

and Trade Committee, and the Korea-Hong Kong Business Roundtable.

In its efforts to promote freer trade, not only between the United States and South Korea, but around the world, KITA organizes various functions and events to enhance mutual understanding on trade issues, seeking to resolve private-sector trade disputes through dialogue. It also works together with its overseas counterparts and international economic organizations to provide member firms with opportunities to interact fully with the international community.

Moreover, KITA places special emphasis on developing and maintaining cooperative relationships with overseas trade promotion organizations as well as major international organizations to facilitate trade and investment on a reciprocal basis. These cooperation activities include trade information exchange, organizing trade promotional events, joint research, and provision of facilities, such as the new office building on L Street in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, as January 13, 2006, will be the first time we celebrate Korean-American Day, as designated by the vote of this Congress, I think it is appropriate that we recognize the mutual benefits of trade between our country and South Korea, which has been a partner of ours in so many endeavors over the years, from fighting side-by-side with our Armed Forces to contributing \$30 million in assistance to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Barely half a century ago, South Korea was an impoverished casualty of imperialism and war; it has now grown to be the 13th-largest trading nation in the world. Korea is also the 7th-largest trading partner of the United States, with over \$70 billion in business between our countries each year. Credit for such remarkable development belongs in large part to the efforts of the Korea International Trade Association.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to extend their good wishes and welcome to the Korea International Trade Association as it opens its new offices in Washington, DC.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2863,
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this conference report—and the breathtaking abuse of power it represents.

The purpose of a Defense Appropriations bill is to fund the fighting forces of the United States and to provide our troops with the support and equipment they need. At no time is that obligation more solemn than when our soldiers are at risk in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

That is why it is so inexcusable for this congressional leadership to put our troops in jeopardy by playing politics with this bill.

Republicans and Democrats should unite behind a clean, bipartisan conference report that supports our soldiers and provides for a robust national defense. Instead, this legislation arrives on the floor packed with highly divisive, completely extraneous, last minute

giveaways to special interests—giveaways the Republican leadership knows perfectly well could never survive the scrutiny of the ordinary legislative process.

In that regard, I am particularly appalled by the inclusion of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) drilling in this legislation. And I am not alone: Five high profile military officials—including retired General Anthony Zinni—recently implored Congress not to politicize military spending by embroiling it in the ANWR debate. Senator MCCAIN called the ANWR insertion “disgraceful” and “disgusting”.

Mr. Speaker, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a spectacular arctic ecosystem, sustaining wildlife so diverse it is sometimes called the American Serengeti. Along with a sizable majority of Americans, I continue to believe we should not despoil this national treasure for what amounts to six months worth of gasoline ten years from now. Instead, we should move expeditiously to diversify the Nation’s fuel mix away from our reliance on foreign oil and embrace the renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies of the 21st century.

I agree with General Zinni and Senator MCCAIN: It is the height of irresponsibility to be playing games with needed defense funds when our men and women in uniform are in harm’s way—and I am hopeful the Senate will reject inclusion of this extremely controversial and unrelated environmental provision in this military spending bill.

Moreover, I strongly object to the eleventh hour special interest liability protections added to this legislation. Once again, this kind of provision is not germane to the defense appropriations process. Furthermore, I am concerned it fails to provide adequate compensation to legitimately injured patients.

Finally, the Defense Appropriations bill is no place to be making spending decisions that have nothing to do with defense. Yet this bill contains a 1% across-the-board spending cut affecting almost every appropriations bill we have passed this year.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today I voted in favor of the defense authorization bill to provide the ongoing authority for ensuring our national defense. I am particularly pleased that the conferees on that bill saw fit to include Senator MCCAIN’s language on the humane treatment of prisoners held in American custody.

But on this vote I will not reward the abuse of power dragging down this bill. Shame on this House for playing politics with our troops during wartime. I urge my colleagues to vote no so we can return quickly with a defense bill worthy of our military’s service and sacrifice.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2863,
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the legislative process has clearly broken down and this conference report reflects that sad state of affairs. Included in this bill are a number of critical issues that have nothing to do with defense and deserve separate votes. Instead,

because they cannot or do not want to legislate, the Republican leadership has decided to play politics with our troops and use this bill as a vehicle to force through harmful provisions.

It is shameful that this conference report contains, for the first time, authority for oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Not only is this bad policy, but it has nothing to do with our Nation’s national defense. If Republicans were truly serious about reducing our dependence on foreign oil for security reasons, this bill would contain an increase in fuel efficiency standards for automobiles or a renewable portfolio standard. Instead, it contains an ideological victory for the anti-environmental leadership of this Congress that would only provide enough oil to meet our country’s needs for 6 months to a year.

This bill also contains a significant across the board budget cut, which is an unfortunate and easy way out of making smart spending choices. These cuts will have a harmful impact on everything from transportation to economic development to health care. In addition, the bill contains a damaging provision to provide immunity to drug and vaccine manufacturers.

I am disappointed that the conferees were unwilling to include fundamental provisions such as \$50 million in funding for the African Union Mission in Sudan. Without these funds, there will be no U.S. support for Darfur peacekeepers beginning in 2006. The African Union is the only security force in Darfur that has been able to provide a modicum of security. Yet without this funding it will not be able to continue its current level of around 6,000 peacekeepers for an area the size of Texas, let alone expand its operations to protect more civilians and aid workers. To allow Congress to adjourn without addressing this issue makes Republican leadership and the White House complicit in this ongoing genocide.

We face significant security and military challenges from the war in Iraq to the threat of terrorism and nuclear proliferation. Unfortunately, the spending choices in this bill do not reflect these threats and challenges. The billions we waste on outdated programs like missile defense come at the expense of the less-flashy tools we need to wage counterinsurgency warfare in places like Iraq and Afghanistan, such as armored vehicles and language training for soldiers. The security of the American people and the safety of our men and women in uniform demand better than this conference report.

BORDER PROTECTION, ANTI-
TERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMI-
GRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to the so-called Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005, H.R. 4437. I am deeply