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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCNULTY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 30, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL R. MCNULTY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Rev. Nathan Meador, Zion Lutheran Church, Staunton, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

Almighty Father, Wisdom Incarnate and Eternal Spirit of Truth and Life, You bid Your people seek Your will, Your wisdom and Your gifts. At this time in history, our Nation is faced with many challenges and presented with many great opportunities for serving You and our neighbors. Grant the Members of this House Your strength, wisdom and guidance as they seek to serve You in leading this great Nation in the way of Truth and Life. Bestow Your blessing upon all the people of this great Nation whom this august assembly serves. Strengthen us as we face those challenges and encourage us as we seize the divinely given opportunities to make this world a better place. At Your direction and in Your peace, may we dwell in safety and live for You and the service of our neighbors. We pray in the risen name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SHIMKUS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4040. An act to establish consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements for children's products and to reauthorize and modernize the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 4040) ''An Act to establish consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements for children's products and to reauthorize and modernize the Consumer Product Safety Commission,'' requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. INOUYE, Mr. PRYOR, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. STEVENS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. SUNUNU, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

WELCOMING REV. NATHAN MEADOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to welcome Rev. Nathan Meador to the Chamber today. Pastor Meador is the pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Staunton, Illinois. He has served in this capacity since August of 2003. He currently serves as a vicarage supervisor and resident field education adviser to several students from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Elected in 2006, he is also a member of the Southern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's Board for Congregational Support.

In Staunton, Rev. Meador is proud to serve as the chaplain for the Staunton Volunteer Fire Department, treasurer of the Staunton Area Clergy Association and chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Staunton Education Foundation.

Born January 29, 1970, in Highland, Illinois, Rev. Meador spent his entire childhood as a resident of Edwardsville, Illinois. He is a 1988 graduate of Metro-East Lutheran High School in Edwardsville, Illinois, and my former student. He continued his education at Concordia University Wisconsin, earning a bachelor of arts with a double major in pre-seminary studies and theological languages. A master of divinity degree was earned from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, in 1996.

His first call was to serve a dual parish in Sheldon and Gilman, Wisconsin. There he served Trinity and Zion as pastor for 2 years. In 1998 he accepted the call to serve as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in rural Wausau, Wisconsin. He served in this capacity until August 2003 when he accepted the call to serve in Staunton, Illinois.

Rev. Meador is married to Jill Jaeger and has been married for 15 years. They have three children: Joseph, 11; Beth, 8; and Andrew, 4.

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When not being a parish pastor, Rev. Meador enjoys officiating high school and youth athletics and playing golf.

Welcome, Nathan.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet in joint meeting to hear an address by His Excellency Bertie Ahern, Prime Minister of Ireland, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to her left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, April 24, 2008, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1053

JOINT MEETING OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY BERTIE AHERN, THE PRIME MINISTER OF IRELAND

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Majority Floor Services Chief, Barry Sullivan, announced the President pro tempore and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore taking the chair at the left of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Bertie Ahern, the Taoiseach, Prime Minister of Ireland, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL);

The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON);

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY);

The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY);

The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL);

The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY);

The gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY);

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER);

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM);

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER);

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN);

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. KING);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH); and

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FERGUSON).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The President pro tempore of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Bertie Ahern, the Prime Minister of Ireland, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY);

The Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY);

The Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD);

The Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY);

The Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN);

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN); and

The Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS).

The Majority Floor Services Chief announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Jerome Mendouga, Ambassador of Cameroon.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Majority Floor Services Chief announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The Members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 11 o'clock and 8 minutes a.m., the Majority Floor Services Chief announced His Excellency Bertie Ahern, the Prime Minister of Ireland.

The Prime Minister of Ireland, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you His Excellency Bertie Ahern, the Taoiseach, Prime Minister of Ireland.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY BERTIE AHERN, THE PRIME MINISTER OF IRELAND

Prime Minister AHERN. Madam Speaker, Senator BYRD, Members of Congress, Senator KENNEDY, Chairman and Past Chairman of the Friends of Ireland, Mr. NEAL and Mr. WALSH, my distinguished predecessor as Taoiseach, Ambassador Bruton, distinguished guests:

Thank you for your kind introduction. Your invitation to address this joint meeting this morning honors my country and honors me also. It reaffirms the enduring bonds of friendship and esteem between our two peoples and between our two republics. Those bonds have been built and nurtured and refreshed over the centuries. America and Ireland have something that goes beyond a friendship between countries. To be an Irishman among Americans is to be at home.

So, Madam Speaker, I stand here before you as a proud son of Ireland. And I stand with you as a steadfast friend of the United States of America.

I know, Madam Speaker, like so many others assembled here, you share many links with Ireland and with County Wicklow in particular. A famous son of Wicklow, the son also of an American mother, Charles Stewart Parnell, stood in this place 128 years ago, the first Irish leader to do so. Parnell turned to the United States, as have many Irish leaders since, as we strove to emulate the achievements of America and to vindicate the principles that inspired your Founding Fathers: the principles of liberty, of equality and of justice.

In the early part of the last century, Eamon De Valera came here seeking help as Ireland struggled for her independence. In more recent times, many Irish leaders have come here in the quest for peace in Northern Ireland. Whenever we have asked for help, America has always been there for us—a friend in good times and in bad. From the very outset, Ireland gave to America Presidents, patriots and productive citizens of a new nation. Beginning with the Irish-Scots in the 17th and 18th centuries, they came from all corners of our island and from all creeds. The Irish helped to build America. The very bricks and stones in this unique building were quarried and carried by the hands of Irish immigrant laborers.

A sculptor of Scots-Irish descent, Thomas Crawford, created the figure of Freedom, the statue later raised to the top of this famous dome here on Capitol Hill. It reminds us all of the shared values of democracy and freedom which inspired both our journeys towards independence—the values that shine as a beacon of light and that stand strong as a city upon the hill among all the nations of the earth. That statue also tells our Irish immigrant story—a story which is an indelible part of America's own story of immigration, of struggle and of success.

The great waves of Irish immigration in the 19th century carried millions to your shores in flight from famine and despair. They carried little with them as they arrived on these shores, except a determination to work hard and to succeed. In the words of the poet Eavan Boland, that eloquent voice of America and Ireland, they had:

Their hardships parceled in them.
Patience. Fortitude.
Long suffering in the bruise-colored dusk of the New World.
And all the old songs.
And nothing to lose.

To them, and the legions of others who came before and after, America was more than a destination. It was a destiny. We see the same spirit in the New Irish at home today—the many people from beyond our shores who are now making new lives in Ireland. They too had the courage to come to a foreign place, to find their way and to provide for themselves, for their children and, in many cases, for their families far away.

The New Ireland—once a place so many left—is now a place to which so many come. These newcomers to our society have enriched the texture of our land and of our lives. We are working, as are you, to welcome those who contribute to our society as they lift up their own lives, while we also address the inevitable implications for our society, our culture, our community and our way of life.

So we are profoundly aware of those challenges as we ask you to consider the case of our undocumented Irish immigrant community in the United States today. We hope you will be able to find a solution to their plight that would enable them to regularize their status and open to them a path to permanent residency.

There is, of course, a wider issue for Congress to address. And it is your definitive right to address it in line with the interests of the American people. I welcome the wise words of your President when he addressed you on the State of the Union earlier this year and said he hoped to find a sensible and humane way to deal with people here illegally, to resolve a complicated issue in a way that upholds both America's laws and her highest ideals. On this great issue of immigration to both our shores, let us resolve to make the fair and rational choices, the practical and decent decisions, so that in the future people will look back and say: They chose well. They did what was right for their country.

Madam Speaker, for millions across the globe, the great symbol of the freedom and the welcome of America is the Statue of Liberty and the New York City skyline. The promise inscribed there says so much about this country:

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.

Annie Moore was one of those who heard that promise. She was a young Irish girl, aged only 15, from County Cork. She was the first immigrant to pass through the Ellis Island immigration station when it was officially opened in 1892. She came here with her brothers to make a new life in America. Her story is one among millions. The Irish are to be found in the police departments and the firehouses, in the hospitals, the schools and the universities, in the board rooms and on the construction sites, in the churches and on the sports fields of America. Their contribution is seen in much of the great literature, film, art and music that America has given to the world. Each of them is a green strand woven into the American Dream. In all of America, there is Irish America.

My friends, on September 11, 2001, some of the most terrible, evil events in world history occurred. Close to Ellis Island, near this very building, and in the skies and fields of Pennsylvania. It is a day that is etched into the memory of all humanity. On that day, Father Mychal Judge, the chaplain of the New York Fire Department and the son of Irish immigrants from County Leitrim, rushed to the World Trade Center to help those who were in danger and to minister to the injured and the dying. Along with so many other good, innocent people, Father Mike died inside the Twin Towers that day. He was officially designated Victim No. 1. Of course he was no more important than any other victim. He was just a simple man of faith and of courage trying to help others.

In recognition of the bravery of all who died on that terrible day, I am deeply honored to be joined here today by some of Father Mike's comrades from the New York Fire Department and the New York Police Department. I want to thank Officer Steven McDonald of the New York Police Department and Chief Robert Sweeney of the New York Fire Department for being with us. I honor them and all of their fallen comrades—those who fell on that day and all who have fallen during their duty to serve the people.

There was a national day of mourning in Ireland after 9/11. Every city, town and village fell silent in remembrance of the dead. The names on the casualty list of the terrorist attack included Boyle, Crotty, Collins, Murphy, McSweeney, and O'Neill—our names, the names of our families and our friends, the names of our nation. There are many other names, too, from many other nations. Those attacks were an attack on the free nations of the world and on humanity itself. No words of mine then or now can adequately address such an immense tragedy. But I could not come to this place today without pausing to reflect and to remember and honor those who died on that day. Our hearts and prayers remain with their families. Ar Dheis De go raibh a n-anam dilis go leir.

Madam Speaker, the relationship between Ireland and the United States continues to grow from strength to strength. It proceeds from all that has gone before, but it also thrives on the changes and new challenges which we must face together. In Ireland, we firmly believe our experience of hardship and of forced emigration is at an end. For that achievement, too, we owe so much to America. Our two countries are reaping the rewards together. We are investing in each other's economies, bringing together our entrepreneurial energy and creating employment across Ireland and across the 50 States of America. That is the true measure of our economic achievements together. It points to a friendship every bit as strong in the future as it is today. Our relationship is also part of a broader relationship between Europe and America. The Atlantic Ocean will always bring Europe and America together. I do not see the Atlantic as something that keeps America and Europe apart. Ireland, as Europe's most westerly state with so many ties to the United States, is a bridge between Europe and America.

I ask you to consider what has been achieved in Europe in the past 50 years. We have put aside hostilities that led to countless wars over the centuries and to two world wars in the last century alone. We have created a European Union of 27 democratic states, committed to democracy, peace and freedom. We are committed to an open market and to a single currency that benefits hundreds of millions of European citizens. We all recall two great Irish Americans—President Kennedy in 1963 and President Reagan in 1987—standing at the Berlin Wall during the Cold War and calling out for freedom in Germany and in Europe. That call was heard, as freedom's call always will be. Berlin is now at the heart of a united, democratic Germany.

On the 1st of May, 2004, in my native city in Dublin, 10 new members formally joined the European Union. Many of them were emerging from behind the Iron Curtain after decades of oppression. I remember the intensity of the emotions. For many of these countries, this was a moment that was unthinkable only a few years before. Along with Berlin, the great cities of Prague, Budapest and Warsaw have joined Dublin, London, Paris, Rome, Madrid and Vienna as capital cities within a free and democratic European

Union. The Union now stretches from the beautiful west coast of Ireland, where the locals say that the next parish is America, to countries with a land frontier with Russia and Ukraine. I passionately believe in Europe and I passionately believe in the European Union as a force for good in the world. It is profoundly encouraging that we are seeing the members of the European Union continuing to rise together as a force for development, for stability, for peace in the world. Soon, the Irish people will vote on a new reform treaty that aims to make the European Union work even more effectively, both internally and in the wider world. I trust in their wisdom to support and to believe in Europe, as they always have.

My friends, between America and Europe, there is contrast, but not contradiction. Energized by a common framework of values and imbued by democratic principles, together we can and we shall be a beacon for economic progress, individual liberty, and the dignity of all mankind. Acting in partnership, there are few limits to the good we can do. We are all citizens of the world. We must, therefore, develop a true spirit of global citizenship. This cannot and should not be an alternative to national pride and patriotism, but rather a complement to it. We should care for our planet as much as we care for our country. We should champion peace, justice and human rights across the globe as well as at home. It is an affront to our civilization that there are children, anywhere in the world, who will die of hunger or of a curable disease.

In this year of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it angers us that some corners of the world remain hidden from the light of the universal principles expressed so eloquently in that document. Although a small country, Ireland has always sought to play a full part on the international stage. We have consistently advocated acting in accordance with the principles of democracy, the rule of law, human rights and human dignity. Ireland believes in multilateral institutions. We believe in the United Nations. We believe in the European Union. And we believe in multilateral action. For over half a century, Irish men and women have served the cause of peace under the United Nations flag. They have served in the Congo and in Lebanon, on the borders between Israel and Syria, and between Iraq and Iran, in Cyprus, in Eritrea, in Liberia, in East Timor, in Bosnia, in Kosovo and, of course, in Afghanistan today. Tragically, some have paid the ultimate price and they have given their lives in that noble service.

Madam Speaker, never has the expression ''the global village'' been more appropriate. The great challenges that we face in the 21st century are truly global. Falling financial markets, rising food and energy prices and climate change are global phenomena. Eradicating poverty, starvation and disease, countering international terrorism and containing nuclear proliferation are not national but international issues. They cannot be overcome except by countries working together. In many ways, the modern world is a much better place, but it remains a dangerous place. The values we share are our strength and our protection.

Forty years ago, the threat of nuclear war hung over the world. Not least through the wisdom of America's leaders at crucial moments, we no longer live every day under that shadow. Ireland was at the forefront of efforts at the time to agree to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. Today, there are new possibilities for mass devastation. The need for concerted international action to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons technology is no less urgent now than it has been in the past.

Madam Speaker, in Ireland today, we are looking out from our own shores more than ever before—no longer with thoughts of exile but to be part of the world. Connected to it, contributing to it, learning from it. The long and proud tradition of Irish missionaries, of teachers, of nurses and of doctors working around the globe to combat poverty, hunger and disease continues today. For us, famine and oppression are not tragedies that could only happen elsewhere. They happened to us at a sad time in our history. They happened to those who fled here and helped build America and to the many who did not survive that fateful journey across the ocean. For that more than any other reason, we recognize our obligation to share what we have with the poor of the world. That is why Ireland is committed to reach the United Nations aid target by 2012. Today, we are the sixth largest per capita donor of development assistance in the world. The strength of our efforts to tackle poverty, to cure disease and to feed the hungry in the developing world is a measure of our common humanity.

At this moment in our history, that common humanity is being tested in parts of the continent of Africa—in countries like Sudan and Chad, where lives have been lost on a terrible scale, where countless families have been driven from their homes, where conflict threatens a whole region with chaos and destruction.

Today, Irish soldiers are in Chad as part of a United Nations-mandated force, led by an Irish officer, protecting hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing from conflict in that country and in neighboring Darfur.

America has shown the way in its commitment to healing the conflict in Sudan and to Africa as a whole. You have shown the way also in your enormous investment in the fight against HIV, AIDS and malaria. And you have given huge support and leadership to the peace process in the Middle East. That terrible conflict has been a central challenge to the world, and a cause of pain and suffering to the Israeli and the Palestinian people for far too long. We must succeed in our collective international efforts to secure a peaceful future for the people of Israel and of Palestine.

Madam Speaker, this year, in Ireland, we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. It was a defining moment in Ireland's history. In the years since then, some doubted that the agreement would endure. I never did. I knew it would last because it is built on the highest ideals of democracy—the ideals of liberty, of equality, of justice, of friendship and of respect for our fellow men and women. Above all, the settlement of 1998 will flourish because of one simple and unalterable fact. It represents the will, democratically expressed, north and south, of all of the people of Ireland to live together in peace and harmony. That is far more powerful than any words of hatred or any weapon of terror.

In 1981, in much darker days for my country, the Friends of Ireland in the United States Congress were founded. Their simple purpose was to seek a peaceful settlement in Northern Ireland. The statement, placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during a session chaired by Speaker Tip O'Neill, read: ''We look forward to a future St. Patrick's Day, one that we can foresee, when true peace can finally come and Irish men and women everywhere, from Dublin to Derry, from Boston and New York to Chicago and San Francisco shall hail that peace and welcome the dawn of a new Ireland.''

