

contributions of the recreational boating community and the boating industry to the prosperity of the United States. This resolution, introduced by my colleague RON KLEIN, is an important way to highlight the vital role that the boating industry plays in the U.S. economy: it generates more than \$39,000,000,000 annually as it provides 380,000 American jobs.

However, I also rise to draw the House's attention to the serious problem of propeller injuries associated with recreational boating. A typical three blade propeller running at 3,200 rpm can inflict 9,600 impacts on the human body in just one minute, and a 13-inch blade can travel from head to toe on a person of average height in less than one tenth of a second. Given the speed at which these propellers turn, it is no surprise that propeller injuries frequently result in dismemberment and death.

According to the United States Coast Guard Annual Boating Statistics Reports, there were 239 accidents involving propellers in 2005 alone. Thirty-one of these injuries were fatal, and the rest were typically very severe. Sadly, the number of propeller accidents may even be larger than the report describes. The Coast Guard acknowledges that many boating accidents go unreported, either because victims are unaware of regulations requiring them to report or because the trauma of an accident leaves them little time to think about reporting.

I commend the efforts of the brave men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard, but I recognize that they lack the resources or manpower to maintain accurate records of recreational boating accidents. A 1992 study carried out by Johns Hopkins University found that, compared to the average one hundred propeller-related accidents reported by the Coast Guard; each year between 1976 and 1990, the actual number may have been closer to 2,000 to 3,000 per year.

As we rise to honor the contributions of the recreational boating community, we must also commit to doing more to protect the members of that community. We must pay special attention to children and young adults, the boating community's most vulnerable members, who sustain 40 percent of all propeller injuries.

When considering how we might reduce propeller injuries, one potential area of improvement lies in the make-up of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC), which consults with the U.S. Coast Guard in setting federal regulations. Ensuring that a sufficient portion of the NBSAC membership has no direct or indirect financial ties to the boating industry would be a step toward ensuring the airing of a diversity of views and improving the efficacy of the consultations and resulting federal regulations.

I invite my colleagues to take this opportunity to learn more about propeller injuries and to consider how we might work together to minimize them while continuing to support this vital industry.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. PAUL W. HODES**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House of the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2643) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. HODES. Madam Chairman, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote against Rep. LAMBORN's amendment to the Interior-Environment Appropriations bill which would slash the funding for the National Endowment of the Arts. The NEA has suffered deep cuts over the last decade. It is time for a new direction in supporting the arts in America.

America's global competitiveness relies on a creative, thoughtful citizenry, and funding the NEA has been proven to produce just that by funding artists, arts organizations and arts education.

Students with an education rich in the arts have better grade point averages in core academic subjects, score better on standardized tests, and have lower drop-out rates than students without arts education.

Creative thinkers are our innovators, our visionaries, and our leaders. Investing in their development is an American priority.

Support for the arts means supporting good business. The arts industry: Supports 5.7 million full-time jobs; generates \$104.2 billion in household income; generates \$7.9 billion in local government revenue; generates \$9.1 billion in State government revenue; and generates \$12.6 billion in Federal income tax.

But beyond all the statistics demonstrating the importance of the arts in education and in our economy is the clear reality that money spent supporting the arts is a crucial investment in America's lasting legacy. For long after we are gone our artistic creation will survive.

This Amendment is a shortsighted attempt to strangle an agency that does amazing work for the people of this country. I know firsthand what is done with the few dollars awarded through the NEA.

I stand today to ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reject this amendment and fund the NEA, which encourages creative thinking and the creative economy.

SUPPORTING HOME OWNERSHIP  
AND RESPONSIBLE LENDING

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 10, 2007*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 526, supporting home ownership and responsible lending.

A recent study released by the Center of Responsible Lending reveals 2.2 million

subprime home loans made in recent years have already failed or will end in foreclosure this year at a cost of 164 billion to consumers.

Despite low interest rates and a favorable economic environment during the past several years, the subprime market has experienced record high foreclosure rates. In 2006 alone there were more than 1.2 million foreclosures, a 42 percent increase from 2005. I am sad to report that my home state of Ohio has one of the highest foreclosure rates in the nation.

As you may know a number of factors drive sub prime foreclosures, including adjustable rate mortgages with steep built-in rate and payment increases, prepayment penalties, limited income documentation, and no escrow for taxes and insurance. Often individuals who are eligible for prime rates are steered into accepting high-cost subprime mortgage rates without fully understanding the risks of the mortgage products they choose. People are being manipulated by aggressive mortgage brokers and lending firms into taking subprime rates. It is our responsibility to keep them from being exploited.

Unfortunately many of these individuals are African Americans in urban areas, targeted by lending firms with these high-cost loans. In the last several years, poor neighborhoods with large minority populations like Cleveland, Chicago, Philadelphia and Atlanta have experienced a sharp rise in foreclosures, in some cases more than doubling over the past decade. In Cuyahoga County alone, where Cleveland is located, the foreclosure rate is 17 percent, 12 percent higher than the national average.

Madam Speaker, we must put an end to these practices that are hurting consumers and prohibiting them from achieving the American dream of home ownership. I urge my colleagues to support my Predatory Mortgage Lending Practices Reduction Act, H.R. 2061 and H. Res. 546 so we may prevent predatory lending and ensure the fiscal security of the American people.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND  
NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. PETER T. KING**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 10, 2007*

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Senate's revision of what was a solid, balanced bill, H.R. 556, the "Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2007." This bill fails to make a number of very much needed reforms to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States ("CFIUS"). I am disappointed that the legislation, passed by the Senate and considered today, makes changes to the bill originally passed by the House, that significantly weaken the legislation.

As originally passed by the House, H.R. 556 ensured that the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) is given adequate time to conduct a thorough analysis of proposed transactions. If the DNI identified complex issues that could not be resolved within that initial 30-day review, the transaction would be sent to a 45-day investigation. These intelligence reviews were missing during the Dubai Ports debacle last year and are absolutely vital to our