

over these three and a half decades, and the journey yet ahead of us to clean up that remaining one-third, to protect that other two-thirds of water, to pass on to the next generation this priceless heritage of fresh water, that we do not have to go wandering in space looking for water that we may have destroyed on Earth so that we may bring it from some extra-terrestrial planetary system to replenish our fresh water on Earth. No, let us be custodians of that fresh water that we have. It's only 2 percent of all the water on Earth. Let us resolve and renew our efforts. Let's resolve to maintain the purpose of that Clean Water Act, to protect the waters of the United States.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 725, to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. This landmark legislation established the basic structure for our national commitment to restoring and maintaining the environmental integrity of our Nation's waters.

When the Cuyahoga River caught fire and Lake Erie was declared "dead", Congress finally took action and passed the Clean Water Act, which is now the cornerstone of surface water quality protection in the United States. The statute employs a variety of regulatory and nonregulatory tools to sharply reduce direct pollutant discharges into waterways, finance municipal wastewater treatment facilities, and manage polluted runoff. These tools are employed to achieve the broader goal of restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters.

Even as the population of the United States has increased by close to 50 percent, the Clean Water Act has enabled our waterways to show dramatic improvement in water quality. In 1972, only one-third of the country's waters met water quality goals—today two-thirds do.

And for those of us who live in the Great Lakes region, the success of the Clean Water Act is even more personal and poignant. As a kid, my brothers and I used to have to hold our breath to swim past the dead fish in Lake Michigan before we could pop up and play in the cleaner water. Today, my children are able to enjoy a much cleaner Lake Michigan.

This success deserves our praise, but at the same time, we must recognize that there is still much work to be done. We have the opportunity to recommit ourselves to the goals and objectives of the Clean Water Act by dedicating ourselves to working toward a sustainable, long-term solution to the Nation's decaying water infrastructure. Recent events involving BP and U.S. Steel looking to expand the pollutants they discharge into Lake Michigan heighten concern for those of us who are committed to protecting and restoring the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes provide drinking water and recreation for over 30 million people, and they are the economic engine that drives the Midwest. The Clean Water Act has helped preserve this national treasure, but we have more work to do to restore it and invest in the environmental and economic health of the Great Lakes region.

Mr. Speaker, clean water is not a partisan issue. I am proud to have worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to fight to

clean up our Lakes, and I will continue to do so. The Clean Water Act has been a fundamental tool in the protection of our Nation's environment, and I hope my colleagues will join me in commemorating this important legislation and its accomplishments by supporting H. Res. 725.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALZ of Minnesota). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 725.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1815

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF AMERICA'S WATERWAY WATCH PROGRAM

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 549) recognizing the importance of America's Waterway Watch program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 549

Whereas the United States has a maritime border that exceeds 95,000 miles;

Whereas the Department of Homeland Security has begun to focus greater attention on potential security threats from small vessels and the importance of increasing maritime domain awareness;

Whereas the Coast Guard currently conducts a maritime homeland security public awareness program called America's Waterway Watch program;

Whereas America's Waterway Watch is a public outreach program to encourage America's 70,000,000 boaters and others who live, work, or engage in recreational activities around America's waterways to maintain a heightened sense of awareness in the maritime domain and report suspicious and unusual activities to the Coast Guard National Response Center and other appropriate law enforcement agencies;

Whereas America's Waterway Watch program educates the public on what suspicious activity is and provides a toll-free telephone number, (877) 24-WATCH, for the public to report such activity to prevent terrorism and other criminal acts;

Whereas the Coast Guard promotes this program by distributing educational materials, boat decals, posters, and reporting forms to recreational boaters, marine dealers, marinas, and other businesses located near waterways;

Whereas America's Waterway Watch program acts as a force multiplier for the Coast Guard and local law enforcement and builds on local and regional security programs;

Whereas the Department of Homeland Security conducted a National Small Vessel Security Summit on June 19 and June 20, 2007, to educate small vessel operators and other stakeholders on current security risks and initiate dialogue on possible solutions to mitigate gaps in United States maritime domain awareness; and