On St. Patrick's Day 2008, a few short weeks ago, I came here to Washington. I came with a simple and an extraordinary message. That great day of hope has dawned. Our prayer has been answered. Our faith has been rewarded. After so many decades of conflict, I am so proud, Madam Speaker, to be the first Irish leader to inform the United States Congress: Ireland is at peace.

Madam Speaker, our dream, and the dream of all the friends of Ireland in America and across the world, has come true. To you, to your predecessors and to all of the American leaders from both sides of the aisle who have traveled with us, we offer our heartfelt gratitude. We also recognize the steadfast support of President Bush, of President Clinton, their administrations, their envoys and of their predecessors. And, of course, for us, the great Senator George Mitchell.

Beyond Washington, there are so many others, whether amongst the dedicated leaders of Irish America, or in the smallest towns and communities across this great Nation, who have supported us, and who never gave up hope that a solution would be found and that peace would come. We have all shared that journey together. When we needed true champions of peace, when we needed true friends, when we needed inspiration, we found them here. We found them among you. Many of us

found inspiration in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, whose live we recall this year on the 40th anniversary of his death. We believed, to borrow Dr. King's immortal phrase, that we would be able to transform the jangling discords into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. His dream, born of America but heard by the whole world, inspired us through its unanswerable commitment to justice and to nonviolence. We discovered that peace can be found without suspending your moral judgment, without sacrificing your identity and without surrendering your most deeply held political aspirations.

Today, as I stand before you in this great democratic assembly, I struggle to convey the enormous good that was done by so many people in my country, with your help. Do not underestimate the good that you have done. Do not forget the legacy that you have forged. And if ever you doubt America's place in the world, or hesitate about your power to influence events for the better, look to Ireland. Look to the good you have done. Look at the richness of so many individual futures that now stretch out before us for generations, no longer subject to conflict and violence. Look to the hope and confidence that we now feel on our island. The healing of history. Look and be glad.

Madam Speaker, there is, of course, no ending to history. We will always have new problems, new challenges and new opportunities. We are seeing an ever-increasing range of new technological and scientific developments, which are created and diffused at ever-greater speeds. Our societies are increasingly diverse. Side by side with great wealth and prosperity, we still see social exclusion and poverty. We endeavor to help families and communities ravaged by a minority who engage in crime or deal in drugs. We strive to deliver quality, affordable health care to all our people. We want the best education for our children. We seek to provide social protection and security for our older people, to recognize what they have given to help create our successful societies.

These are the challenges for modern Ireland, just as they are throughout America and across the developed world. These are the very essence of politics. That is why, with all our faults as human beings, we seek the honor of representing the people. We believe that diversity does not have to mean fragmentation or discord. We believe that wealth and prosperity does not have to be accompanied by poverty and inequality. We believe that evil or injustice need not—and will not—triumph. We believe—we insist—that all that is good and just is also possible. We believe in our republics and our forms of government, in which the sovereign power resides in the whole body of the people, and is exercised by representatives elected by the people.

An American President once said: ''The supreme purpose of history is a better world.'' Making a better world is also the supreme purpose of representative politics in our two democratic republics.

Madam Speaker, I will shortly step down from the office of Taoiseach after almost 11 years. I am honored to have been elected by the Irish people to serve them in that great office. Tomorrow, as I journey home to Ireland for the last time as Taoiseach, I will travel to the great city of Boston, Massachusetts. There, I will join my great friend, Senator Edward Kennedy, and pay tribute to President Kennedy and to Robert Kennedy—great Irishmen, great Americans and great leaders. In doing so, I will pay fitting tribute to all the Irish in America.

On the 6th of May, Madam Speaker, I will go to that famous field on the banks of the River Boyne in Ireland where, over three centuries ago, fierce and awful battle was waged between the Protestant King William and the Catholic King James. It was not just an Irish battle. It was part of a wider European struggle of power, of politics and of religion. For centuries after, the two sides on that field remained apart and remained divided. Today, both sides, proud of their history and confident of their identity, can come together in peace and part in harmony. They can offer each other the open hand of friendship. They will reaffirm again what Ireland has achieved and what we know in our hearts to be true. Centuries of war, of strife and of struggle are over, and over for good. The field of slaughter is now a meeting place of mutual understanding. Our children will live in peace. And their children will enjoy the fruits of their inheritance. This is the triumph of people and of politics. This is the achievement of democracy. The great achievement of Ireland and the great blessing of peace.

On that same day, I will go to the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese—a woman who rose from the conflict-torn streets of Belfast to be elected our head of state and our first citizen. I will offer her my resignation as Taoiseach. I will humbly hand over the seal of office which I have so proudly held. Finally, on the morning after, in the hours before my worthy successor steps forward to stand in my stead, I will stand silently at the simple graves of the patriot dead who proclaimed Ireland's republic and who fought for Ireland's freedom at Easter 1916. There I will discharge my last duty as Taoiseach and pay the homage that Ireland owes to those men and those women. And I will recall the words of the 1916 Proclamation, so resonant of the United States Declaration of Independence and so relevant to humanity around the world:

The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally.

These are the values on which Ireland stands. These are the values by which I strive to live. The vindication of these universal values is the highest tribute we can pay to those who have gone before and the greatest legacy that we can bequeath for those who are yet to come. There are no finer words with which to finish and upon which to say:

In history, in politics and in life, there are no ends, only new beginnings.

So let us begin.

Go raibh mile maith agaibh.

Thank you for the opportunity.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

At 11 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m., His Excellency Bertie Ahern, the Prime Minister of Ireland, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Majority Floor Services Chief escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President's Cabinet;

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 11 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1215

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR) at 12 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 one-minutes on each side.

NO MORE SUBSIDIES FOR OIL COMPANIES

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the price of gasoline has reached another record high, nearly $4 a gallon. And yet when the Democrats, along with Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic majority, have asked the President to stop filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which is 97 percent full and which experts say could lower the price of gasoline by 5 to 24 cents a gallon, the President says he doesn't believe the cost benefit analysis of immediate action for consumers persuaded him.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the President consider how Americans are suffering with the price of gasoline at the pump, how that's limiting their other choices in expenditures, and how it will reduce their opportunity for summer vacations.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I signed on to a bill for a windfall profits tax on oil companies. Oil companies presently have subsidies given to them in the past, which this Congress tried to repeal but we didn't have bipartisan support to repeal those subsidies. So these companies making more money than ever have subsidies rather than windfall profit taxes.

Mr. Speaker, we need to look out for the motoring public.

THE AMAZING BORDER SHERIFFS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the United States is intending to send $1.4 billion in taxpayer money to Mexico to fight the cartel drug criminals on the border. This may sound good on the surface, but there are problems with sending money south of the border. It's an unfortunate reality that border corruption exists between Mexican law enforcement and the drug cartels. America has no assurance that some of that money or equipment won't end up in the very hands of the people we're trying to stop.

This $1.4 billion would be better spent if it stayed in America. It should go to the Border Sheriffs Coalition. These are hard-nosed lawmen from Brownsville, Texas, to San Diego, California, that operate on a shoestring budget, and they know better how to stop the drug smugglers and coyotes from entering their counties. I have met with them numerous times along our southern border. These border lawmen are amazing crime fighters and protectors of America.

The 18 Texas border sheriffs unanimously believe that, ''the culture of corruption and smuggling both in narcotics and humans and the threat of terrorism on the border will increase'' if this money is sent to Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, let's help out our first responders and give them the tools to fight crime on the border and keep the money in America.

And that's just the way it is.

IT IS UP TO THE DEMOCRATS TO TAKE US OUT OF THE ECONOMIC MESS PRESIDENT BUSH CREATED

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the President wants to blame the Democrats for the economic mess he's made. He is the one who wants to sweep our problems under the rug. He should be ashamed of himself.

When he came into office, the previous administration had created more than 22 million new jobs. The economy was booming. People had the chance to live the American dream. Now gasoline is too high, food is too high, the rent is too high, and nobody can get a raise.

Bush had his hand on the wheel for 7 years. He has been in charge. But he wants to blame the Democrats for the economic mess he made. Well, as they say in the South, that dog won't hunt.

The Republicans got us into the mess, and now it's going to take the Democrats to get us out.

GENERAL ELECTRIC

(Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, there's plenty of bad economic news around, and we've shared in some of that in the upstate of South Carolina. But there are also some real bright spots. One of them is on Garlington Road in Greenville, South Carolina, where General Electric is currently looking for 200 more engineers. That would add to the 3,000 employees they have at that plant. Half are engineers, roughly the other half are manufacturing staff.

One of the most exciting things they're doing there is wind turbines. In fact, General Electric is now the number two installer of wind turbine units in the whole world, and they're made, in significant part, in Greenville, South Carolina.

If the renewable production tax credit is extended, and that's an important ''if'' for us here in the House, we need to do that; if we do extend that credit, General Electric expects that the United States will surpass Germany as the number one producer of wind energy in the world.

Mr. Speaker, it's an exciting thing when we see new technology create jobs, especially when that new technology moves us away from dependence on oil and helps us break this addiction.

CONGRATULATING DEERE AND COMPANY FOR RANKING FOURTH IN ''100 BEST CORPORATE CITIZENS''

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deere and Company for placing 4th among more than 1,000 companies in the annual ''100 Best Corporate Citizens'' list, compiled by CRO magazine. I'm proud to represent John Deere facilities located in Waterloo, Dubuque, and the Quad Cities in my district.

John Deere has a long history in Iowa. Iowa farmers were using John Deere plows to break the prairie in 1837 before Iowa even became a State. In 1918, John Deere purchased the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company which transformed the company into a national leader for farm machine production. In fact, the ''Waterloo Boy'' tractor is displayed at the Smithsonian. In the 1940s, Deere expanded by building an industrial equipment factory in Dubuque.

John Deere is the world's leading manufacturer of agricultural and forestry equipment and today employs around 47,000 people worldwide, and nearly 10,000 of them are in my district. I'm proud to have such a John Deere presence in my district, and I'm pleased that the company scored high in the areas of climate change, human rights, and philanthropy. I commend Deere and Company for all it has done in Iowa and the country.

Go green or go home.

IRAQ: PAY FOR ITS SECURITY

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, Iraq's oil revenue is projected to be a record $70 billion this year, according to a report set to be released today from the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction. The cost of Iraqi oil has skyrocketed in recent years up 250 percent since 2003. With these soaring oil revenues, the time is now for the Iraqi government to take greater responsibility for the security and reconstruction of their country and begin the process of weaning themselves off the largesse of the United States of America.

Recently, Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, announced that he was cutting $171 million in Pentagon funding for a police station construction in Iraq. This is a good first step towards ensuring that the Iraqi government understands that they need to show a real and sustained commitment to taking control of their country's destiny. By spending some of their record oil revenues, the Iraqis can send a definitive statement that they are serious about investing in their own future.

BUSH CONTINUES TO OPPOSE EFFORTS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE UNINSURED

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, this is National Cover the Uninsured Week. This recognition is particularly important this year as our economy continues to dip into recession. The Kaiser Family Foundation recently released a study that shows each time the unemployment rate increases by one percentage point, an additional 600,000 children lose their insurance.

Congress has worked hard to ensure that our children have access to health care coverage through the CHIP program. In strong bipartisan votes, this Congress has repeatedly sent President Bush legislation that would provide 10 million children quality health care coverage, but repeatedly, he vetoed the legislation and prevented us from reaching more children.

This legislation is even more important today as more Americans are losing their jobs and their health care, and yet President Bush and most Republicans in this Chamber refuse to ensure that 10 million children have access to quality health care.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognize the uninsured this week, I once again urge President Bush to reconsider his veto of the CHIP bill.

REAUTHORIZE THE COUNTY PAYMENTS PROGRAM

(Mr. WALDEN of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, this Congress continues to break the Federal Government's promise to America's timbered counties, including Klamath County in southern Oregon, by not reauthorizing the county payments program. Klamath County usually receives upwards of $19 million annually from county payments. The lapse of this program obviously has created a major budget shortfall for that rural county. It's been forced to deplete its operational reserves. It's cut over 10 jobs in areas like the sheriff's office, juvenile justice, administration, and planning.

If revenues fail to meet projections and with the operational reserves depleted, the next rounds of cuts could easily result in more than 25 people in the sheriff's department alone losing their jobs. Klamath County is known for running a tight ship so each new cut carries serious consequences to public services.

Since January of this year, the Democrat majority in this House has sat on H.R. 3058, a bipartisan 4-year reauthorization bill for county payments. Nothing's happened. No vote.

I, again, call on the Democratic leadership: Do the right thing. Keep the commitment to the timbered communities of this country and pass the reauthorization or put it in the farm bill or put it in the supplemental. Don't strip it out. Restore faith with rural counties all across America. Keep the Federal commitment to these timbered counties.

SOARING PRICES, SILENCE AND SECRECY

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the President announced that he's open to ideas to lower soaring gasoline prices. That's good news because I noticed gasoline prices began to rise not long after Vice President CHENEY held secret meetings with the energy companies. So the first thing the President ought to do is have the Vice President release the transcripts from those secret meetings. The American people still don't know what the Vice President's energy cabal cooked up. The gasoline prices have skyrocketed ever since.

The President's solution is to allow his oil pals to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. That keeps us addicted to oil, risks environmental catastrophe but feeds the profits of oil companies. Two of the oil companies, BP and Shell, reported almost $19 billion in profits from the first quarter, and their surrogates in the White House can only meet soaring gas prices with silence and secrecy.

The President claimed he's looking for new ideas. How about an old reliable one: open government. Tell the people what happened in those secret meetings. Maybe then we will find out why I paid $3.75 for a gallon of gas last night. It was $1.90 when the President came in.

RECORD HIGH GAS PRICES REQUIRE ACTION, NOT BLAME

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, skyrocketing gas prices continue to squeeze Americans who are now paying more than double the price for gasoline than they did when President Bush first took office. Families and businesses are paying a heavy price for the Bush administration's failure to enact a comprehensive energy plan.

In December, the Democratic Congress passed a historic Energy Independence and Security Act which is expected to lower gas prices for the average family anywhere between $700 and $1,000 a year. In addition to this landmark legislation, the Democratic Congress has passed six other bills that put us on a path towards energy independence and crack down on price gouging. However, President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress strongly opposed every single one of these bills.

Mr. Speaker, for years, the President promised to end the addiction to foreign oil, but this administration's energy policies favor massive subsidies for the oil industry. As gas prices hit record highs, President Bush should reconsider his opposition to these bills.

□ 1230

MORTGAGE CRISIS

(Mr. CARSON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to an issue of great concern to the people of my district. When I was home in Indianapolis this weekend I heard from countless homeowners who are concerned about losing their homes and the mortgage crisis. These are good, hardworking people, not speculators or investors, who find themselves on the brink of foreclosure. And the Hoosiers I met aren't alone. Some estimate that nearly 50,000 homes in Indiana will be lost to this crisis if we fail to act.

Indiana families are counting on Congress, and we are taking action. I am proud to serve on the Financial Services Committee, where we are continuing to work on a plan that will provide real relief to homeowners who are struggling. Our plan will help ease the mortgage crisis and help more homeowners stay in their homes.

And I am proud that the legislation includes an amendment I have offered to ensure organizations that serve minority communities have the resources they need to counsel and support homeowners in trouble. Many of these communities have been hit especially hard by this crisis, and it's essential that organizations who serve these neighborhoods can step in and help prevent more foreclosures.

Mr. Speaker, the economic downturn is taking its toll on families in Indianapolis, and we know we can't get our economy back on track unless we address the housing crisis. It is my sincere hope that Members on both sides of the aisle and the President will work together to ensure homeowners stay in their homes and end this crisis.

I–376 TECHNICAL CORRECTION

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, today the House will complete work on the technical corrections bill for the Federal Highway Transportation Act. This bill includes a project that is critical to my district, the future I–376 corridor.

Pittsburgh International Airport is the only major airport not currently on a Federal interstate. This has hurt the region's ability to compete and limited business development along the highways that lead to it. The redesignation of Pennsylvania Routes 22, 30

and 60 as Federal Interstate 376 is critical to future economic development and the marketability of western Pennsylvania. Completion of the project is also contingent on safety upgrades at two separate interchanges.

With today's passage of the technical corrections bill, we are taking one more step in advancing the I–376 designation and in making the regional priority a reality. I thank the chairman, Mr. OBERSTAR.

