

Committee Meetings

FARM BILL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy and Research held a hearing to review USDA Farm Bill conservation programs. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies continued hearings on Food Safety and Inspection Service. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the USDA: Richard Raymond, Under Secretary, Food Safety; David Goldman, Acting Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service; and W. Scott Steele, Budget Officer.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense met in executive session to hold a hearing on U.S. Special Operations—Command. Testimony was heard from GEN Doug Brown, Combatant Commander, Department of Defense.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies continued appropriation hearings. Testimony was heard from Members of Congress and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a hearing on the GAO. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the GAO: David Walker, Comptroller General; Gene Dodaro, Chief Operating Officer; and Sallyanne Harper, Chief Administrative Officer.

STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs held a hearing on Public Diplomacy and Broadcasting Programs. Testimony was heard from Karen Hughes, Under Secretary, Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Department of State.

INTELLIGENCE/RECONNAISSANCE BUDGET

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Air and Land Forces held a hearing on Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization Budget Request, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Intelligence, Surveil-

lance, and Reconnaissance capabilities. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the GAO: Davi M. D'Agostino, and Sharon L. Pickup, both Directors, Defense Capabilities and Management Issues; and Michael J. Sullivan, Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management Issues; and the following officials of the Department of Defense: Joe Landon, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Command, Control, Communication, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance; BG Walt Davis, USA, Commander, Joint Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center of Excellence; LTG David A. Deptula, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance, U.S. Air Force; MG Jeffrey A. Sorenson, USA, Deputy, Acquisition and Systems Management, Office of the Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology); RADM Bruce W. Clingan, USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Deputy Director, Air Warfare; and BG Randolph Alles, USMC, Commanding General, Marine Corps Warfighting Lab.

NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE—RENEWING THE SPIRIT

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities held a hearing on Renewing the Spirit of National and Community Service. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SPY ACT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection approved for full Committee action, as amended, H.R. 964, Securely Protect Yourself Against Cyber Trespass Act.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS OUTLOOK

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, continued hearings entitled "Digital Future of the United States: Part III: Spectrum Opportunities and the Future of Wireless." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FHA REFORM

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity held a hearing entitled "The Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007: H.R. 1852, to modernize and update the National Housing Act and enable the Federal Housing Administration to use risk-based pricing to more effectively reach underserved borrowers; and related FHA Modernization Issues. Testimony was heard from Brian D. Montgomery, Assistant Secretary, Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner, Department of Housing and Urban Development; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; DARFUR CRISIS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Favorably considered and adopted a motion urging the Chairman to request that the following resolutions, as amended, be considered on the Suspension Calendar: H. Res. 243, Calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Father Nguyen Van Ly, Nguyen Van Dai, Le Thi Cong Nhan, and other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience; H. Res. 272, Commemorating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade; and H. Con. Res. 7, Calling on the League of Arab States to acknowledge the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan and to step up their efforts to stop the genocide in Darfur.

The Committee also held a hearing on the Current Situation in Darfur. Testimony was heard from Mia Farrow, Goodwill Ambassador, UNICEF; and public witnesses.

FEDERAL SYSTEMS CYBER SECURITY

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science Technology held a hearing entitled “Cyber Insecurity: Hackers are Penetrating Federal Systems and Critical Infrastructure.” Testimony was heard from Dave Jarrell, Manager, Critical Infrastructure Protection Program, Department of Commerce; Donald Reid, Senior Coordinator, Security Infrastructure, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Department of State; Jerry Dixon, Director, National Cyber Security Division, Department of Homeland Security; Greg Wilshusen, Director, Information Security Issues, GAO; and public witnesses

HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT MORALE

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Management, Investigations, and Oversight held a hearing entitled “Addressing the Department of Homeland Security’s Morale Crisis.” Testimony was heard from Marta Brito Perez, Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

AIRPORT SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure Protection held a hearing entitled “Airport Security: The Necessary Improvements to Secure America’s Airports.” Testimony was heard from Kip Hawley, Assistant Secretary, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

FEDERAL JUDICIAL COMPENSATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property held an oversight hearing on Federal Judicial Compensation. Testimony was heard from the following Presiding Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court: Stephen G. Breyer; and Samuel A. Alito.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security and International Law held a hearing on Shortfalls of 1986 Immigration Reform Legislation. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Hearings continue tomorrow.