Whereas, during the National Small Vessel Security Summit, participants highlighted

America's Waterway Watch program and recognized its importance to increasing maritime domain awareness: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the importance of increasing maritime domain awareness;

(2) encourages those who live, work, or engage in recreational activities around America's waterways to maintain a heightened sense of awareness in the maritime domain and report suspicious and unusual activities to appropriate authorities; and

(3) supports the goals of America's Waterway Watch program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 549.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. House Resolution 549, introduced by Congressman GUS BILIRAKIS, recognizes the contributions made to our Nation's security by the Coast Guard's Waterway Watch program. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, I strongly support the Waterway Watch program, and I support the resolution offered by the gentleman from Florida.

Put simply, America's Waterway Watch program enlists the 70 million Americans who work, play or live around our Nation's waterfronts, rivers, lakes, and coastal regions to become part of our Nation's first line of defense by observing and reporting suspicious activities. Founded by the Coast Guard in 2004, the Waterway Watch is similar to earlier Coast Watch programs instituted during World War II.

At the time, the Coast Watch program was comprised of a group of volunteers who scanned our coasts for U-boats threatening U.S. shipping. Today, America's Waterway Watch calls on volunteers to aid in the war on terrorism on our home front. People are advised to take note of suspicious activities and, if it can be done safely, they are encouraged to take photographs or videotape of the occurrence. Observers are then asked to immediately report incidents they have witnessed by calling 911 or the America's Waterway Watch 24-hour national toll-free telephone number, 1-877-24-WATCH. Reported information is then sent to the National Response Center located at Coast Guard headquarters to be evaluated and dispersed to local Coast Guard responders.

I emphasize that this watch program is meant to be a simple deterrent to potential terrorist activity by asking

those who frequent our waterways, ports, and waterfront areas to report events and people that seem out of place. It is not a surveillance program and is not meant to spread paranoia.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, I also commend the Coast Guard Auxiliary, which is at the forefront of the Waterway Watch program. The auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the Coast Guard. It is primarily responsible for implementing programs that serve the recreational boating community. In fact, the auxiliary helps to promote America's Waterway Watch through their well-established recreational boating safety programs.

I also commend the Nationwide Insurance Company, which has supported the Waterway Watch program by giving the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association a \$96,000 grant to support the auxiliary's role in the Coast Guard's maritime homeland security missions. The grant funded the purchase of Waterway Watch stickers that boaters can display on their boats. It also funded the printing of brochures, wallet cards, and posters that provide pertinent information on the watch program, including detailing how citizens can become involved in the program and listing the numbers that can be called to report suspicious activities.

The Coast Guard's active duty, Reserve and auxiliary forces have united with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and local law enforcement agencies to detect and deter threatening activities at waterfront facilities.

However, there are some 95,000 miles of shoreline, 300,000 square miles of waterways, 6,000 bridges, 360 ports of call, and 12,000 marinas in the United States; and the Coast Guard and other first responders simply cannot watch all of these facilities all the time. America's Waterway Watch program ensures that ordinary citizens can help our Nation's uniformed agencies protect our homeland simply by remaining vigilant in their own communities.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I again express my support for America's Waterway Watch program, which helps keep citizens involved in watching our Nation's shores and waterways, and recognizes the importance of the service they are providing. I urge my colleagues to adopt H. Res. 549 and again commend Congressman BILIRAKIS for his work on this measure. I also congratulate and thank my colleague, the ranking member of our Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee (Mr. LATOURETTE), for his cooperation in this bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the subcommittee chairman, Mr. CUMMINGS

from Maryland, for bringing this important measure to the floor in such a bipartisan way. I enjoy continuing to work with the chairman on a variety of matters that affect the Coast Guard and our Nation's maritime industry.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 549, which recognizes the importance of America's Waterway Watch program in enhancing our Nation's maritime security. America's Waterway Watch was established by the Coast Guard to encourage America's 70 million recreational boaters to report suspicious activity in the maritime environment to local law enforcement agencies. The program is a nationwide initiative that is similar to the Neighborhood Watch program that is so effective in many of our neighborhoods back home.