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE OUT OF TOUCH ON THE ECONOMY

(Ms. SUTTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, Senator JOHN MCCAIN admitted months ago that he wasn't an expert on the economy. And that certainly explained his comments earlier this month when he declared, ''You can make the argument that there's been great progress economically'' over the last 7 years. Great economic progress?

Clearly, Senator MCCAIN has not been talking with the middle class families across America who overwhelmingly believe they are worse off today than they were when President Bush took office in January of 2001. And there is a good reason they're feeling that way. Since January of 2001, health care premiums have increased by more than $5,000 per year for the average middle class family, while college costs for their children have shot up $2,500 a year for a public university.

Middle class families are finding it increasingly difficult to find the money for these skyrocketing costs, considering the average median income has actually fallen by more than $900 over the last 7 years. And Senator MCCAIN calls this economic progress?

Mr. Speaker, the American middle class cannot afford another 4 years of failed Republican leadership in the White House.

WHERE'S THE PLAN?

(Mr. MICA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, talking to folks in the district last night in a telephone town hall conference and visiting with folks in my district, they want to know what Congress is doing about gas prices and energy prices. People are struggling as they try to fill up their gas tank. They're struggling when they go to the store and see inflated food costs. And so far, we haven't seen any results from Congress.

Now the other side of the aisle, the Democrats, are in charge, they've been in charge. They said they were going to take over and they would have a plan. The Speaker, the then leader on the other side, said they would have a plan. Where is the plan? Gasoline prices when the Democrats took control were just a little over $2. Now they're reaching $4 in some areas. Where is the plan?

The only plan I've seen is the $870,000 plan to replace the light in the dome of the Capitol, a 200-year payout. Where is the plan? People in America want to know where the plan is and how we're going to reduce gas prices for them and food prices for them.

GAS PRICES

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last night, gas prices in New London, Connecticut reached $3.77 a gallon. When George Bush took office, they were $1.52 a gallon. Those prices are 72 cents higher than last year in New London County, 42 cents higher than just last month. Commercial fishermen on Long Island Sound have seen their fuel costs double, truck drivers have seen their diesel prices more than double in the last year.

Dozens of Members of Congress have written to President Bush asking him, with one stroke of the pen, to change the delivery schedule for the Strategic Petroleum Oil Reserve, which is a tried and true practice that he himself exercised in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina which brought down the price of gas by 40 cents at a time when the price per barrel was $75. Today, at $120 per barrel, it is time for President Bush to listen to the people of this country, Members of Congress, who are asking him to exercise his power to bring down the price of gas. And our Congress, the Democratic-led Congress, is going to keep the pressure on the President until he listens to the people of this country and avoids smothering our attempts to bring this country out of recession with the economic stimulus package.

SOLVING THE OIL CRISIS BEGINS AT HOME

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Thank God for George Bush. He's created the hurricanes, the earthquakes and the high price of gas.

There is only one group responsible for the high price of gas for the consumers of America and that's the United States Congress. They have done nothing, nothing since 1973 to increase the productivity of fossil fuels in the United States, and they still are doing nothing, Mr. and Mrs. America. They talk about it. They blame Mr. Bush. That's it. The best thing you can do is blame the other guy. The truth of the matter is that until we start drilling and until we start liquefying coal, until we use the offshore oil we have available, until we use the ANWR in Alaska, we're going to pay a lot more.

The prediction we have now, by the first of next year a barrel of oil will be, get this, $180 a barrel, because the consumers abroad in other countries are consuming oil at a greater rate than we are. But we sit here and say we're going to solve it by putting $800,000 on the dome of the Capitol to save, in 200 years, 10 bucks.

What's wrong with this Congress? And remember, I said ''this Congress.'' You haven't done the job. You're not doing the job. Until we wake up, Mr. and Mrs. America, and start drilling as we should drill, you're going to pay a lot more at that tank. You think about it, $200 a barrel 2 years from now, you'd better get a bicycle.

PORTLAND, OREGON PROMOTES CYCLING

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Following up on my good friend, I'm glad he mentioned bicycles, because there are some people in America that are doing something to provide more choices to Americans, to burn calories instead of fossil fuels. I am pleased that my community, Portland, Oregon, was just designated a ''platinum level bicycle-friendly city,'' the highest rating granted by the League of American Bicyclists.

Portland celebrates three decades of consistently applying policies that promote cycling, and the third consecutive year of double digit growth in bicycle ridership. This makes a big difference for real life people. It's why Portlanders are nine times more likely to ride a bicycle that the average American, and part of the rich choice menu for Portlanders with cars and transit and bicycles that ends up having them drive 20 percent less than the average American family. That translates into a savings of $2,500 a year per family that they can spend on education, on housing, on entertainment, on investing back into the community.

I would suggest that it's time to celebrate choices, and I'm proud that Portland, Oregon, has decided to give cyclists the choices they deserve and is being honored for that effort.

CONGRESS HAS TO END EMBARGO ON AMERICAN OIL

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, recently I met with a number of independent truckers in my district who said that many of their businesses cannot survive the current cost of diesel fuel. And many of my constituents have also said they cannot continue to pay these rising prices of gasoline, the rising prices of food.

What much of this comes down to is: Congress has to end its embargo on American oil. To say we cannot drill in the gulf coast, the Atlantic coast, the

Pacific coast, in the Colorado area with the shale oil, or Alaska, has reached a point where OPEC has continued to grab us by the throat and continues to fund both sides of the war on terror.

Americans understand that whoever controls the supply can demand whatever price they want. And now with gasoline being over 70 percent of the cost of oil, isn't it time that America took control of its own economy and began to use its own resources in an environmentally responsible way?

Let's end the embargo on American oil. Let's take back control of our economy. Let's take action on this.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO WORK WITH WASHINGTON REPUBLICANS ON STIMULATING THE ECONOMY

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, congressional Democrats know that middle class families are struggling to make ends meet in an economy that is simply leaving too many of them behind. That is why we worked in a bipartisan way to pass an economic stimulus plan earlier this year. And starting this week, more than 130 million Americans will receive some much-needed relief in the form of recovery rebate checks.

This is a good start, but more needs to be done. Once again, this Democratic-led Congress is reaching out in a bipartisan way to develop consensus for a second round of economic recovery legislation. We believe that a second economic stimulus plan is needed as the bleak news around the economy continues to mount and Americans everywhere are feeling the negative impact of President Bush's economic policies. Unfortunately, the President has said that a second economic stimulus package is not necessary.

Mr. Speaker, the President is incorrect. The congressional Democrats hope the President will reconsider so that we can work in a bipartisan fashion to get this economy back on track, create jobs, and speed up assistance to middle class families.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

SAFETEA–LU TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1195) to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

H.R. 1195

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''SAFETEA–LU Technical Corrections Act of 2008''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—HIGHWAY PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. Surface transportation technical corrections.
Sec. 102. MAGLEV.
Sec. 103. Projects of national and regional significance and national corridor infrastructure improvement projects.
Sec. 104. Idling reduction facilities.
Sec. 105. Project authorizations.
Sec. 106. Nonmotorized transportation pilot program.
Sec. 107. Correction of Interstate and National Highway System designations.
Sec. 108. Budget justification; buy America.
Sec. 109. Transportation improvements.
Sec. 110. I–95/Contee Road interchange design.
Sec. 111. Highway research funding.
Sec. 112. Rescission.
Sec. 113. TEA–21 technical corrections.
Sec. 114. High priority corridor and innovative project technical corrections.
Sec. 115. Definition of repeat intoxicated driver law.
Sec. 116. Research technical correction.
Sec. 117. Buy America waiver notification and annual reports.
Sec. 118. Efficient use of existing highway capacity.
Sec. 119. Future interstate designation.
Sec. 120. Project flexibility.
Sec. 121. Effective date.

TITLE II—TRANSIT PROVISIONS

Sec. 201. Transit technical corrections.

TITLE III—OTHER SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Technical amendments relating to motor carrier safety.
Sec. 302. Technical amendments relating to hazardous materials transportation.
Sec. 303. Highway safety.
Sec. 304. Correction of study requirement regarding on-scene motor vehicle collision causation.
Sec. 305. Motor carrier transportation registration.
Sec. 306. Applicability of Fair Labor Standards Act requirements and limitation on liability.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 401. Conveyance of GSA Fleet Management Center to Alaska Railroad Corporation.
Sec. 402. Conveyance of retained interest in St. Joseph Memorial Hall.

TITLE V—OTHER PROVISIONS

Sec. 501. De Soto County, Mississippi.
Sec. 502. Department of Justice review.

TITLE I—HIGHWAY PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) CORRECTION OF INTERNAL REFERENCES IN DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.—Paragraphs (3)(A) and (5) of section 1101(b) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1156) are amended by striking ''paragraph (1)'' each place it appears and inserting ''paragraph (2)''.

(b) CORRECTION OF DISTRIBUTION OF OBLIGATION AUTHORITY.—Section 1102(c)(5) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1158) is amended by striking ''among the States''.

(c) CORRECTION OF FEDERAL LANDS HIGHWAYS.—Section 1119 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1190) is amended by striking subsection (m) and inserting the following:

''(m) FOREST HIGHWAYS.—Of the amounts made available for public lands highways under section 1101—

''(1) not more than $20,000,000 for each fiscal year may be used for the maintenance of forest highways;

''(2) not more than $1,000,000 for each fiscal year may be used for signage identifying public hunting and fishing access; and

''(3) not more than $10,000,000 for each fiscal year shall be used by the Secretary of Agriculture to pay the costs of facilitating the passage of aquatic species beneath forest roads (as defined in section 101(a) of title 23, United States Code), including the costs of constructing, maintaining, replacing, and removing culverts and bridges, as appropriate.''.

(d) CORRECTION OF DESCRIPTION OF NATIONAL CORRIDOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.—Item number 1 of the table contained in section 1302(e) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1205) is amended in the State column by inserting ''LA,'' after ''TX,''.

(e) CORRECTION OF HIGH PRIORITY DESIGNATIONS.—

(1) KENTUCKY HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDOR DESIGNATION.—Section 1105(c)(18)(E) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (105 Stat. 2032; 112 Stat. 189; 115 Stat. 872) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', follow Interstate Route 24 to the Wendell H. Ford Western Kentucky Parkway, then utilize the existing Wendell H. Ford Western Kentucky Parkway and Edward T. Breathitt (Pennyrile) Parkway to Henderson''.

(2) INTERSTATE ROUTE 376 HIGH PRIORITY DESIGNATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1105(c)(79) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (105 Stat. 2032; 119 Stat. 1213) is amended by striking ''and on United States Route 422''.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1105(e)(5)(B)(i)(I) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (105 Stat. 2033; 119 Stat. 1213) is amended by striking ''and United States Route 422''.

(f) CORRECTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE SECTION.—Section 1602(d)(1) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1247) is amended by striking ''through 189 as sections 601 through 609, respectively'' and inserting ''through 190 as sections 601 through 610, respectively''.

(g) CORRECTION OF PROJECT FEDERAL SHARE.—Section 1964(a) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1519) is amended—

(1) by striking ''only for the States of Alaska, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, and South Dakota,''; and

(2) by striking ''section 120(b)'' and inserting ''section 120''.

(h) TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS DEFINED.—Section 101(a) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(39) TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'transportation systems management and operations' means an

integrated program to optimize the performance of existing infrastructure through the implementation of multimodal and intermodal, cross-jurisdictional systems, services, and projects designed to preserve capacity and improve security, safety, and reliability of the transportation system.

''(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'transportation systems management and operations' includes—

''(i) regional operations collaboration and coordination activities between transportation and public safety agencies; and

''(ii) improvements to the transportation system, such as traffic detection and surveillance, arterial management, freeway management, demand management, work zone management, emergency management, electronic toll collection, automated enforcement, traffic incident management, roadway weather management, traveler information services, commercial vehicle operations, traffic control, freight management, and coordination of highway, rail, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian operations.''.

(i) CORRECTION OF REFERENCE IN APPORTIONMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDS.—Effective October 1, 2007, section 104(b)(5)(A)(iii) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the Federal-aid system'' each place it appears and inserting ''Federal-aid highways''.

(j) CORRECTION OF AMENDMENT TO ADVANCE CONSTRUCTION.—Section 115 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(k) CORRECTION OF HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS.—Section 117 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (h) as subsections (e) through (i), respectively;

(2) by redesignating the second subsection (c) (relating to Federal share) as subsection (d);

(3) in subsection (a)(2)(A) by inserting ''(112 Stat. 257)'' after ''21st Century''; and

(4) in subsection (a)(2)(B)—

(A) by striking ''subsection (b)'' and inserting ''subsection (c)''; and

(B) by striking ''SAFETEA–LU'' and inserting ''Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1256)''.

(l) CORRECTION OF TRANSFER OF UNUSED PROTECTIVE-DEVICE FUNDS TO OTHER HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROJECTS.—Section 130(e)(2) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking ''purposes under this subsection'' and inserting ''highway safety improvement program purposes''.

(m) CORRECTION OF HIGHWAY BRIDGE PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 144 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

*(A) in the section heading by striking ''**REPLACEMENT AND REHABILITATION**'';*

(B) in subsections (b), (c)(1), and (e) by striking ''Federal-aid system'' each place it appears and inserting ''Federal-aid highway'';

(C) in subsections (c)(2) and (o) by striking ''the Federal-aid system'' each place it appears and inserting ''Federal-aid highways'';

(D) in the heading to paragraph (4) of subsection (d) by inserting ''SYSTEMATIC'' before ''PREVENTIVE'';

(E) in subsection (e) by striking ''off-system bridges'' each place it appears and inserting ''bridges not on Federal-aid highways'';

(F) by striking subsection (f);

(G) by redesignating subsections (g) through (s) as subsections (f) through (r), respectively;

(H) in paragraph (1)(A)(vi) of subsection (f) (as redesignated by subparagraph (G) of this paragraph) by inserting ''and the removal of the Missisquoi Bay causeway'' after ''Bridge'';

(I) in paragraph (2) of subsection (f) (as redesignated by subparagraph (G) of this paragraph) by striking the paragraph heading and inserting ''BRIDGES NOT ON FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS'';

(J) in subsection (m) (as redesignated by subparagraph (G) of this paragraph) by striking the subsection heading and inserting ''PROGRAM FOR BRIDGES NOT ON FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS''; and

(K) in subsection (n)(4)(B) (as redesignated by subparagraph (G) of this paragraph) by striking ''State highway agency'' and inserting ''State transportation department''.

(2) SPECIAL CONDITIONS.—Section 1114 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (Public Law 109–59; 119 Stat. 1172) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) SPECIAL CONDITIONS.—Any unobligated or unexpended funds remaining on completion of the project carried out under section 144(f)(1)(A)(vi) of title 23, United States Code, shall be made available to carry out the project described in section 144(f)(1)(A)(vii) of that title after the date on which the Vermont Agency of Transportation certifies to the Federal Highway Administration the final determination of the agency regarding the removal of the Missisquoi Bay causeway.''.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) METROPOLITAN PLANNING.—Section 104(f)(1) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking ''replacement and rehabilitation''.

(B) EQUITY BONUS PROGRAM.—Subsections (a)(2)(C) and (b)(2)(C) of section 105 of such title are amended by striking ''replacement and rehabilitation'' each place it appears.

(C) ANALYSIS.—The analysis for chapter 1 of such title is amended in the item relating to section 144 by striking ''replacement and rehabilitation''.

(n) METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING.—Section 134 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)(3)(C)(ii) by striking subclause (II) and inserting the following:

''(II) FUNDING.—For fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter, in addition to other funds made available to the metropolitan planning organization for the Lake Tahoe region under this title and chapter 53 of title 49, prior to any allocation under section 202 of this title and notwithstanding the allocation provisions of section 202, the Secretary shall set aside ½ of 1 percent of all funds authorized to be appropriated for such fiscal year to carry out section 204 and shall make such funds available to the metropolitan planning organization for the Lake Tahoe region to carry out the transportation planning process, environmental reviews, preliminary engineering, and design to complete environmental documentation for transportation projects for the Lake Tahoe region under the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact as consented to in Public Law 96–551 (94 Stat. 3233) and this paragraph.'';

(2) in subsection (j)(3)(D) by inserting ''or the identified phase'' after ''the project'' each place it appears; and

(3) in subsection (k)(2) by striking ''a metropolitan planning area serving''.

(o) CORRECTION OF NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM COVERAGE.—Section 162 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)(B) by striking ''a National Scenic Byway under subparagraph (A)'' and inserting ''a National Scenic Byway, an All-American Road, or one of America's Byways under paragraph (1)''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(3) by striking ''or All-American Road'' each place it appears and inserting ''All-American Road, or one of America's Byways''.

