

EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH
THE INDIAN PEOPLE IN THE
WAKE OF THE MUMBAI TER-
RORIST BOMBINGS

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on July 11, 2006 seven separate bombs were detonated throughout the train network in India's cultural capital, the city of Mumbai. More than 180 people were killed, and over 900 were injured. The bombs exploded simultaneously during the evening rush hour resulting in an entire shut down of the rail network which stranded hundreds of thousands of commuters. The terrorists may have hit a target with high practical and psychological impact, but I am confident that the people of India will again stand tall and not relent to such senseless and unfathomable violence.

Following the attacks, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh described the incidents as a "shocking and cowardly attempt to spread a feeling of hatred." Even Pakistani leaders condemned the blasts as a "despicable act of terrorism."

The tragedy continued even after the bombing, with an eyewitness reporting that some of the dazed survivors who had jumped from the train after the blast were run over by another train coming in the opposite direction.

Undoubtedly, the hospitals in Mumbai were swamped with casualties.

Many parallels can be drawn between Mumbai and New York City. Mumbai is home to 17 million people, and is headquarters to many big Indian companies and foreign multinationals, with property prices among the most expensive in the world. Both Mumbai and New York have been attacked more than once by terrorists. In 1993 New York saw the first bombing of the World Trade Center, and in the same year 250 people were killed in Mumbai from bombings throughout the city.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to remind the people of India, as partners in a civilized world, America will not stand for senseless terrorism and together we can fight this evil until it no longer impedes the advancement of society.

PROVIDING FOR EARMARKING RE-
FORM IN THE HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, today we are considering H. Res. 1003, a rule providing that, upon its adoption, H. Res. 1000, providing for earmarking reform in the House of Representatives is hereby adopted.

Mr. Speaker, today we are considering an important reform that members of both parties have supported. In fact, it was a key provision in the House-passed Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act. Specifically, with this new rule, member-directed spending to projects in their district, or earmarks, will no longer be anonymous.

As it stands now, there are no disclosure requirements for earmarks in appropriations, tax and authorizing legislation. Earmarks can be buried in the text of bills that often number into the thousands of pages. There is no easy way to account for how many earmarks are in a bill and who is sponsoring them.

This new rule requires sponsors of earmarks to be listed in committee reports. Conference reports must also have a list of earmarks that are "airdropped" into the agreement.

We are blowing away the fog of anonymity so the public can have a clear picture of what the projects are, how much they cost and who is sponsoring them. This is a victory for fiscal responsibility and a victory for spending taxpayer dollars wisely.

As an enforcement mechanism, this new rule also provides for a question of consideration when a bill or conference report does not contain a list of earmarks. The question of consideration is debatable for 30 minutes—15 minutes equally divided.

If a Member feels strongly enough about a proposed earmark, they will have to attach their name to it. And they need to be prepared to make their case in full view of their colleagues and constituents.

Mr. Speaker, while the report to accompany H. Res. 1000 addressed several issues regarding the implementation of this new rule, I believe that it is important to further clarify how this rule will operate after its adoption.

First, this rule will become effective immediately upon its adoption. Any report filed by a committee from that point forward should address this new rule. If there are earmarks in the bill or report, they should be listed appropriately; if there are none, I would encourage the committee chairmen to include a statement to that effect, as is often the current practice with other reporting requirements under rule XIII.

Secondly, with regard to measures in conference, we recognize that the exact requirements of the resolution may be problematic given that this rule was not in place at the point of House consideration. We believe that it is important that committee chairmen make a good faith effort to comply with the spirit of the rule, and would regard inclusion of a list of earmarks which were not in either the House or Senate bill or their accompanying reports, i.e. "airdropped" earmarks, as meeting the intent of this new rule.

Mr. Speaker, the earmark reform will build on the reforms already being implemented by the Appropriations Committee—reforms that have reduced the number of earmarks this year by 37 percent. Overall, spending on member projects was reduced \$7.8 billion below last year. Over the last 2 years, Member project spending has decreased by over \$10 billion.

I want to thank Chairman LEWIS and the Appropriations Committee for making significant progress in reining-in government spending.

I also want to make very clear that our focus is not solely on appropriations. For the reform to be effective, it must be comprehensive, and that was the commitment made by Speaker HASTERT and the leadership of the House. So let me point out that this earmark reform applies across the board. It does not just apply to some committees. It covers all committees and all appropriations, tax and authorizing legislation that moves through regular order.

Mr. Speaker, we have taken great care to clearly and precisely state what constitutes a tax, an appropriations and an authorizing earmark. And the good news is that there is more agreement than disagreement on these definitions. Yet clearly, there's no magic bullet. There is not going to be one definition that will be perfect and please everybody. But at the end of the day, we have to come together and move this process forward. If there's an earmark in a bill, it belongs on a list. It's just that simple.

Now, is this new disclosure going to completely end the practice of earmarking? No. But it will shine a spotlight on earmarks without grinding the legislative process to a halt.

And let me make very clear that the larger goal of this new rule is to make a profound and lasting change in how this institution handles earmarks and spends taxpayer dollars. The goal is to increase transparency and accountability. And the goal is to pull back the curtain on earmarks for the public, who have every right to know.

For this earmark reform to be both meaningful and lasting, everyone, from committee chairman on down, must make a good faith effort to comply with the spirit of the new rule. Our leadership—and certainly the Rules Committee—has made such a commitment. We are determined to make this work.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to point out that while this is an important milestone on the path toward reform, we have not reached the goal-line. Reform is a continuous process. It gains momentum from members who never let up and never settle for the status quo. I urge my colleagues to vote yes for reforming earmarks and yes to setting the stage for more reforms down the road.

RECOGNIZING GLORIA R.
RODRIGUEZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Gloria R. Rodriguez. As a health care professional for over 27 years, Ms. Rodriguez has spent much of her career working to eliminate health disparities in minority and disadvantaged communities. Currently, Ms. Rodriguez serves as the CEO of the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC) which represents 43 health centers and clinics throughout the county.

Gloria was born in Culver City, California and raised in the San Fernando Valley. She attended San Jose State University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health Education. Ms. Rodriguez later received her Masters of Public Health degree in Public Policy and Administration at the University of Washington's School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

Ms. Rodriguez spent much of her career working with various community health-related organizations in Washington State. She served as CEO for the Washington Association of Community & Migrant Health Centers (W ACMHC), the State's primary care trade/membership association, and founded the Alliance for Multi-Cultural Health in Tacoma. She also served as the Assistant Director for the