Through America's Waterway Watch program, the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Reserve, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary are actively educating the public on actions and behavior that constitute suspicious activities. These outreach efforts are being made in cooperation with our Nation's recreational boaters, marine dealers, marinas, and other businesses located near waterways. America's Waterway Watch program acts as an important force multiplier for Coast Guard and local law enforcement and enhances the capabilities of local and regional security programs.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the resolution's sponsor, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), and all of the other cosponsors for rightly recognizing this important community program.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of the Members of the House to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. We will reserve, Mr. Speaker.

We have no other speakers.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I thank the chairman.

At this time, it is my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the author of the resolution.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 549, a resolution that I have introduced to recognize the importance of increased maritime domain awareness and support the goals of America's Waterway Watch program. It has become clear in the years since 9/11 that all Americans have a shared responsibility for our country's security. That is why I am pleased to highlight the importance of a program that encourages citizens to do their part to strengthen our homeland defenses.

The Department of Homeland Security has begun to focus greater attention on potential security threats from individuals aboard small vessels and the importance of increasing maritime domain awareness. Many of us who rep-

resent coastal States already know and understand how vitally important it is to take reasonable and appropriate security precautions to secure our maritime borders from such threats.

The Coast Guard currently conducts a maritime homeland security public awareness program called America's Waterway Watch. This program, which is the maritime equivalent of a Neighborhood Watch program, encourages boaters and others who live, work or engage in recreational activities around America's waterways to maintain a heightened sense of awareness and report suspicious and unusual activities.

This voluntary public outreach program educates America's 70 million boaters about the types of suspicious activities they should be looking for and encourages them to report any such abnormalities to the Coast Guard's National Response Center, which is manned 24 hours a day at 877-24-WATCH. Calls to the center are immediately evaluated and, if necessary, acted upon by local Coast Guard sector assets and other law enforcement authorities.

This program, which the Coast Guard promotes by distributing educational materials and other information to recreational boaters, marine dealers, marinas and other businesses located near waterways, acts as a force multiplier for the Coast Guard and local law enforcement to help increase maritime domain awareness and strengthen maritime security.

There is no question that we need to improve waterway security and bolster our maritime defenses. However, it is critically important that we do so in a reasonable and responsible manner with the input and advice of America's recreational boaters and manufacturers.

I am pleased that the Department of Homeland Security conducted a National Small Vessel Security Summit in June to educate small vessel operators and other stakeholders on current security risks and initiate a dialogue about possible solutions to close whatever gaps exist in our maritime security.

Summit participants highlighted America's Waterway Watch and its contributions to increasing maritime domain awareness and urge greater support for it. I agree that America's Waterway Watch program is a sensible and reasonable step toward bolstering our maritime defenses without imposing costly and confusing new regulations on recreational boaters who play an important economic role in my district. I look forward to a continuing and productive dialogue between them and Federal Homeland Security officials before any rules or mandates are proposed.

Before I finish, I want to thank Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman JAMES OBERSTAR and Chairman CUMMINGS and Mr.

LATOURETTE from Ohio and particularly also my Florida colleague, Ranking Member JOHN MICA, for moving this resolution through their committee and allowing it to come on the floor today. I also want to thank my colleagues from Florida who have shown their bipartisan support for this resolution, which is indicative of how important the issue of marine security is for our State. I would like to thank all of our colleagues who have cosponsored this particular resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is necessary to emphasize the importance of increasing maritime domain awareness and encourage recreational boaters and others to report suspicious and unusual activities, which is what America's Waterway Watch program does. I urge all of my colleagues to embrace the goals of this program and our shared responsibility for homeland security by supporting House Resolution 549.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would advise my friend, the distinguished chairman of the subcommittee, that we have no additional speakers, and if he is prepared to yield back, I will yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. We are prepared to do so.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I yield back the balance of my time and urge adoption of the resolution.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, we urge Members to vote for this very meaningful resolution, and we wholeheartedly support it. I want to thank the sponsor for his thoughtful piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 549.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1830