(p) CORRECTION OF REFERENCE IN TOLL PROVISION.—Section 166(b)(5)(C) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking ''paragraph (3)'' and inserting ''paragraph (4)''.

(q) CORRECTION OF RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM APPORTIONMENT EXCEPTIONS.—Section 206(d)(3)(A) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking ''(B), (C), and (D)'' and inserting ''(B) and (C)''.

(r) CORRECTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE.—Section 601(a)(3) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''bbb minus, BBB (low),'' after ''Baa3,''.

(s) CORRECTION OF MISCELLANEOUS TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS.—

(1) Section 1401 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1226) is amended by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

(2) Section 1404(e) of such Act (119 Stat. 1229) is amended by inserting ''tribal,'' after ''local,''.

(3) Section 10211(b)(2) of such Act (119 Stat. 1937) is amended by striking ''plan administer'' and inserting ''plan and administer''.

(4) Section 10212(a) of such Act (119 Stat. 1937) is amended—

(A) by inserting ''equity bonus,'' after ''minimum guarantee,'';

(B) by striking ''freight intermodal connectors'' and inserting ''railway-highway crossings'';

(C) by striking ''high risk rural road,''; and

(D) by inserting after ''highway safety improvement programs'' the following: ''(and separately the set aside for the high risk rural road program)''.

SEC. 102. MAGLEV.

(a) FUNDING.—Section 1101(a)(18) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1155) is amended by striking ''Act—'' and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting ''Act, $45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009.''.

(b) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—Section 1307 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1217) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—Funds authorized under section 1101(a)(18) shall be available for obligation in the same manner as if the funds were apportioned under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code; except that the funds shall not be transferable and shall remain available until expended, and the Federal share of the cost of a project to be carried out with such funds shall be 80 percent.''.

(c) ALLOCATION.—Section 1307 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1217) is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

''(d) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allocate—

''(1) 50 percent to the Nevada department of transportation who shall cooperate with the California-Nevada Super Speed Train Commission for the MAGLEV project between Las Vegas and Primm, Nevada, as a segment of the high-speed MAGLEV system between Las Vegas, Nevada, and Anaheim, California; and

''(2) 50 percent for existing MAGLEV projects located east of the Mississippi River using such criteria as the Secretary deems appropriate.''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on October 1, 2007.

SEC. 103. PROJECTS OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE AND NATIONAL CORRIDOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

(a) PROJECT OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.—The table contained in section 1301(m) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1203) is amended—

(1) in item number 4 by striking the project description and inserting ''$7,400,000 for planning, design, and construction of a new American border plaza at the Blue Water Bridge in or near Port Huron; $12,600,000 for integrated highway realignment and grade separations at Port Huron to eliminate road blockages from NAFTA rail traffic'';

(2) in item number 19 by striking the project description and inserting ''For purposes of construction and other related transportation improvements associated with the rail yard relocation in the vicinity of Santa Teresa''; and

(3) in item number 22 by striking the project description and inserting ''Redesign and reconstruction of interchanges 298 and 299 of I–80 and accompanying improvements to any other public roads in the vicinity, Monroe County''.

(b) NATIONAL CORRIDOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.—The table contained in section 1302(e) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1205) is amended in item number 23 by striking the project description and inserting ''Improvements to State Road 312, Hammond''.

SEC. 104. IDLING REDUCTION FACILITIES.

Section 111(d) of title 23, United States Code, is repealed.

SEC. 105. PROJECT AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) PROJECT MODIFICATIONS.—The table contained in section 1702 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1256) is amended—

(1) in item number 34 by striking the project description and inserting ''Removal and Reconfiguration of Interstate ramps, I–40, Memphis'';

(2) by striking item number 61;

(3) in item number 87 by striking the project description and inserting ''M–291 highway outer road improvement project'';

(4) in item number 128 by striking ''$2,400,000'' and inserting ''$4,800,000'';

(5) in item number 154 by striking ''Virginia'' and inserting ''Eveleth'';

(6) in item number 193 by striking the project description and inserting ''Improvements to or access to Route 108 to enhance access to the business park near Rumford'';

(7) in item number 240 by striking ''$800,000'' and inserting ''$2,400,000'';

(8) by striking item number 248;

(9) in item number 274 by striking the project description and inserting ''Intersection improvements at Belleville and Ecorse Roads and approach roadways, and widen Belleville Road from Ecorse to Tyler, Van Buren Township, Michigan'';

(10) in item number 277 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct connector road from Rushing Drive North to Grand Ave., Williamson County'';

(11) in item number 395 by striking the project description and inserting ''Plan and construct interchange at I–65, from existing SR–109 to I–65'';

(12) in item number 463 by striking ''Cookeville'' and inserting ''Putnam County'';

(13) in item number 576 by striking the project description and inserting ''Design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of Nebraska Highway 35 between Norfolk and South Sioux City, including an interchange at Milepost 1 on I–129'';

(14) in item number 595 by striking ''Street Closure at'' and inserting ''Transportation improvement project near'';

(15) in item number 649 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construction and enhancement of the Fillmore Avenue Corridor, Buffalo'';

(16) in item number 655 by inserting '', safety improvement construction,'' after ''Environmental studies'';

(17) in item number 676 by striking the project description and inserting ''St. Croix River crossing project, Wisconsin State Highway 64, St. Croix County, Wisconsin, to Minnesota State Highway 36, Washington County'';

(18) in item number 770 by striking the project description and inserting ''Improve existing Horns Hill Road in North Newark, Ohio, from Waterworks Road to Licking Springs Road'';

(19) in item number 777 by striking the project description and inserting ''Akutan Airport access'';

(20) in item number 829 by striking the project description and inserting ''$400,000 to conduct New Bedford/Fairhaven Bridge modernization study; $1,000,000 to design and build New Bedford Business Park access road'';

(21) in item number 881 by striking the project description and inserting ''Pedestrian safety improvements near North Atlantic Boulevard, Monterey Park'';

(22) in item number 923 by striking the project description and inserting ''Improve safety of a horizontal curve on Clarksville St. 0.25 miles north of 275th Rd. in Grandview Township, Edgar County'';

(23) in item number 947 by striking the project description and inserting ''Third East/West River Crossing, St. Lucie River'';

(24) in item numbers 959 and 3327 by striking ''Northern Section,'' each place it appears;

(25) in item number 963 by striking the project description and inserting ''For engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and reconstruction of 2 existing lanes on Manhattan Road from Baseline Road to Route 53'';

(26) in item number 983 by striking the project description and inserting ''Land acquisition for highway mitigation in Cecil, Kent, Queen Annes, and Worcester Counties'';

(27) in item number 1039 by striking the project description and inserting ''Widen State Route 98, including storm drain developments, from D. Navarro Avenue to State Route 111'';

(28) in item number 1047 by striking the project description and inserting ''Bridge and road work at Little Susitna River Access road in Matanuska-Susitna Borough'';

(29) in item number 1124 by striking ''bridge over Stillwater River, Orono'' and inserting ''routes'';

(30) in item number 1206 by striking ''Pleasantville'' and inserting ''Briarcliff Manor'';

(31) in item number 1281 by striking the project description and inserting ''Upgrade roads in Attala County District 4 (Roads 4211 and 4204), Kosciusko, Ward 2, and Ethel, Attala County'';

(32) in item number 1487 by striking ''$800,000'' and inserting ''$1,600,000'';

(33) in item number 1575 by striking the project description and inserting ''Highway and road signage, and traffic signal synchronization and upgrades, in Shippensburg Boro, Shippensburg Township, and surrounding municipalities'';

(34) in item number 1661 by striking the project description and inserting ''Sheldon West Extension in Matanuska-Susitna Borough'';

(35) in item number 1810 by striking the project description and inserting ''Design, engineering, ROW acquisition, construction, and construction engineering for the reconstruction of TH 95, from 12th Avenue to CSAH 13, including bridge and approaches, ramps, intersecting roadways, signals, turn lanes, and multiuse trail, North Branch'';

(36) in item number 1852 by striking ''Milepost 9.3'' and inserting ''Milepost 24.3'';

(37) in item numbers 1926 and 2893 by striking the project descriptions and inserting ''Grading, paving roads, and the transfer of rail-to-truck for the intermodal facility at Rickenbacker Airport, Columbus, Ohio'';

(38) in item number 1933 by striking the project description and inserting ''Enhance Byzantine Latino Quarter transit plazas at Normandie and Pico, and Hoover and Pico, Los Angeles, by improving streetscapes, including expanding concrete and paving'';

(39) in item number 1975 by striking the project description and inserting ''Point MacKenzie Access Road improvements in Matanuska-Susitna Borough'';

(40) in item number 2015 by striking the project description and amount and inserting ''Heidelberg Borough/Scott Township/Carnegie Borough for design, engineering, acquisition, and construction of streetscaping enhancements, paving, lighting and safety upgrades, and parking improvements'' and ''$2,000,000'', respectively;

(41) in item number 2087 by striking the project description and inserting ''Railroad crossing improvement on Illinois Route 82 in Geneseo'';

(42) in item number 2211 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct road projects and transportation enhancements as part of or connected to RiverScape Phase III, Montgomery County, Ohio'';

(43) in item number 2234 by striking the project description and amount and inserting ''North Atherton Signal Coordination Project in Centre County'' and ''$400,000'', respectively;

(44) in item number 2316 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct a new bridge at Indian Street, Martin County'';

(45) in item number 2420 by striking the project description and inserting ''Preconstruction and construction activities of U.S. 51 between the Assumption Bypass and Vandalia'';

(46) in item number 2482 by striking ''Country'' and inserting ''County'';

(47) in item number 2663 by striking the project description and inserting ''Rosemead Boulevard safety enhancement and beautification, Temple City'';

(48) in item number 2671 by striking ''from 2 to 5 lanes and improve alignment within rights-of-way in St. George'' and inserting '', St. George'';

(49) in item number 2743 by striking the project description and inserting ''Improve safety of culvert replacement on 250th Rd. between 460th St. and Cty Hwy 20 in Grandview Township, Edgar County'';

(50) by striking item number 2800;

(51) in item number 2826 by striking ''State Street and Cajon Boulevard'' and inserting ''Palm Avenue'';

(52) in item number 2931 by striking ''Frazho Road'' and inserting ''Martin Road'';

(53) in item number 3047 by inserting ''and roadway improvements'' after ''safety project'';

(54) in item number 3078 by striking the project description and inserting ''U.S. 2/Sultan Basin Road improvements in Sultan'';

(55) in item number 3174 by striking the project description and inserting ''Improving Outer Harbor access through planning, design, construction, and relocations of Southtowns Connector–NY Route 5, Fuhrmann Boulevard, and a bridge connecting the Outer Harbor to downtown Buffalo at the Inner Harbor'';

(56) in item number 3219 by striking ''Forest'' and inserting ''Warren'';

(57) in item number 3254 by striking the project description and inserting ''Reconstruct PA Route 274/34 Corridor, Perry County'';

(58) in item number 3260 by striking ''Lake Shore Drive'' and inserting ''Lakeshore Drive and parking facility/entrance improvements serving the Museum of Science and Industry'';

(59) in item number 3368 by striking the project description and inserting ''Plan, design, and engineering, Ludlam Trail, Miami'';

(60) in item number 3410 by striking the project description and inserting ''Design, purchase land, and construct sound walls along the west side of I–65 from approximately 950 feet south of the Harding Place interchange south to Hogan Road'';

(61) in item number 3537 by inserting ''and the study of alternatives along the North South Corridor,'' after ''Valley'';

(62) in item number 3582 by striking the project description and inserting ''Improving Outer Harbor access through planning, design, construction, and relocations of Southtowns Connector–NY Route 5, Fuhrmann Boulevard, and a bridge connecting the Outer Harbor to downtown Buffalo at the Inner Harbor'';

(63) in item number 3604 by inserting ''/Kane Creek Boulevard'' after ''500 West'';

(64) in item number 3632 by striking the State, project description, and amount and inserting ''FL'', ''Pine Island Road pedestrian overpass, city of Tamarac'', and ''$610,000'', respectively;

(65) in item number 3634 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''FL'', ''West Avenue Bridge, city of Miami Beach'', and ''$620,000'', respectively;

(66) in item number 3673 by striking the project description and inserting ''Improve marine dry-dock and facilities in Ketchikan'';

(67) in item number 2942 by striking the project description and inserting ''Redesigning the intersection of Business U.S. 322/High Street and Rosedale Avenue and constructing a new East Campus Drive between High Street (U.S. 322) and Matlock Street at West Chester University, West Chester, Pennsylvania'';

(68) in item number 2781 by striking the project description and inserting ''Highway and road signage, road construction, and other transportation improvement and enhancement projects on or near Highway 26, in Riverton and surrounding areas'';

(69) in item number 2430 by striking ''200 South Interchange'' and inserting ''400 South Interchange'';

(70) by striking item number 20;

(71) in item number 424 by striking ''$264,000'' and inserting ''$644,000'';

(72) in item number 1210 by striking the project description and inserting ''Town of New Windsor—Riley Road, Shore Drive, and area road improvements'';

(73) by striking item numbers 68, 905, and 1742;

(74) in item number 1059 by striking ''$240,000'' and inserting ''$420,000'';

(75) in item number 2974 by striking ''$120,000'' and inserting ''$220,000'';

(76) by striking item numbers 841, 960, and 2030;

(77) in item number 1278 by striking ''$740,000'' and inserting ''$989,600'';

(78) in item number 207 by striking ''$13,600,000'' and inserting ''$13,200,000'';

(79) in item number 2656 by striking ''$12,228,000'' and inserting ''$8,970,000'';

(80) in item number 1983 by striking ''$1,600,000'' and inserting ''$1,000,000'';

(81) in item number 753 by striking ''$2,700,000'' and inserting ''$3,200,000'';

(82) in item number 64 by striking ''$6,560,000'' and inserting ''$8,480,000'';

(83) in item number 2338 by striking ''$1,600,000'' and inserting ''$1,800,000'';

(84) in item number 1533 by striking ''$392,000'' and inserting ''$490,000'';

(85) in item number 1354 by striking ''$40,000'' and inserting ''$50,000'';

(86) in item number 3106 by striking ''$400,000'' and inserting ''$500,000'';

(87) in item number 799 by striking ''$1,600,000'' and inserting ''$2,000,000'';

(88) in item number 159—

(A) by striking ''Construct interchange for 146th St. and I–69'' and inserting ''Upgrade 146th St. to I–69 Access''; and

(B) by striking ''$2,400,000'' and inserting ''$3,200,000'';

(89) by striking item number 2936;

(90) in item number 3138 by striking the project description and inserting ''Elimination of highway-railway crossing along the KO railroad from Salina to Osborne to increase safety and reduce congestion'';

(91) in item number 2274 by striking ''between Farmington and Merriman'' and inserting ''between Hines Drive and Inkster, Flamingo Street between Ann Arbor Trail and Joy Road, and the intersection of Warren Road and Newburgh Road'';

(92) in item number 52 by striking the project description and inserting ''Pontiac Trail between E. Liberty and McHattie Street'';

(93) in item number 1544 by striking ''connector'';

(94) in item number 2573 by striking the project description and inserting ''Rehabilitation of Sugar Hill Road in North Salem, NY'';

(95) in item number 1450 by striking ''III–VI'' and inserting ''III–VII'';

(96) in item number 2637 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construction, road and safety improvements in Geauga County, OH'';

(97) in item number 2342 by striking the project description and inserting ''Streetscaping, bicycle trails, and related improvements to the I–90/SR–615 interchange and adjacent area and Heisley Road in Mentor, including acquisition of necessary right-of-way within the Newell Creek development to build future bicycle trails and bicycle staging areas that will connect into the existing bicycle trail system at I–90/SR–615, widening the Garfield Road Bridge over I–90 to provide connectivity to the existing bicycle trail system between the I–90/SR–615 interchange and Lakeland Community College, and acquisition of additional land needed for the preservation of the Lake Metroparks Greenspace Corridor with the Newell Creek development adjacent to the I–90/SR–615 interchange'';

(98) in item number 161 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct False Pass causeway and road to the terminus of the south arm breakwater project'';

(99) in item number 2002 by striking the project description and inserting ''Dowling Road extension/reconstruction west from Minnesota Drive to Old Seward Highway, Anchorage'';

(100) in item number 2023 by striking the project description and inserting ''Biking and pedestrian trail construction, Kentland'';