FEDERAL LANDS ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held an oversight hearing on Renewable Energy Opportunities and Issues on Federal Lands: Review of Title II, Subtitle B—Geothermal Energy of EPAct; and other renewable programs and proposals for public resources. Testimony was heard from Jim Hughes, Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Insular Affairs held an oversight hearing on Current Economic, Social and Security Conditions of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Testimony was heard from Pedro A. Tenorio, Resident Representative, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; David B. Cohen, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior; and Jeanette Franzel, Director, Financial Management and Assurance, GAO.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Natural Parks, Forests and Public Lands approved for full Committee action the following measures: H.R. 359, amended, Cesar Estrada Chavez Study Act; H.R. 713, amended, Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Act; H.R. 986, Eightmile Wild and Scenic River Act, H.R. 1080, Grand Teton National Park Extension Act of 2007; H.R. 1100, amended, Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site Boundary Revision Act of 2007; and H. Con. Res. 116, Expressing the sense of Congress that the National Museum of Wildlife Art, located in Jackson, Wyoming, shall be designated as the “National Museum of Wildlife Art of the United States.”

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power approved for full Committee action the following bills: H.R. 487, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Amendments Act of 2007; H.R. 1114, Alaska Water Resources Act of 2007; H.R. 1140, South Orange County Recycled Water Enhancement Act; H.R. 1337, to provide for a feasibility study of alternatives to augment the water supplies of the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District and cities served by the District; and H.R. 1662, to amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to authorize improvements for the security of dams and other facilities.

CONTRACTOR TAX ENFORCEMENT

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization and Procurement held a hearing on the following measures: H.R. 1870, Contractor Tax Enforcement Act; and H.R. 1865, To amend title 31, United States Code, to allow certain local tax debt to be collected through the reduction of Federal tax funds. Testimony was heard from Paul A. Denett, Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, OMB; J. Russell George, Inspector General, Tax Administration, Department of the Treasury; Gregory D. Kutz, Managing Director, Forensic Audits and Special Investigations, GAO; and public witnesses.

NSF AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Science and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Science approved for full Committee, as amended, H.R. 1867, National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2007.

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND MANUFACTURING STIMULATION ACT OF 2007

Committee on Science and Technology: Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation approved for full Committee action, as amended, H.R. 1868, Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007.

SMALL BUSINESSES' FEDERAL CONTRACTS

Committee on Small Business: Held a hearing entitled "Expanding Small Businesses' Access to Federal Contracts." Testimony was heard from Paul Hsu, Associate Administrator, Government Contracting and Business Development, SBA; and public witnesses.

HIGH-SPEED RAIL SYSTEMS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials held a hearing on High-Speed Rail Systems. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AGRICULTURE'S IMPACT ON WATER QUALITY

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing on Nonpoint Source Pollution: The Impact of Agriculture on Water Quality. Testimony was heard from Richard Coombe, Regional Assistant Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA; Craig Hooks, Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water, EPA; and public witnesses.

VETERANS EDUCATION/TRAINING PROGRAMS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on State Approving Agencies. Testimony was heard from George Scott, Acting Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security Issues, GAO; John McWilliam, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Veterans' Employment and Training Service, Department of Labor; Carol Griffiths, Chief, Accrediting Agency Evaluation Unit, Accreditation and State Liaison Staff, Department of Education; Keith M. Wilson, Director of Education Service, Department of Veterans Affairs.

SALISBURY VA MEDICAL CENTER INVESTIGATIONS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on Surgical Services at the W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center in Salisbury, North Carolina. Testimony was heard from John D. Daigh, M.D., Assistant Inspector General, Healthcare Inspections, Office of the Inspector General; and the following officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs: Sidney Steinberg, M.D., Chief of Staff, W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center; and William F. Feeley, Deputy Under Secretary, Health, for Operations and Management.

ENERGY AND TAX POLICY

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures held a hearing on Energy and Tax Policy. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NATIONAL CLANDESTINE SERVICE/HUMAN INTELLIGENCE

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Meet in executive session to hold a hearing on National Clandestine Service/Human Intelligence. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.