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 716) expressing the sense of Congress with respect to raising awareness and enhancing the state of computer security in the United States, and supporting the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 716

Whereas more than 200,000,000 American adults use the Internet in the United States, 70 percent of whom connect through broadband connections, to communicate with family and friends, manage finances and pay bills, access educational opportunities, shop at home, participate in online entertainment and games, and stay informed of news and current events;

Whereas United States small businesses, which represent more than 99 percent of all United States employers and employ more than 50 percent of the private workforce, increasingly rely on the Internet to manage their businesses, expand their customer reach, and enhance their connection with their supply chain;

Whereas nearly 100 percent of public schools in the United States have Internet access, with a significant percentage of instructional rooms connected to the Internet to enhance children's education by providing access to educational online content and encouraging self-initiative to discover research resources;

Whereas almost 9 in 10 teenagers between the ages of 12 and 17, or approximately 87 percent of all youth, use the Internet;

Whereas the number of children who connect to the Internet at school continues to rise, and teaching children of all ages to become good cyber-citizens through safe, secure, and ethical online behaviors and practices is essential to protect their computer systems and potentially their physical safety;

Whereas the growth and popularity of social networking websites has attracted millions of teenagers, providing access to a range of valuable services, making it all the more important to teach teenaged users how to avoid potential threats like cyber bullies, predators, and identity thieves they may come across while using such services;

Whereas cyber security is a critical part of the Nation's overall homeland security;

Whereas the Nation's critical infrastructures rely on the secure and reliable operation of information networks to support the Nation's financial services, energy, telecommunications, transportation, health care, and emergency response systems;

Whereas cyber attacks have been attempted against the Nation and the United States economy, and the Department of Homeland Security's mission includes securing the homeland against cyber terrorism and other attacks;

Whereas Internet users and information infrastructure holders face an increasing threat of malicious attacks through viruses, worms, Trojans, and unwanted programs such as spyware, adware, hacking tools, and password stealers, that are frequent and fast in propagation, are costly to repair, and can cause extensive economic harm;

Whereas coordination between the numerous Federal agencies involved in cyber security efforts, including the Department of Homeland Security, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Science Foundation, and others is essential to securing America's critical cyber infrastructure;

Whereas millions of records containing personally-identifiable information have been lost, stolen or breached, threatening the security and financial well-being of United States citizens;

Whereas consumers face significant financial and personal privacy losses due to identity theft and fraud;

Whereas national organizations, policy-makers, government agencies, private sector companies, nonprofit institutions, schools, academic organizations, consumers, and the media recognize the need to increase awareness of computer security and the need for enhanced computer security in the United States;

Whereas the National Cyber Security Alliance's mission is to increase awareness of cyber security practices and technologies to home users, students, teachers, and small businesses through educational activities, online resources and checklists, and Public Service Announcements; and

Whereas the National Cyber Security Alliance has designated October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month to provide an opportunity to educate United States citizens about computer security: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month; and

(2) intends to work with Federal agencies, national organizations, businesses, and educational institutions to encourage the voluntary development and use implementation of existing and future computer security voluntary consensus standards, practices, and technologies in order to enhance the state of computer security in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 716, the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 716, a resolution to applaud the goals and activities of National Cyber Security Awareness Month. The Science and Technology Committee has been a leader in the Congress supporting efforts to promote better security in cyberspace, and I am pleased to be able to help raise awareness of this crucial issue.

Each year, Americans become more and more dependent on technology for their daily lives. More than 200 million people in this country use the Internet for shopping, for education, for socializing, for information gathering, for banking and entertainment. An increasing number of Internet users are children and seniors. The Internet is looking more and more like real life.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, with this growth in usage, we have also seen a startling increase in cybercrime. Bank accounts are being hacked, children are being bullied and harassed on social networking sites, and personal information is being stolen from retailers, universities, and even government agency databases.