustrates the tremendous leadership provided by my friend from New York, Chairman WALSH, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will rise informally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY) assumed the Chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The Committee resumed its sitting.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule. The amendment printed in House Report 107-164 may be offered only by a Member designated in the report and only at the appropriate point in the reading of the bill, shall be considered read, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment that he has printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2620

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Departments of Veteran Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by law (38 U.S.C. 107, chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61); pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by law (38 U.S.C. chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61; 92 Stat. 2508); and burial benefits, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of article IV of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 (50 U.S.C. App. 540 et seq.)