(101) in item number 2035 by striking ''Replace'' and inserting ''Repair'';

(102) in item number 2511 by striking ''Replace'' and inserting ''Rehabilitate'';

(103) in item number 2981 by striking the project description and inserting ''Roadway improvements on Highway 262 on the Navajo Nation in Aneth'';

(104) in item number 2068 by inserting ''and approaches'' after ''capacity'';

(105) in item number 98 by striking the project description and inserting ''Right-of-way acquisition and construction for the 77th Street reconstruction project, including the Lyndale Avenue Bridge over I–494, Richfield'';

(106) in item number 1783 by striking the project description and inserting ''Clark Road access improvements, Jacksonville'';

(107) in item number 2711 by striking the project description and inserting ''Main Street Road Improvements through Springfield, Jacksonville'';

(108) in item number 3485 by striking the project description and inserting ''Improve SR 105 (Hecksher Drive) from Drummond Point to August Road, including bridges across the Broward River and Dunns Creek, Jacksonville'';

(109) in item number 3486 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct improvements to NE 19th Street/NE 19th Terrace from NE 3rd Avenue to NE 8th Avenue, Gainesville'';

(110) in item number 3487 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct improvements to NE 25th Street from SR 26 (University Blvd.) to NE 8th Avenue, Gainesville'';

(111) in item number 803 by striking ''St. Clair County'' and inserting ''city of Madison'';

(112) in item number 615 by striking the project description and inserting ''Roadway improvements to Jackson Avenue between Jericho Turnpike and Teibrook Avenue'';

(113) by striking item number 889;

(114) in item number 324 by striking the project description and inserting ''Alger County, to reconstruct, pave, and realign a portion of H–58 from 2,600 feet south of Little Beaver Lake Road to 4,600 feet east of Hurricane River'';

(115) in item number 301 by striking the project description and inserting ''Improvements for St. Georges Avenue between East Baltimore Avenue on the southwest and Chandler Avenue on the northeast'';

(116) in item number 1519 by inserting ''at the intersection of Quincy/West Drinker/Electric Streets near the Dunmore School complex'' after ''roadway redesign'';

(117) in item number 2604 by inserting ''on Coolidge, Bridge (from Main to Monroe), Skytop (from Gedding to Skytop), Atwell (from Bear Creek Rd. to Pittston Township), Wood (to Bear Creek Rd.), Pine, Oak (from Penn Avenue to Lackawanna Avenue), McLean, Second, and Lolli Lane'' after ''roadway redesign'';

(118) in item number 1157 by inserting ''on Mill Street from Prince Street to Roberts Street, John Street from Roberts Street to end, Thomas Street from Roberts Street to end, Williams Street from Roberts Street to end, Charles Street from Roberts Street to end, Fair Street from Roberts Street to end, Newport Avenue from East Kirmar Avenue to end'' after ''roadway redesign'';

(119) in item number 805 by inserting ''on Oak Street from Stark Street to the township line at Mayock Street and on East Mountain Boulevard'' after ''roadway redesign'';

(120) in item number 2704 by inserting ''on West Cemetery Street and Frederick Courts'' after ''roadway redesign'';

(121) in item number 4599 by striking the project description and inserting ''Pedestrian paths, stairs, seating, landscaping, lighting, and other transportation enhancement activities along Riverside Boulevard and at Riverside Park South'';

(122) in item number 1363 by striking the project description and inserting ''Design, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of streetscaping enhancements, paving, lighting, safety improvements, handicap access ramps, parking, and roadway redesign on Bilbow Street from Church Street to Pugh Street, on Pugh Street from Swallow Street to Main Street, Jones Lane from Main Street to Hoblak Street, Cherry Street from Green Street to Church Street, Main Street from Jackson Street to end, Short Street from Cherry Street to Main Street, and Hillside Avenue in Edwardsville Borough, Luzerne County'';

(123) in item number 883 by striking the project description and inserting ''Design, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of streetscaping enhancements, paving, lighting, parking, roadway redesign, and safety improvements (including curbing, stop signs, crosswalks, and pedestrian sidewalks) at and around the 3-way intersection involving Susquehanna Avenue, Erie Street, and Second Street in West Pittston, Luzerne County'';

(124) in item number 625 by striking the project description and inserting ''Design, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of streetscaping enhancements, paving, lighting, safety improvements, parking, and roadway redesign on Sampson Street, Dunn Avenue, Powell Street, Josephine Street, Pittston Avenue, Railroad Street, McClure Avenue, and Baker Street in Old Forge Borough, Lackawanna County'';

(125) in item number 372 by inserting '', replacement of the Nesbitt Street Bridge, and placement of a guard rail adjacent to St. Vladimir's Cemetery on Mountain Road (S.R. 1007)'' after ''roadway redesign'';

(126) in item number 2308 by striking the project description and inserting ''Design, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of streetscaping enhancements, paving, lighting, safety improvements, parking, and roadway redesign, including a project to establish emergency access to Catherino Drive from South Valley Avenue in Throop Borough, Lackawanna County'';

(127) in item number 967 by striking the project description and inserting ''Design, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of streetscaping enhancements, paving, lighting, safety improvements, parking, roadway redesign, and catch basin restoration and replacement on Cherry Street, Willow Street, Eno Street, Flat Road, Krispin Street, Parrish Street, Carver Street, Church Street, Franklin Street, Carolina Street, East Main Street, and Rear Shawnee Avenue in Plymouth Borough, Luzerne County'';

(128) in item number 989 by inserting ''on Old Ashley Road, Ashley Street, Phillips Street, First Street, Ferry Road, and Division Street'' after ''roadway redesign'';

(129) in item number 342 by striking the project description and inserting ''Design, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of streetscaping enhancements, paving, lighting, safety improvements, parking, roadway redesign, and cross pipe and catch basin restoration and replacement on Northgate, Mandy Court, Vine Street, and 36th Street in Milnesville West, and on Hillside Drive (including the widening of the bridge on Hillside Drive), Club 40 Road, Sunburst and Venisa Drives, and Stockton #7 Road in Hazle Township, Luzerne County'';

(130) in item number 2332 by striking ''Monroe County'' and inserting ''Carbon, Monroe, Pike, and Wayne Counties'';

(131) in item number 4914 by striking the project description and inserting ''Roadway improvements on I–90 loop in Mitchell along Haven Street from near Burr Street to near Ohlman Street'';

(132) by striking item number 2723;

(133) in item number 61 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''AL'', ''Grade crossing improvements along Wiregrass Central RR at Boll Weevil Bypass in Enterprise, AL'', and ''$250,000'', respectively;

(134) in item number 314 by striking the project description and amount and inserting ''Streetscape enhancements to the transit and pedestrian corridor, Fort Lauderdale, Downtown Development Authority'' and ''$610,000'', respectively;

(135) in item number 1639 by striking the project description and inserting ''Operational and highway safety improvements on Hwy 94 between the 20 mile marker post in Jamul and Hwy 188 in Tecate'';

(136) in item number 2860 by striking the project description and inserting ''Roadway improvements from Halchita to Mexican Hat on the Navajo Nation'';

(137) in item number 2549 by striking ''on Navy Pier'';

(138) in item number 2804 by striking ''on Navy Pier'';

(139) in item number 1328 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct public access roadways and pedestrian safety improvements in and around Montclair State University in Clifton'';

(140) in item number 2559 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct sound walls on Route 164 at and near the Maersk interchange'';

(141) in item number 1849 by striking the project description and inserting ''Highway, traffic-flow, pedestrian facility, and streetscape improvements, Pittsburgh'';

(142) in item number 697 by striking the project description and inserting ''Highway, traffic-flow, pedestrian facility, and streetscape improvements, Pittsburgh'';

(143) in item number 3597 by striking the project description and inserting ''Road Alignment from IL Route 159 to Sullivan Drive, Swansea'';

(144) in item number 2352 by striking the project description and inserting ''Streetscaping and transportation enhancements on 7th Street in Calexico, traffic signalization on Highway 78, construction of the Renewable Energy and Transportation Learning Center, improve and enlarge parking lot, and create bus stop, Brawley'';

(145) in item number 3482 by striking the project description and inserting ''Conduct a study to examine multi-modal improvements to the I–5 corridor between the Main Street Interchange and State Route 54'';

(146) in item number 1275 by striking the project description and inserting ''Scoping, permitting, engineering, construction management, and construction of Riverbank Park Bike Trail, Kearny'';

(147) in item number 726 by striking the project description and inserting ''Grade Separation at Vanowen and Clybourn, Burbank'';

(148) in item number 1579 by striking the project description and inserting ''San Gabriel Blvd. rehabilitation project, Mission Road to Broadway, San Gabriel'';

(149) in item number 2690 by striking the project description and inserting ''San Gabriel Blvd. rehabilitation project, Mission Road to Broadway, San Gabriel'';

(150) in item number 2811 by striking the project description and inserting ''San Gabriel Blvd. rehabilitation project, Mission Road to Broadway, San Gabriel'';

(151) in item number 259 by striking the project description and inserting ''Design and construction of the Clair Nelson Intermodal Center in Finland, Lake County'';

(152) in item number 3456 by striking the project description and inserting ''Completion of Phase II/Part I of a project on Elizabeth Avenue in Coleraine to west of Itasca County State Aid Highway 15 in Itasca County'';

(153) in item number 2329 by striking the project description and inserting ''Upgrade streets, undertake streetscaping, and implement traffic and pedestrian safety signalization improvements and highway-rail crossing safety improvements, Oak Lawn'';

(154) in item number 766 by striking the project description and inserting ''Design and construction of the walking path at Ellis Pond, Norwood'';

(155) in item number 3474 by striking the project description and inserting ''Yellow River Trail, Newton County'';

(156) in item number 3291 by striking the amount and inserting ''$200,000'';

(157) in item number 3635 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''GA'', ''Access Road in Montezuma'', and ''$200,000'', respectively;

(158) in item number 716 by striking the project description and inserting ''Conduct a project study report for new Highway 99 Interchange between SR 165 and Bradbury Road, and safety improvements/realignment of SR 165, serving Turlock/Hilmar region'';

(159) in item number 1386 by striking the project description and amount and inserting ''Pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and street lighting in Haddon Heights'' and ''$300,000'', respectively;

(160) in item number 2720 by striking the project description and amount and inserting ''Pedestrian and bicycle facilities and street lighting in Barrington and streetscape improvements to Clements Bridge Road from the circle at the White Horse Pike to NJ Turnpike overpass in Barrington'' and ''$700,000'', respectively;

(161) in item number 2523 by striking the project description and inserting ''Penobscot Riverfront Development for bicycle trails, amenities, traffic circulation improvements, and waterfront access or stabilization, Bangor and Brewer'';

(162) in item number 545 by striking the project description and inserting ''Planning, design, and construction of improvements to the highway systems connecting to Lewistown and Auburn downtowns'';

(163) by striking item number 2168;

(164) by striking item number 170;

(165) in item number 2366 by striking the project description and inserting ''Design, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and paving of the parking lot at the Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre Township'';

(166) in item number 826 by striking ''and Interstate 81'' and inserting ''and exit 168 on Interstate 81 or the intersection of the connector road with Northampton St.'';

(167) in item number 2144 by striking the project description and inserting ''Design, engineering, right-of-way acquisition and construction of streetscaping enhancements, paving, lighting, safety improvements, parking, and roadway redesign on Third Street from Pittston Avenue to Packer Street; Swift Street from Packer Street to Railroad Street; Clark Street from Main Street to South Street; School Street from Main Street to South Street; Plane Street from Grove Street to William Street; John Street from 4 John Street to William Street; Grove Street from Plane Street to Duryea Borough line; Wood Street from Cherry Street to Hawthorne Street in Avoca Borough, Luzerne County'';

(168) in item number 1765 by striking the project description and amount and inserting ''Design, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of street improvements, streetscaping enhancements, paving, lighting, safety improvements, parking, roadway redesign in Pittston, including right-of-way acquisition, structure demolition, and intersection safety improvements in the vicinity of and including Main, William, and Parsonage Streets in Pittston'' and ''$1,600,000'', respectively;

(169) in item number 2957 by striking the project description and amount and inserting ''Design, engineering, land acquisition, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of a parking garage, streetscaping enhancements, paving, lighting, safety improvements, parking, and roadway redesign in the city of Wilkes-Barre'' and ''$2,800,000'', respectively;

(170) in item number 3283 by striking the project description and amount and inserting ''Pedestrian access improvements, including installation of infrastructure and equipment for security and surveillance purposes at subway stations in Astoria, New York'' and ''$1,300,000'', respectively;

(171) in item number 3556 by striking the project description and amount and inserting ''Design and rehabilitate staircases used as streets due to the steep grade of terrain in Bronx County'' and ''$1,100,000'', respectively;

(172) by striking item number 203;

(173) by striking item number 552;

(174) by striking item number 590;

(175) by striking item number 759;

(176) by striking item number 879;

(177) by striking item number 1071;

(178) by striking item number 1382;

(179) by striking item number 1897;

(180) by striking item number 2553;

(181) in item number 3014 by striking the project description and amount and inserting ''Design and Construct school safety projects in New York City'' and ''$2,500,000'', respectively;

(182) in item number 2375 by striking the project description and amount and inserting ''Subsurface environmental study to measure presence of methane and benzene gasses in vicinity of Greenpoint, Brooklyn, and the Kosciusko Bridge, resulting from the Newtown Creek oil spill'' and ''$100,000'';

(183) in item number 221 by striking the project description and inserting ''Study and Implement transportation improvements on Flatbush Ave. between Avenue U and the Marine Park Bridge in front of Gateway National Park in Kings County, New York'';

(184) in item number 2732 striking the project description and inserting ''Pedestrian safety improvements in the vicinity of LIRR stations'';

(185) by striking item number 99;

(186) in item number 398 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct a new 2-lane road extending north from University Park Drive and improvements to University Park Drive'';

(187) in item number 446 by striking the project description and inserting ''Transportation improvements for development of the Williamsport-Pile Bay Road corridor'';

(188) in item number 671 by striking ''and Pedestrian Trail Expansion'' and inserting '', including parking facilities and Pedestrian Trail Expansion'';

(189) in item number 674 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''AL'', ''Grade crossing improvements along Conecuh Valley

RR at Henderson Highway (CR–21) in Troy, AL'', and ''$300,000'', respectively;

(190) in item number 739 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''AL'', ''Grade crossing improvements along Luxapalila Valley RR in Lamar and Fayette Counties, AL (Crossings at CR–6, CR–20, SH–7, James Street, and College Drive)'', and ''$300,000'', respectively;

(191) in item number 746 by striking ''Planning and construction of a bicycle trail adjacent to the I–90 and SR 615 Interchange in'' and inserting ''Planning, construction, and extension of bicycle trails adjacent to the I–90 and SR 615 Interchange, along the Greenway Corridor and throughout'';

(192) in item number 749 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''PA'', ''UPMC Heliport in Bedford'', and ''$750,000'', respectively;

(193) in item number 813 by striking the project description and inserting ''Preliminary design and study of long-term roadway approach alternatives to TH 36/SH 64 St. Croix River Crossing Project'';

(194) in item number 816 by striking ''$800,000'' and inserting ''$880,000'';

(195) in item number 852 by striking ''Acquire Right-of-Way for Ludlam Trail, Miami, Florida'' and inserting ''Planning, design, and engineering, Ludlam Trail, Miami'';

(196) in item number 994 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''PA'', ''Construct 2 flyover ramps and S. Linden Street exit for access to industrial sites in the cities of McKeesport and Duquesne'', and ''$500,000'', respectively;

(197) in item number 1015 by striking the project description and inserting ''Mississippi River Crossing connecting I–94 and US 10 between US 160 and TH 101, MN'';

(198) in item number 1101 by striking the project description and inserting ''I–285 underpass/tunnel assessment and engineering and interchange improvements in Sandy Springs'';

(199) in item number 1211 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''PA'', ''Road improvements and upgrades related to the Pennsylvania State Baseball Stadium'', and ''$500,000'', respectively;

(200) in item number 1345 by striking ''to Stony Creek Park, 25 Mile Road in Shelby Township'' and inserting ''south to the city of Utica'';

(201) in item number 1501 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construction and right-of-way acquisition of TH 241, CSAH 35 and associated streets in the city of St. Michael'';

(202) in item number 1525 by striking ''north of CSX RR Bridge'' and inserting ''US Highway 90'';

(203) in item number 1847 by striking the project description and inserting ''Improve roads, sidewalks, and road drainage, City of Seward'';

