

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Are there any further amendments?

If not, the question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Under the rule, the committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) having assumed the chair, Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2486), to authorize the National Weather Service to conduct research and development, training, and outreach activities relating to tropical cyclone inland forecasting improvement, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 473, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on the amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute adopted by the Committee of the Whole? If not, the question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill just considered, H.R. 2486.

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

There was no objection.

#### ENTERPRISE INTEGRATION ACT OF 2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 474 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. 2733.

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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. 2733) to authorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology to work with major manufacturing industries on an initiative of standards development and implementation for electronic enterprise integration, with Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida 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 Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume; and I rise in support of the Enterprise Integration Act of 2002.

Much has changed about the manufacturing industry during the past 30 years. In the 1970s and 1980s, our manufacturing sector was in trouble. Plagued by quality problems and inefficiency, our domestic manufacturing sector was on the decline, and it was costing U.S. workers their jobs. I saw this firsthand in my home State of Michigan, when one observer noted in a national column how much Michigan's auto manufacturing sector had fallen and asked for, in print, "The last person to leave the State to please turn off the lights."

This decline served as a wake-up call not only for State and Federal governments but especially for domestic manufacturers, and they have worked hard over the past three decades to become leaner and more competitive in the global marketplace. Automation, outsourcing, efficiency, and quality became the buzzwords of this effort, as manufacturers made fundamental changes to their business models. When these changes were coupled with the information technology revolution, manufacturers were able to unleash the untapped potential of American workers.

Over the past 10 years, our workers increased their productivity as never before in the modern era. These gains led to one of the greatest economic expansions in U.S. history and made a bold statement that U.S. domestic manufacturing was ready to compete in the global marketplace.

Domestic manufacturing industries are now beginning to undertake new steps to ensure that they stay globally

competitive. Our manufacturing industries are moving away from the traditional models where products are mass produced and consumer preferences are aggregated at the end of a manufacturing chain. The new model is marked by a commitment to flexibility, networked supply chains, just-in-time inventories, and responsiveness to changes and customers' preferences. Underpinning all these elements is the need to be able to exchange information quickly, reliably, and without fear that the information contains errors or is incomplete.

The purpose of the legislation before us today is to support this critical component. H.R. 2733 will establish an enterprise integration initiative within the National Institute of Standards and Technology, better known as NIST. At the heart of this initiative is what modern manufacturing industry craves—the ability to exchange information up and down the supply chain without error or loss.

For example, with a fully integrated supply chain, if Ford were to design a change for a bumper, every one of the suppliers that contributes parts to Ford for that bumper would be able quickly and easily to see how the new specifications would affect the component they manufacture. Each supplier would be able to redesign the component knowing that the information used does not have errors and has not lost data along the way.

As I said earlier, the new manufacturing model requires industry to respond to consumer choices quickly and with a high degree of quality and reliability. This flexibility can only be achieved with a fully integrated supply chain.

Two of Michigan's key industries, automotive and furniture, can derive tremendous benefits from this legislation. A 1999 study by NIST found that General Motors, Ford and Chrysler together could save \$1 billion per year if they fully integrated their supply chains. West Michigan's worldwide office furniture suppliers, Steelcase, Herman Miller, and Haworth, are facing significant challenges both as a result of the economic downturn and stiff foreign competition. Information technology is a powerful tool for bringing together the various elements of design, manufacturing, and delivery of furniture, and the U.S. furniture industry is beginning to utilize this tool to better integrate these elements.

□ 1215

All three firms, and others, can realize huge benefits through better linkage with their suppliers, which will lead to reductions in inventory, fewer manufacturing slow downs, lower purchasing costs, and higher quality.

Achieving this level of integration, however, is complex and requires a substantial amount of research regarding what information exchange standards need to be developed and implemented for different supply changes. H.R. 2733