

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, October 1, 2002.

Hon. JAMES HANSEN,
Chairman, Committee on Resources, Longworth
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HANSEN: I am writing with regard to H.R. 5460, to reauthorize and amend the Federal Water Project Recreation Act, which was referred to the Committee on Resources on September 25, 2002. This legislation affects programs under the jurisdiction of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

I recognize your desire to bring this bill before the House in an expeditious manner. Accordingly, I will not exercise my Committee's right to a sequential referral of the legislation. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, however, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 5460. In addition, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee reserves its authority to seek conferees on provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for conferees on H.R. 5460.

I request that you include a copy of our exchange of letters in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration on the House Floor. Thank you.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,

Washington, DC, October 2, 2002.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5460, to reauthorize and amend the Federal Water Project Recreation Act, and for other purposes. As you know, scheduling this bill for Floor consideration was a last-minute decision on the part of our Leadership, and I apologize for not consulting with you earlier about this bill and its unintended affect on programs within the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's jurisdiction. Fortunately, when the House considered the bill yesterday on the Floor, we were able to pass it with an amendment worked out between our staffs which should resolve your concerns.

In response to your letter, I agree that by not pursuing a sequential referral of H.R. 5460, you did not waive your jurisdiction over the bill. Moreover, in the unlikely event that a House-Senate conference should be required on H.R. 5460, I would support your request to have Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure represented on that conference for matters within your Committee's jurisdiction. As requested, I also plan to insert both your letter and my response in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Thank you again for your cooperation on this matter and for the good work of Susan Bodine of your staff.

Sincerely,

JAMES V. HANSEN,
Chairman.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, October 1, 2002,

Hon. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Rayburn
House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for agreeing to allow H.R. 4792, to reauthorize funding for the Water Desalination Act of 1996, and for other purposes, to be brought to the Floor of the House of Representatives as part of a larger legislative package dealing with water projects. H.R. 4792, authored by our colleague Mr. Horn, was referred primarily to the Committee on Resources and additionally to the Committee on Science.

It is my intention to include the text of H.R. 4792 as one of several amendments to H.R. 5460 and consider the resulting bill on the Floor under suspension of the rules this week.

By allowing this bill to be scheduled, I agree that the Committee on Science has not waived its jurisdiction over the measure, nor should this action be taken as precedent for other bills. In addition, in the unlikely event that a conference on H.R. 5460 becomes necessary, I would support the Committee on Science's request to be represented on that conference for those matters within its jurisdiction. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response you might have in the Congressional Record during debate on H.R. 5460.

Thank you again for your cooperation on this matter, and I look forward to seeing H.R. 4792 enacted soon as part of H.R. 5460.

Sincerely,

JAMES V. HANSEN,
Chairman.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,

Washington, DC, October 1, 2002.

Hon. JAMES V. HANSEN,
Chairman, Committee on Resources, U.S. House
of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HANSEN: On May 22, 2002, Mr. Horn introduced H.R. 4792, a bill "to reauthorize funding for the Water Desalination Act of 1996, and for other purposes," which was referred to the Committee on Resources in addition to the Committee on Science. It has come to my attention that you intend to include the text of H.R. 4792 as one of several amendments to H.R. 5460.

In deference to your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner I will not exercise this Committee's right to consider H.R. 4792. Despite waiving its consideration of H.R. 4792, the Science Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 4792. Additionally, the Science Committee expressly reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provisions that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this or similar legislation which falls within the Science Committee's jurisdiction. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Science Committee for conferees on H.R. 4792 as included in H.R. 5460 as well as any similar or related legislation.

I request that you include this letter as part of the Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor. Thank you for your consideration and attention regarding these matters.

Sincerely,

SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT,
Chairman.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP POLITICAL
SPEECH PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Houses of Worship Political Speech Protection Act (H.R. 2357).

While I am a strong defender of the fundamental freedoms of religion and speech, I am deeply concerned that H.R. 2357 could have serious unintended consequences. For example, this legislation would allow churches, mosques, and synagogues to make hard and soft money contributions to political campaigns, run issue advocacy advertisements for and against candidates, and use tax-free donations to sponsor political fundraisers. Simply by paying their tithing, parishioners could be contributing to a political campaign without their knowledge or consent. This would jeopardize the integrity of religious institutions and endanger the rights of citizens to choose who they will and will not support for public office. Tithes and offerings would be better spent feeding the poor and hungry, and helping other disadvantaged members of our society find hope and healing.

The primary mission of houses of worship is to save souls, comfort the afflicted, and uplift and inspire the people. Our Constitution guarantees the freedom of religion, and the government specifically exempts religious institutions from taxation in recognition of their crucial work. Religious leaders have, since the founding of our country, spoken out on moral and spiritual issues, serving as the catalyst for the anti-slavery and prohibition movements. I am extremely concerned that some spiritual leaders now feel they cannot adequately address moral issues without risking the loss of their church's tax-exempt status. I strongly support further investigation into the IRS regulations on political speech by tax-exempt organizations so a workable and appropriate solution can be found. However, H.R. 2357 is not the answer. While churches would be able to participate in political campaigns, involving their parishioners in electioneering and partisan politics would ultimately undermine their mission of hope and comfort.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 2357 and working toward a more effective and appropriate solution to address the legitimate concerns of religious leaders.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR GOALS
AND IDEAS OF DAY OF TRIBUTE
TO ALL FIREFIGHTERS

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, let me start by expressing my heartfelt sympathy for all the families and coworkers of firefighters who so valiantly responded to the call of duty. Is there anything more selfless than the bravery of a firefighter fighting to save the life of