(204) in item number 2031 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct and improve Westside Parkway in Fulton County'';

(205) in item number 2103 by striking ''$2,000,000'' and inserting ''$3,000,000'';

(206) in item number 2219 by striking ''SR 91 in City of Twinsburg, OH'' and inserting ''Center Valley Parkway in Twinsburg, OH'';

(207) in item number 2302 by inserting ''and other road improvements to Safford Street'' after ''crossings'';

(208) in item number 2560 by striking the project description and inserting ''I–285 underpass/tunnel assessment and engineering and interchange improvements in Sandy Springs'';

(209) in item number 2563 by striking the project description and amount and inserting ''Construct hike and bike path as part of Bridgeview Bridge replacement in Macomb County'' and ''$486,400'', respectively;

(210) in item number 2698 by striking the project description and inserting ''Interchanges at I–95/Ellis Road and between Grant Road and Micco Road, Brevard County'';

(211) in item number 3141 by striking ''$2,800,000'' and inserting ''$1,800,000'';

(212) by striking item number 3160;

(213) in item number 3353 by inserting ''and construction'' after ''mitigation'';

(214) in item number 996 by striking ''$2,000,000'' and inserting ''$687,000'';

(215) in item number 2166 by striking the project description and inserting ''Design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction for I–35 and CSAH2 interchange and CSAH2 corridor to TH61 in Forest Lake'';

(216) in item number 3251 by striking the project description and inserting ''I–94 and Radio Drive Interchange and frontage road project, design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction, Woodbury'';

(217) in item number 1488 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct a 4-lane highway between Maverick Junction and the Nebraska border'';

(218) in item number 3240 by striking the project description and inserting ''Railroad-highway crossings in Pierre'';

(219) in item number 1738 by striking ''Paving'' and inserting ''Planning, design, and construction'';

(220) in item number 3672 by striking the project description and inserting ''Pave remaining stretch of BIA Route 4 from the junction of the BIA Route 4 and N8031 in Pinon, AZ, to the Navajo and Hopi border'';

(221) in item number 2424 by striking ''Construction'' and inserting ''preconstruction (including survey and archeological clearances) and construction'';

(222) in item number 1216 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''PA'', ''For roadway construction improvements to Route 222 relocation, Lehigh County'', and ''$1,313,000'', respectively;

(223) in item number 2956 by striking ''$1,360,000'' and inserting ''$2,080,000'';

(224) in item number 1256 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''PA'', ''Construction of a bridge over Brandywine Creek as part of the Boot Road extension project, Downingtown Borough'', and ''$700,000'', respectively;

(225) in item number 1291 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''PA'', ''Enhance parking facilities in Chester Springs, Historic Yellow Springs'', and ''$20,000'', respectively;

(226) in item number 1304 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''PA'', ''Improve the intersection at SR 100/SR 4003 (Kernsville Road), Lehigh County'', and ''$250,000'', respectively;

(227) in item number 1357 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''PA'', ''Intersection signalization at SR 3020 (Newburg Road)/Country Club Road, Northampton County'', and ''$250,000'', respectively;

(228) in item number 1395 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''PA'', ''Improve the intersection at SR 100/SR 29, Lehigh County'', and ''$220,000'', respectively;

(229) in item number 80 by striking ''$4,544,000'' and inserting ''$4,731,200'';

(230) in item number 2096 by striking ''$4,800,000'' and inserting ''$5,217,600'';

(231) in item number 1496 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''PA'', ''Study future needs of East-West road infrastructure in Adams County'', and ''$115,200'', respectively;

(232) in item number 2193 by striking the project description and inserting ''710 Freeway Study to comprehensively evaluate the technical feasibility of a tunnel alternative to close the 710 Freeway gap, considering all practicable routes, in addition to any potential route previously considered, and with no funds to be used for preliminary engineering or environmental review except to the extent necessary to determine feasibility'';

(233) in item number 2445 by striking the project description and inserting ''$600,000 for road and pedestrian safety improvements on Main Street in the Village of Patchogue; $900,000 for road and pedestrian safety improvements on Montauk Highway, between NYS Route 112 and Suffolk County Road 101 in Suffolk County'';

(234) in item number 346 by striking the project description and inserting ''Hansen Dam Recreation Area access improvements, including hillside stabilization and parking lot rehabilitation along Osborne Street between Glenoaks Boulevard and Dronfield Avenue'';

(235) by striking item number 449;

(236) in item number 3688 by striking ''road'' and inserting ''trail'';

(237) in item number 3695 by striking ''in Soldotna'' and inserting ''in the Kenai River corridor'';

(238) in item number 3699 by striking ''to improve fish habitat'';

(239) in item number 3700 by inserting ''and ferry facilities'' after ''a ferry'';

(240) in item number 3703 by inserting ''or other roads'' after ''Cape Blossom Road'';

(241) in item number 3704 by striking ''Fairbanks'' and inserting ''Alaska Highway'';

(242) in item number 3705 by striking ''in Cook Inlet for the Westside development/Williamsport-Pile Bay Road'' and inserting ''for development of the Williamsport-Pile Bay Road corridor'';

(243) in item number 3829 by striking the amount and inserting ''$3,050,000'';

(244) by inserting after item number 3829 the following:

''3829A	*CO*	*U.S. 550, New Mexico State line to Durango.*	*$950,000'';*

(245) in item number 4788 by striking the project description and inserting ''Heidelberg Borough/Scott Township/Carnegie Borough for design, engineering, acquisition, and construction of streetscaping enhancements, paving, lighting and safety upgrades, and parking improvements'';

(246) in item number 3861 by striking the project description and inserting ''Creation of a greenway path along the Naugatuck River in Waterbury'';

(247) in item number 3883 by striking the project description and inserting ''Wilmington Riverfront Access and Street Grid Redesign'';

(248) in item number 3892 by striking ''$5,000,000'' and inserting ''$8,800,000'';

(249) in item number 3894 by striking ''$5,000,000'' and inserting ''$1,200,000'';

(250) in item number 3909 by striking the project description and inserting ''S.R. 281, the Avalon Boulevard Expansion Project from Interstate 10 to U.S. Highway 91'';

(251) in item number 3911 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct a new bridge at Indian Street, Martin County'';

(252) in item number 3916 by striking the project description and inserting ''City of Hollywood for U.S. 1/Federal Highway, north of Young Circle'';

(253) in item number 3937 by striking the project description and inserting ''Kingsland bypass from CR 61 to I–95, Camden County'';

(254) in item number 3945 by striking ''CR 293 to CS 5231'' and inserting ''SR 371 to SR 400'';

(255) in item number 3965 by striking ''transportation projects'' and inserting ''and air quality projects'';

(256) in item number 3986 by striking the project description and inserting ''Extension of Sugarloaf Parkway, Gwinnett County'';

(257) in item number 3999 by striking ''Bridges'' and inserting ''Bridge and Corridor'';

(258) in item number 4003 by striking the project description and inserting ''City of Council Bluffs and Pottawattamie County East Beltway Roadway and Connectors Project'';

(259) in item number 4043 by striking ''MP 9.3, Segment I, II, and III'' and inserting ''Milepost 24.3'';

(260) in item number 4050 by striking the project description and inserting ''Preconstruction and construction activities of U.S. 51 between the Assumption Bypass and Vandalia'';

(261) in item number 4058 by striking the project description and inserting ''For improvements to the road between Brighton and Bunker Hill in Macoupin County'';

(262) in each of item numbers 4062 and 4084 by striking the project description and inserting ''Preconstruction, construction, and related research and studies of I–290 Cap the Ike project in the village of Oak Park'';

(263) in item number 4089 by inserting ''and parking facility/entrance improvements serving the Museum of Science and Industry'' after ''Lakeshore Drive'';

(264) in item number 4103 by inserting ''and adjacent to the'' before ''Shawnee'';

(265) in item number 4110 by striking the project description and inserting ''For improvements to the road between Brighton and Bunker Hill in Macoupin County'';

(266) in item number 4120 by striking the matters in the project description and amount columns and inserting ''Upgrade 146th Street to Improve I–69 Access'' and ''$800,000'', respectively;

(267) in item number 4125 by striking ''$250,000'' and inserting ''$1,650,000'';

(268) by striking item number 4170;

(269) by striking item number 4179;

(270) in item number 4185 by striking the project description and inserting ''Replace the Clinton Street Bridge spanning St. Mary's River in downtown Fort Wayne'';

(271) in item number 4299 by striking the project description and inserting ''Improve U.S. 40, MD 715 interchange and other roadways in the vicinity of Aberdeen Proving Ground to support BRAC-related growth'';

(272) in item number 4313 by striking ''Maryland Avenue'' and all that follows through ''Rd. corridor'' and inserting ''intermodal access, streetscape, and pedestrian safety improvements'';

(273) in item number 4315 by striking ''stormwater mitigation project'' and inserting ''environmental preservation project'';

(274) in item number 4318 by striking the project description and inserting ''Planning, design, and construction of improvements to the highway systems connecting to Lewiston and Auburn downtowns'';

(275) in item number 4323 by striking the project description and inserting ''MaineDOT Acadia intermodal passenger and maintenance facility'';

(276) in item number 4338 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct 1 or more grade-separated crossings of I–75, and make associated improvements to improve local and regional east-west mobility between Mileposts 279 and 282'';

(277) in item number 4355 by striking the project description and inserting ''Design, engineering, ROW acquisition, construction, and construction engineering for the reconstruction of TH 95, from 12th Avenue to CSAH 13, including bridge and approaches, ramps, intersecting roadways, signals, turn lanes, and multiuse trail, North Branch'';

(278) in item number 4357 by striking the project description and inserting ''Design, construct, ROW, and expand TH 241 and CSAH 35 and associated streets in the city of St. Michael'';

(279) in item number 4360 by striking the project description and inserting ''Planning, design, and construction for Twin Cities Bioscience Corridor in St. Paul'';

(280) in item number 4362 by striking the project description and inserting ''I–494/U.S. 169 interchange reconstruction including U.S. 169/Valley View Road interchange, Twin Cities Metropolitan Area'';

(281) in item number 4365 by striking the project description and inserting ''34th Street realignment and 34th Street and I–94 interchange, including retention and reconstruction of the SE Main Avenue/CSAH 52 interchange ramps at I–94, and other transportation improvements for the city of Moorhead, including the SE Main Avenue GSI and Moorhead Comprehensive Rail Safety Program'';

(282) in item number 4369 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construction of 8th Street North, Stearns C.R. 120 to TH 15 in St. Cloud'';

(283) in item number 4371 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construction and ROW of TH 241, CSAH 35 and associated streets in the city of St. Michael'';

(284) in item number 4411 by striking ''Southaven'' and inserting ''DeSoto County'';

(285) in item number 4424 by striking the project description and inserting ''U.S. 93 Evaro to Polson transportation improvement projects'';

(286) in item number 4428 by striking the project description and inserting ''US 76 improvements'';

(287) in item number 4457 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct an interchange at an existing grade separation at SR 1602 (Old Stantonsburg Rd.) and U.S. 264 Bypass in Wilson County'';

(288) in item number 4461 by striking the project description and inserting ''Transportation and related improvements at Queens University of Charlotte, including the Queens Science Center and the Marion Diehl Center, Charlotte'';

(289) in item number 4507 by striking the project description and inserting ''Design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of Highway 35 between Norfolk and South Sioux City, including an interchange at milepost 1 on U.S. I–129'';

(290) in item number 4555 by inserting ''Canal Street and'' after ''Reconstruction of'';

(291) in item number 4565 by striking the project description and inserting ''Railroad Construction and Acquisition, Ely and White Pine County'';

(292) in item number 4588 by inserting ''Private Parking and'' before ''Transportation'';

(293) in item number 4596 by striking the project description and inserting ''Centerway Bridge and Bike Trail Project, Corning'';

(294) in item number 4610 by striking the project description and inserting ''Preparation, demolition, disposal, and site restoration of Alert Facility on Access Road to Plattsburgh International Airport'';

(295) in item number 4649 by striking the project description and inserting ''Fairfield County, OH U.S. 33 and old U.S. 33 safety improvements and related construction, city of Lancaster and surrounding areas'';

(296) in item number 4651 by striking ''for the transfer of rail to truck for the intermodal'' and inserting '', and construction of an intermodal freight'';

(297) in item number 4691 by striking the project description and inserting ''Transportation improvements to Idabel Industrial Park Rail Spur, Idabel'';

(298) in item number 4722 by striking the project description and inserting ''Highway, traffic, pedestrian, and riverfront improvements, Pittsburgh'';

(299) in item number 4749 by striking ''study'' and inserting ''improvements'';

(300) in item number 4821 by striking ''highway grade crossing project, Clearfield and Clinton Counties'' and inserting ''Project for highway grade crossings and other purposes relating to the Project in Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Indiana, and Jefferson Counties'';

(301) in item number 4838 by striking ''study'' and inserting ''improvements'';

(302) in item number 4839 by striking ''fuel-celled'' and inserting ''fueled'';

(303) in item number 4866 by striking ''$11,000,000'' and inserting ''$9,400,000'';

(304) by inserting after item number 4866 the following:

''4866A	*RI*	*Repair and restore railroad bridge in Westerly.*	*$1,600,000'';*

(305) in item number 4892 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct a 4-lane highway between maverick Junction and the Nebraska border'';

(306) in item number 4916 by striking ''$1,000,000'' and inserting ''$328,000'';

(307) in item number 4924 by striking ''$3,450,000'' and inserting ''$4,122,000'';

(308) in item number 4960 by inserting ''of which $50,000 shall be used for a street paving project, Calhoun'' after ''County'';

(309) in item number 4974 by striking '', Sevier County'';

(310) in item number 5008 by inserting ''/Kane Creek Boulevard'' after ''500 West'';

(311) in each of item numbers 5011 and 5033 by striking ''200 South Interchange'' and inserting ''400 South Interchange'';

(312) in item number 5021 by striking ''Pine View Dam,'';

(313) in item number 5026 by striking the project description and inserting ''Roadway improvements on Washington Fields Road/300 East, Washington'';

(314) in item number 5027 by inserting ''and roadway improvements'' after ''safety project'';

(315) in item number 5028 by inserting ''and roadway improvements'' after ''lighting'';

(316) in item number 5029 by inserting ''and roadway improvements'' after ''lights'';

(317) in number 5032 by striking the project description and inserting ''Expand Redhills Parkway, St. George'';

(318) in item number 5132 by striking the project description and inserting ''St. Croix River crossing project, Wisconsin State Highway 64, St. Croix County, Wisconsin, to Minnesota State Highway 36, Washington County'';

(319) in item number 5161 by striking the project description and inserting ''Raleigh Street Extension Project in Martinsburg'';

(320) in item number 1824 by striking the project description and inserting ''U.S. Route 10 expansion in Wadena and Ottertail Counties'';

(321) in item number 1194 by striking the project description and inserting ''Roadway and pedestrian design and improvements for Pennsylvania Avenue, Brooklyn'';

(322) in item number 2286 by striking the project description and inserting ''Road improvements for Church Street between NY State Route 25A and Hilden Street in Kings Park'';

(323) in item number 1724 by striking the project description and amount and inserting ''For road resurfacing and upgrades to Old Nichols Road and road repairs in the Nissequogue River watershed in Smithtown'' and ''$1,500,000'', respectively;

(324) in item number 3636 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''NY'', ''Road repair and maintenance in the Town of Southampton'', and ''$500,000'', respectively;

(325) in item number 3638 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''NY'', ''Improve NY State Route 112 from Old Town Road to NY State Route 347'', and ''$6,000,000'', respectively;

(326) in item number 3479 by striking the project description and inserting ''Road improvements and utility relocations within the city of Jackson'';

(327) in item number 141 by striking ''construction of pedestrian and bicycle improvements'' and inserting ''transportation enhancement activities'';

(328) in item number 1204 by striking ''at SR 283'';

(329) in item number 2896 by striking the project description and inserting ''Improve streetscape and signage and pave roads in McMinn County, including $50,000 that may be used for paving local roads in the city of Calhoun'';

(330) in item number 3017 by striking '', Pine View Dam'';

(331) in item number 3188 insert after ''Reconstruction'' the following: ''including U.S. 169/Valley View Road Interchange,'';

(332) in item number 1772 by striking the project description and inserting ''Reconstruction of Historic Eastern Parkway'';

(333) in item number 2610 by striking the project description and inserting ''Reconstruction of Times and Duffy Squares in New York City'';

(334) in item number 2462—

(A) by striking ''of the New Jersey Turnpike, Carteret'' and inserting ''and the Tremley Point Connector Road of the New Jersey Turnpike''; and

(B) by striking ''$1,200,000'' and inserting ''$450,000'';

(335) in item number 2871 by striking the amount and inserting ''$2,430,000'';

(336) in item number 3381 by striking the project description and inserting ''Determine scope, design, engineering, and construction of Western Boulevard Extension from Northern Boulevard to Route 9 in Ocean County, New Jersey'';

(337) in item number 2703 by striking the project description and inserting ''Upgrading existing railroad crossings with installation of active signals and gates and to study the feasibility and necessity of rail grade separation'';

(338) in item number 1004 by inserting ''SR 71 near'' after ''turn lane on'';

(339) in item number 2824 by striking the project description and inserting the following: ''Sevier County, TN, SR 35 near SR 449 intersection'';

(340) in item number 373 by striking the project description and inserting ''Widening existing Highway 226, including a bypass of Cash and a new connection to Highway 49'';

(341) in item number 1486, by striking the project description and inserting ''Bridge reconstruction and road widening on Route 252 and Route 30 in Tredyffrin Township, PA, in conjunction with the Paoli Transportation Center Project'';

(342) in item number 4541 by striking ''of the New Jersey Turnpike, Carteret'' and inserting ''and the Tremley Point Connector Road of the New Jersey Turnpike'';

(343) in item number 4006 by striking the project description and inserting ''Improvement to Alice's Road/105th Street Corridor including bridge, interchange, roadway, right-of-way, and enhancements'';

(344) in item number 2901 by striking the project description and inserting ''Purchase of land and conservation easements within U.S. 24 study area in Lucas, Henry, and Fulton Counties, Ohio'';

(345) in item number 2619 by striking the project description and inserting ''Improve access to I–55 between Bayless Avenue and Loughborough Avenue, including bridge 230.06'';

(346) in item number 1687 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct an interchange at I–675 and Warren Avenue near downtown Saginaw'';

(347) by striking item number 206;

(348) by striking item number 821;

(349) by striking item number 906;

(350) by striking item number 1144;

(351) in item number 1693 by striking the project description and amount and inserting ''Plan and implement truck route improvements in the Maspeth neighborhood of Queens County'' and ''$500,000'', respectively;

(352) in item number 3039 by striking the project description and inserting ''Pittsfield greenways construction to connect Pittsfield to the Ann Arbor greenway system, Pittsfield Township'';

(353) in item number 2922 by striking the project description and amount and inserting ''Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge for land acquisition adjacent to I–75 in Monroe County for wetland mitigation and habitat restoration, Fish and Wildlife Service'' and ''$1,800,000'', respectively;

(354) in item number 3641 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''MI'', ''River Raisin Battlefield for acquisition of historic battlefield land in Monroe County, Port of Monroe'', and ''$1,200,000''; respectively;

(355) in item number 3643 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''MI'', ''Phase 1 of Monroe County greenway system construction, Monroe County'', and ''$940,000'', respectively;

(356) in item number 3645 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''MI'', ''East County fueling operations consolidation at the Monroe County Road Commission and enhancement of facilities to accommodate biodiesel fuel pumps, Monroe County'', and ''$1,000,000'', respectively;

(357) in item number 3646 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''MI'', ''Greenway trail construction from City of Monroe to Sterling State Park, City of Monroe'', and ''$100,000''; respectively;

(358) in item number 1883 by striking the project description and inserting ''Planning for the Orangeline High Speed MAGLEV from Los Angeles County to Orange County'';

(359) in item number 3757 by inserting '', including Van Asche Drive'' after ''Corridor'';

(360) in item number 4347 by striking the project description and inserting ''Alger County, to reconstruct, pave, and realign a portion of H–58 from 2,600 feet south of Little Beaver Lake Road to 4,600 feet east of Hurricane River'';

(361) in item number 4335 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct an interchange at I–675 and Warren Avenue near downtown Saginaw'';

(362) in item number 4891 by striking the project description and inserting ''Widening U.S. 17 in Charleston County from the Isle of Palms Connector to a point at or near Darrell Creek Trail'';

(363) in item number 3647 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''AL'', ''Drainage and infrastructure improvements on U.S. 11 in front of Springville Middle School in Springville'', and ''$1,000,000'', respectively;

(364) in item number 3648 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''AL'', ''Transportation enhancement projects for sidewalks and streetscaping along Cahaba Road between the Botanical Gardens and the Birmingham Zoo in the City of Birmingham'', and ''$1,075,000'', respectively;

(365) in item number 3651 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''AL'', ''Engineering and right-of-way acquisition for the McWrights Ferry Road extension between Rice Mine Road and New Watermelon Road in Tuscaloosa County'', and ''$1,075,000'', respectively;

(366) in item number 562 by striking ''a designated truck route through'' and inserting ''roadway and sidewalk improvements in'';

(367) in item number 2836 by striking the project description and inserting ''Traffic calming and safety improvements to Lido Boulevard, Town of Hampstead, Nassau County'';

(368) in item number 1353 by striking the project description and inserting ''Improve the flow of truck traffic in Orrville'';

(369) in item number 1975 by striking the project description and inserting ''Hatcher Pass Ski Development Road in Matanuska-Susitna Borough'';

(370) in item number 1661 by striking the project description and inserting ''Hatcher Pass Ski Development Road in Matanuska-Susitna Borough'';

(371) in item number 1574 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct commuter parking structure in the central business district in the vicinity of La Grange Road, and for projects identified by the Village of La Grange as its highest priorities'';

(372) in item number 3461 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct Leon Pass overpass, and for projects identified by the Village of Hodgkins as its highest priorities'';

(373) in item numbers 1310 and 2265 by striking the project descriptions and inserting ''To construct up to 2 interchanges on U.S. Alternate Highway 72/Alabama Highway 20 from Interstate 65 to U.S. Highway 31 in Decatur, Alabama, with additional lanes as necessary'';

(374) in item number 4934 by striking ''connection with Hermitage Avenue'' and inserting ''Hermitage Avenue and pedestrian connection'';

(375) in item number 1227 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct road improvements near industrial park near SR 209 and CR 345 that improve access to the industrial park'';

(376) in item number 2507 by striking the project description and inserting ''Texas Department of Transportation: for those projects the Department has identified as its highest priorities'';

(377) in item number 3903 by striking the project description and inserting ''Planning, design, and engineering study to widen (4 lanes) SR 87 from the intersection of US 90 and SR 87 South to the Alabama State line'';

(378) in item number 56 by striking the project description and inserting ''Bicycle and pedestrian improvements, Oregon'';

(379) in item number 604 by striking the amount and inserting ''$11,800,000'';

(380) in item number 1299 by striking the amount and inserting ''$9,800,000'';

(381) in item number 1506 by striking the amount and inserting ''$5,100,000'';

(382) in item number 1904 by striking the project description and inserting ''Study and construct access to intermodal facility in Azusa'';

(383) in item number 3653 by striking the matters in the State, project description, and amount columns and inserting ''MI'', ''Bicycle and pedestrian trails in Harrison Township'', and ''$2,900,000'', respectively;

(384) in item number 3447 by striking the project description and inserting ''Carlton, 4th Street Railroad Crossing Improvement Project: Construct a safe, at grade crossing of the railroad and necessary bridge, connecting the community's educational and athletic facilities'';

(385) in item number 2321 by striking the project description and inserting ''Design and construct roadway and traffic signal improvements on Stella Street and Front Street, Wormleysburg, PA''; and

(386) in item number 370 by striking the project description and inserting ''Pedestrian paths, stairs, seating, landscaping, lighting, and other transportation enhancement activities along Riverside Boulevard and at Riverside Park South''.

(b) UNUSED OBLIGATION AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, unused obligation authority made available for an item in section 1702 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1256) that is repealed, or authorized funding for such an item that is reduced, by this section shall be made available—

(1) for an item in section 1702 of that Act that is added or increased by this section and that is in the same State as the item for which obligation authority or funding is repealed or reduced;

(2) in an amount proportional to the amount of obligation authority or funding that is so repealed or reduced; and

(3) individually for projects numbered 1 through 3676 pursuant to section 1102(c)(4)(A) of that Act (119 Stat. 1158).

(c) TRANSFER OF PROJECT FUNDS.—The Secretary of Transportation shall transfer to the Commandant of the Coast Guard amounts made available to carry out the project described in item number 4985 of the table contained in section 1702 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1447) to carry out that project, in accordance with the Act of June 21, 1940, commonly known as the ''Truman-Hobbs Act'', (33 U.S.C. 511 et seq.).

(d) ADDITIONAL DISCRETIONARY USE OF SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FUNDS.—Of the funds apportioned to each State under section 104(b)(3) of title 23, United States Code, a State may expend for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009 not more than $1,000,000 for the following activities:

(1) Participation in the Joint Operation Center for Fuel Compliance established under section 143(b)(4)(H) of title 23, United States Code, within the Department of the Treasury, including the funding of additional positions for motor fuel tax enforcement officers and other staff dedicated on a full-time basis to participation in the activities of the Center.

(2) Development, operation, and maintenance of electronic filing systems to coordinate data exchange with the Internal Revenue Service by States that impose a tax on the removal of taxable fuel from any refinery and on the removal of taxable fuel from any terminal.

(3) Development, operation, and maintenance of electronic single point of filing in conjunction with the Internal Revenue Service by States that impose a tax on the removal of taxable fuel from any refinery and on the removal of taxable fuel from any terminal.

(4) Development, operation, and maintenance of a certification system by a State of any fuel sold to a State or local government (as defined in section 4221(d)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) for the exclusive use of the State or local government or sold to a qualified volunteer fire department (as defined in section 150(e)(2) of such Code) for its exclusive use.

(5) Development, operation, and maintenance of a certification system by a State of any fuel sold to a nonprofit educational organization (as defined in section 4221(d)(5) of such Code) that includes verification of the good standing of the organization in the State in which the organization is providing educational services.

(e) PROJECT FEDERAL SHARE.—Section 1964 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1519) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) SPECIAL RULE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Federal share of the cost of the projects described in item numbers 1284 and 3093 in the table contained in section 1702 of this Act shall be 100 percent.''.

SEC. 106. NONMOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PILOT PROGRAM.

Section 1807(a)(3) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1460) is amended by striking ''Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota'' and inserting ''Minneapolis, Minnesota''.

SEC. 107. CORRECTION OF INTERSTATE AND NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM DESIGNATIONS.

(a) TREATMENT.—Section 1908(a) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1469) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(b) NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM.—Section 1908(b) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1470) is amended by striking ''from the Arkansas State line'' and inserting ''from Interstate Route 540''.

SEC. 108. BUDGET JUSTIFICATION; BUY AMERICA.

(a) BUDGET JUSTIFICATION.—Section 1926 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1483) is amended by striking ''The Department'' and inserting ''Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Department''.

(b) BUY AMERICA.—Section 1928 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1484) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (5) as paragraphs (3) through (6), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) the current application by the Federal Highway Administration of the Buy America test, that is only applied to components or parts of a bridge project and not the entire bridge project, is inconsistent with this sense of Congress;''.

SEC. 109. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS.

The table contained in section 1934(c) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1486) is amended—

(1) in item number 436 by inserting '', Saole,'' after ''Sua'';

(2) in item number 448 by inserting ''by removing asphalt and concrete and reinstalling blue cobblestones'' after ''streets'';

(3) by striking item number 451;

(4) in item number 452 by striking ''$2,000,000'' and inserting ''$3,000,000'';

(5) in item number 12 by striking ''Yukon River'' and inserting ''Kuskokwim River'';

(6) in item number 18 by striking ''Engineering and Construction in Merced County'' and inserting ''and safety improvements/realignment of SR 165 project study report and environmental studies in Merced and Stanislaus Counties'';

(7) in item number 38 by striking the project description and inserting ''Relocation of the Newark Train Station'';

(8) in item number 57 by striking the project description and inserting ''Kingsland bypass from CR 61 to I–95, Camden County'';

(9) in item number 114 by striking ''IA–32'' and inserting ''SW'' after ''Construct'';

(10) in item number 122 by striking the project description and inserting ''Design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of the SW Arterial and connections to U.S. 20, Dubuque County'';

(11) in item number 130 by striking the project description and inserting ''Improvements and rehabilitation to rail and bridges on the Appanoose County Community Railroad'';

(12) in item number 133 by striking ''IA–32'';

(13) in item number 138 by striking the project description and inserting ''West Spencer Beltway Project'';

(14) in item number 142 by striking ''MP 9.3, Segment I, II, and III'' and inserting ''Milepost 24.3'';

(15) in item number 161 by striking ''Bridge replacement on Johnson Drive and Nall Ave.'' and inserting ''Construction improvements'';

(16) in item number 182 by striking the project description and inserting ''Improve U.S. 40, M.D. 715 interchange, and other roadways in the vicinity of Aberdeen Proving Ground to support BRAC-related growth'';

(17) in item number 198 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct 1 or more grade separated crossings of I–75 and make associated improvements to improve local and regional east-west mobility between Mileposts 279 and 282'';

(18) in item number 201 by striking the project description and inserting ''Alger County, to reconstruct, pave, and realign a portion of H–58 from 2,600 feet south of Little Beaver Lake Road to 4,600 feet east of Hurricane River'';

(19) in item number 238 by striking the project description and inserting ''Develop and construct the St. Mary water project road and bridge infrastructure, including a new bridge and approaches across St. Mary River, stabilization and improvements to United States Route 89, and road/canal from Siphon Bridge to Spider Lake, on the condition that $2,500,000 of the amount made available to carry out this item may be made available to the Bureau of Reclamation for use for the Swift Current Creek and Boulder Creek bank and bed stabilization project in the Lower St. Mary Lake drainage'';

(20) in item number 329 by inserting '', Tulsa'' after ''technology'';

(21) in item number 358 by striking ''fuel-celled'' and inserting ''fueled'';

(22) in item number 374 by striking the project description and inserting ''Construct a 4-lane highway between Maverick Junction and the Nebraska border'';

(23) in item number 402 by striking ''from 2 to 5 lanes and improve alignment within rights-of-way in St. George'' and inserting '', St. George'';

(24) in item number 309 by striking the project description and inserting ''Streetscape, roadway, pedestrian, and parking improvements at the intersection of Meadow Lane, Chestnut Lane, Willow Drive, and Liberty Avenue for the College of New Rochelle campus in New Rochelle''; and

(25) in item number 462 by striking the project description and inserting ''I–75 widening and improvements in Collier and Lee Counties, Florida''.

SEC. 110. I–95/CONTEE ROAD INTERCHANGE DESIGN.

Section 1961 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1518) is amended—

*(1) in the section heading by striking ''**STUDY**'' and inserting ''**DESIGN**'';*

(2) by striking subsections (a), (b), and (c) and inserting the following:

''(a) DESIGN.—The Secretary shall make available the funds authorized to be appropriated by this section for the design of the I–95/Contee Road interchange in Prince George's County, Maryland.''; and

(3) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (b).

SEC. 111. HIGHWAY RESEARCH FUNDING.

(a) F–SHRP FUNDING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009, at any time at which an apportionment is made of the sums authorized to be appropriated for the surface transportation program, the congestion mitigation and air quality improvement program, the National Highway System, the Interstate maintenance program, the bridge program, or the highway safety improvement program, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) deduct from each apportionment an amount not to exceed 0.205 percent of the apportionment; and

(2) transfer or otherwise make that amount available to carry out section 510 of title 23, United States Code.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) FUNDING.—Section 5101 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1779) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1) by striking ''509, and 510'' and inserting ''and 509'';

(B) in subsection (a)(4) by striking ''$69,700,000'' and all that follows through ''2009'' and inserting ''$40,400,000 for fiscal year 2005, $69,700,000 for fiscal year 2006, $76,400,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 and 2008, and $78,900,000 for fiscal year 2009''; and

(C) in subsection (b) by inserting after ''50 percent'' the following ''or, in the case of funds appropriated by subsection (a) to carry out section 5201, 5202, or 5203 of this Act, 80 percent''.

(2) FUTURE STRATEGIC HIGHWAY RESEARCH PROGRAM.—Section 5210 of such Act (119 Stat. 1804) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (c); and

(B) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(c) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—Funds made available under this section shall be available for obligation in the same manner as if the funds were apportioned under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, except that the Federal share shall be determined under section 510(f) of that title.

(d) APPLICABILITY OF OBLIGATION LIMITATION.—Funds made available under this section shall be subject to any limitation on obligations for Federal-aid highways and highway safety construction programs under section 1102 the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (23 U.S.C. 104 note; 119 Stat. 1157) or any other Act.

(e) EQUITY BONUS FORMULA.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in allocating funds for the equity bonus program under section 105 of title 23, United States Code, for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009, the Secretary of Transportation shall make the required calculations under that section as if this section had not been enacted.

(f) FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—Of the amount made available by section 5101(a)(1) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1779)—

(1) at least $1,000,000 shall be made available for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009 to carry out section 502(h) of title 23, United States Code; and

(2) at least $4,900,000 shall be made available for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009 to carry out section 502(i) of that title.

(g) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SURFACE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH.—Section 502 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking the first subsection (h), relating to infrastructure investment needs reports beginning with the report for January 31, 1999.

(2) ADVANCED TRAVEL FORECASTING PROCEDURES PROGRAM.—Section 5512(a)(2) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1829) is amended by striking ''PROGRAM APPRECIATION.—'' and inserting ''PROGRAM APPLICATION.—''.

(3) UNIVERSITY TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH.—Section 5506 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(2)(B) by striking ''tier'' and inserting ''Tier'';

(B) in subsection (i)—

(i) by striking ''In order to'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) SPECIAL RULE.—Nothing in paragraph (1) requires a nonprofit institution of higher learning designated as a Tier II university transportation center to maintain total expenditures as described in paragraph (1) in excess of the amount of the grant awarded to the institution.''; and

(C) in subsection (k)(3) by striking ''The Secretary'' and all that follows through ''to carry out this section'' and inserting ''For each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009, the Secretary shall expend not more than 1.5 percent of amounts made available to carry out this section''.

SEC. 112. RESCISSION.

Section 10212 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (as amended by section 1302 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–280)) (119 Stat. 1937; 120 Stat. 780) is amended by striking ''$8,593,000,000'' each place it appears and inserting ''$8,708,000,000''.

SEC. 113. TEA–21 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM.—Section 1108(f)(1) of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (23 U.S.C. 133 note; 112 Stat. 141) is amended by striking ''2003'' and inserting ''2009''.

(b) PROJECT AUTHORIZATIONS.—The table contained in section 1602 of such Act (112 Stat. 257) is amended—

(1) in item number 1096 (as amended by section 1703(a)(11) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1454)) by inserting '', and planning and construction to Heisley Road,'' before ''in Mentor, Ohio'';

(2) in item number 1646 by striking ''and construction'' and inserting ''construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation, and repaving''; and

(3) in item number 614 by inserting ''and for NJ Carteret, NJ Ferry Service Terminal'' after ''east''.

SEC. 114. HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDOR AND INNOVATIVE PROJECT TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDORS.—Section 1105(c) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (105 Stat. 2032; 119 Stat. 1212) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (63) by striking ''and United States Routes 1, 3, 9, 17, and 46,'' and inserting ''United States Routes 1, 9, and 46, and State Routes 3 and 17,''; and

(2) in paragraph (64)—

(A) by striking ''United States Route 42'' and inserting ''State Route 42''; and

(B) by striking ''Interstate Route 676'' and inserting ''Interstate Routes 76 and 676''.

(b) INNOVATIVE PROJECTS.—Item number 89 of the table contained in section 1107(b) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (105 Stat. 2052) is amended in the matter under the column with the heading ''INNOVATIVE PROJECTS'' by inserting ''and contiguous counties'' after ''Michigan''.

SEC. 115. DEFINITION OF REPEAT INTOXICATED DRIVER LAW.

Section 164(a)(5) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

''(A) receive—

''(i) a driver's license suspension for not less than 1 year; or

''(ii) a combination of suspension of all driving privileges for the first 45 days of the suspension period followed by a reinstatement of limited driving privileges for the purpose of getting to and from work, school, or an alcohol treatment program if an ignition interlock device is installed on each of the motor vehicles owned or operated, or both, by the individual;

''(B) be subject to the impoundment or immobilization of, or the installation of an ignition interlock system on, each motor vehicle owned or operated, or both, by the individual;''.

SEC. 116. RESEARCH TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Section 5506(e)(5)(C) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$2,225,000''and inserting ''$2,250,000''.

SEC. 117. BUY AMERICA WAIVER NOTIFICATION AND ANNUAL REPORTS.

(a) WAIVER NOTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of Transportation makes a finding under section 313(b) of title 23, United States Code, with respect to a project, the Secretary shall—

(A) publish in the Federal Register, before the date on which such finding takes effect, a detailed written justification as to the reasons that such finding is needed; and

(B) provide notice of such finding and an opportunity for public comment on such finding for a period of not to exceed 60 days.

(2) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to require the effective date of a finding referred to in paragraph (1) to be delayed until after the close of the public comment period referred to in paragraph (1)(B).

(b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than February 1 of each year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report on the projects for which the Secretary made findings under section 313(b) of title 23, United States Code, during the preceding calendar year and the justifications for such findings.

SEC. 118. EFFICIENT USE OF EXISTING HIGHWAY CAPACITY.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Transportation shall conduct a study on the impacts of converting left and right highway safety shoulders to travel lanes.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study, the Secretary shall—

(1) analyze instances in which safety shoulders are used for general purpose vehicle traffic, high occupancy vehicles, and public transportation vehicles;

(2) analyze instances in which safety shoulders are not part of the roadway design;

(3) evaluate whether or not conversion of safety shoulders or the lack of a safety shoulder in the original roadway design has a significant impact on the number of accidents or has any other impact on highway safety; and

(4) compile relevant statistics.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall transmit to Congress a report on the results of the study.

SEC. 119. FUTURE INTERSTATE DESIGNATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary of Transportation shall designate, as a future Interstate Route 69 Spur, the Audubon Parkway and, as a future Interstate Route 66 Spur, the Natcher Parkway in Owensboro, Kentucky. Any segment of such routes shall become part of the Interstate System (as defined in section 101 of title 23, United States Code) at such time as the Secretary determines that the segment—

(1) meets the Interstate System design standards approved by the Secretary under section 109(b) of title 23, United States Code; and

(2) connects to an existing Interstate System segment.

(b) SIGNS.—Section 103(c)(4)(B)(iv) of title 23, United States Code, shall apply to the designations under subsection (a); except that a State may install signs on the 2 parkways that are to be designated under subsection (a) indicating the approximate location of each of the future Interstate System highways.

(c) REMOVAL OF DESIGNATION.—The Secretary shall remove designation of a highway referred to in subsection (a) as a future Interstate System route if the Secretary, as of the last day of the 25-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, has not made the determinations under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) with respect to such highway.

SEC. 120. PROJECT FLEXIBILITY.

Section 1935(b)(1) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1510) is amended by inserting ''the project numbered 1322 and'' before ''the projects''.

SEC. 121. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act (including subsection (b)), this Act and the amendments made by this Act take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) EXCEPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this Act (other than the amendments made by sections 101(g), 101(m)(1)(H), 103, 105, 109, and 201(o)) to the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (Public Law 109–59; 119 Stat. 1144) shall—

(A) take effect as of the date of enactment of that Act; and

(B) be treated as being included in that Act as of that date.

(2) EFFECT OF AMENDMENTS.—Each provision of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users

(Public Law 109–59; 119 Stat. 1144) (including the amendments made by that Act) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) that is amended by this Act (other than sections 101(g), 101(m)(1)(H), 103, 105, 109, and 201(o)) shall be treated as not being enacted.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO HIGHWAY TRUST FUND.—Subsections (c)(1) and (e)(3) of section 9503 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 are each amended by striking ''Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users'' and inserting ''SAFETEA–LU Technical Corrections Act of 2008''.

TITLE II—TRANSIT PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. TRANSIT TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) SECTION 5302.—Section 5302(a)(10) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''charter,'' and inserting ''charter, sightseeing,''.

(b) SECTION 5303.—

(1) Section 5303(f)(3)(C)(ii) of such title is amended by striking subclause (II) and inserting the following:

''(II) FUNDING.—For fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter, in addition to other funds made available to the metropolitan planning organization for the Lake Tahoe region under this chapter and title 23, prior to any allocation under section 202 of title 23, and notwithstanding the allocation provisions of section 202, the Secretary shall set aside ½ of 1 percent of all funds authorized to be appropriated for such fiscal year to carry out section 204 of title 23, and shall make such funds available to the metropolitan planning organization for the Lake Tahoe region to carry out the transportation planning process, environmental reviews, preliminary engineering, and design to complete environmental documentation for transportation projects for the Lake Tahoe region under the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact as consented to in Public Law 96–551 (94 Stat. 3233) and this paragraph.''.

(2) Section 5303(j)(3)(D) of such title is amended—

(A) by inserting ''or the identified phase'' before ''within the time''; and

(B) by inserting ''or the identified phase'' before the period at the end.

(3) Section 5303(k)(2) of such title is amended by striking ''a metropolitan planning area serving''.

(c) SECTION 5307.—Section 5307(b) of such title is amended—

(1) in the heading for paragraph (2) by striking ''2007'' and inserting ''2009'';

(2) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(A) by striking ''2007'' and inserting ''2009''; and

(B) by striking ''mass'' and inserting ''public'';

(3) by adding at the end of paragraph (2) the following:

''(E) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS IN FISCAL YEARS 2008 AND 2009.—In fiscal years 2008 and 2009—

''(i) amounts made available to any urbanized area under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) shall be not more than 50 percent of the amount apportioned in fiscal year 2002 to the urbanized area with a population of less than 200,000, as determined in the 1990 decennial census of population;

''(ii) amounts made available to any urbanized area under subparagraph (A)(iii) shall be not more than 50 percent of the amount apportioned to the urbanized area under this section for fiscal year 2003; and

''(iii) each portion of any area not designated as an urbanized area, as determined by the 1990 decennial census, and eligible to receive funds under subparagraph (A)(iv), shall receive an amount of funds to carry out this section that is not less than 50 percent of the amount the portion of the area received under section 5311 in fiscal year 2002.''; and

(4) in paragraph (3) by striking ''section 5305(a)'' and inserting ''section 5303(k)''.

(d) SECTION 5309.—Section 5309 of such title is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(5)(B) by striking ''regulation.'' and inserting ''this subsection and shall give comparable, but not necessarily equal, numerical weight to each project justification criteria in calculating the overall project rating.'';

(2) in subsection (e)(6)(B) by striking ''subsection.'' and inserting ''subsection and shall give comparable, but not necessarily equal, numerical weight to each project justification criteria in calculating the overall project rating.'';

(3) in the heading for paragraph (2)(A) of subsection (m) by striking ''MAJOR CAPITAL'' and inserting ''CAPITAL''; and

(4) in subsection (m)(7)(B) by striking ''section 3039'' and inserting ''section 3045''.

(e) SECTION 5311.—Section 5311 of such title is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(1)(A) by striking ''for any purpose other than operating assistance'' and inserting ''for a capital project or project administrative expenses'';

(2) in subsections (g)(1)(A) and (g)(1)(B) by striking ''capital'' after ''net''; and

(3) in subsection (i)(1) by striking ''Sections 5323(a)(1)(D) and 5333(b) of this title apply'' and inserting ''Section 5333(b) applies''.

(f) SECTION 5312.—The heading for section 5312(c) of such title is amended by striking ''MASS TRANSPORTATION'' and inserting ''PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION''.

(g) SECTION 5314.—Section 5314(a)(3) is amended by striking ''section 5323(a)(1)(D)'' and inserting ''section 5333(b)''.

(h) SECTION 5319.—Section 5319 of such title is amended by striking ''section 5307(k)'' and inserting ''section 5307(d)(1)(K)''.

(i) SECTION 5320.—Section 5320 of such title is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)(A) by striking ''intra—agency'' and inserting ''intraagency'';

(2) in subsection (b)(5)(A) by striking ''5302(a)(1)(A)'' and inserting ''5302(a)(1)'';

(3) in subsection (d)(1) by inserting ''to administer this section and'' after ''5338(b)(2)(J)'';

(4) by adding at the end of subsection (d) the following:

''(4) TRANSFERS TO LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.—The Secretary may transfer amounts available under paragraph (1) to the appropriate Federal land management agency to pay necessary costs of the agency for such activities described in paragraph (1) in connection with activities being carried out under this section.'';

(5) in subsection (k)(3) by striking ''subsection (d)(1)'' and inserting ''subsection (e)(1)'';

(6) by redesignating subsections (a) through (m) as subsections (b) through (n), respectively; and

(7) by inserting before subsection (b) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(a) PROGRAM NAME.—The program authorized by this section shall be known as the Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks Program.''.

(j) SECTION 5323.—Section 5323(n) of such title is amended by striking ''section 5336(e)(2)'' and inserting ''section 5336(d)(2)''.

(k) SECTION 5325.—Section 5325(b) of such title is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by inserting before the period at the end ''adopted before August 10, 2005'';

(2) by striking paragraph (2); and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(l) SECTION 5336.—

(1) APPORTIONMENTS OF FORMULA GRANTS.—Section 5336 of such title is amended—

(A) in subsection (a) by striking ''Of the amount'' and all that follows before paragraph (1) and inserting ''Of the amount apportioned under subsection (i)(2) to carry out section 5307—'';

(B) in subsection (d)(1) by striking ''subsections (a) and (h)(2) of section 5338'' and inserting ''subsections (a)(1)(C)(vi) and (b)(2)(B) of section 5338''; and

(C) by redesignating subsection (c), as added by section 3034(c) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1628), as subsection (k).

(2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 3034(d)(2) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1629), is amended by striking ''paragraph (2)'' and inserting ''subsection (a)(2)''.

(m) SECTION 5337.—Section 5337(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''for each of fiscal years 1998 through 2003'' and inserting ''for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009''.

(n) SECTION 5338.—Section 5338(d)(1)(B) of such title is amended by striking ''section 5315(a)(16)'' and inserting ''section 5315(b)(2)(P)''.

(o) SAFETEA–LU.—

(1) SECTION 3011.—Section 3011(f) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1589) is amended by adding to the end the following:

''(5) Central Florida Commuter Rail Transit Project.''.

(2) SECTION 3037.—Section 3037(c) of such Act (119 Stat. 1636) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3) by striking ''Phase II''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (10).

(3) SECTION 3040.—Section 3040(4) of such Act (119 Stat. 1639) is amended by striking ''$7,871,895,000'' and inserting ''$7,872,893,000''.

(4) SECTION 3043.—

(A) PORTLAND, OREGON.—Section 3043(b)(27) of such Act (119 Stat. 1642) is amended by inserting ''/Milwaukie'' after ''Mall''.

(B) LOS ANGELES.—

(i) PHASE 1.—Section 3043(b)(13) of such Act (119 Stat. 1642) is amended to read as follows:

''(13) Los Angeles—Exposition LRT (Phase 1).''.

(ii) PHASE 2.—Section 3043(c) of such Act (119 Stat. 1645) is amended by inserting after paragraph (104) the following:

''(104A) Los Angeles—Exposition LRT (Phase 2).''.

(C) SAN DIEGO.—Section 3043(c)(105) of such Act (119 Stat. 1645) is amended by striking ''LOSSAN Del Mar-San Diego—Rail Corridor Improvements'' and inserting ''LOSSAN Rail Corridor Improvements''.

(D) SAN DIEGO.—Section 3043(c)(217) of such Act (119 Stat. 1648) is amended by striking ''San Diego'' and inserting ''San Diego Transit''.

(E) SACRAMENTO.—Section 3043(c)(204) of such Act (119 Stat. 647) is amended by striking ''Downtown''.

(F) BOSTON.—Section 3043(d)(6) of such Act (119 Stat. 1649) is amended to read as follows:

''(6) Boston-Silver Line Phase III, $20,000,000.''.

(G) PROJECT CONSTRUCTION GRANTS.—Section 3043(e) of such Act (119 Stat. 1651) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) PROJECT CONSTRUCTION GRANTS.—Projects recommended by the Secretary for a project construction grant agreement under section 5309(e) of title 49, United States Code, or for funding under section 5309(m)(2)(A)(i) of such title during fiscal year 2008 and fiscal year 2009 are authorized for preliminary engineering, final design, and construction for fiscal years 2007 through 2009 upon the completion of the notification process for each such project under section 5309(g)(5).''.

(H) LOS ANGELES AND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY.—Section 3043 of such Act (119 Stat. 1640) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(k) LOS ANGELES EXTENSION.—In evaluating the local share of the project authorized by subsection (c)(104A) in the new starts rating process, the Secretary shall give consideration to project elements of the project authorized by subsection (b)(13) advanced with 100 percent non-Federal funds.

''(l) SAN GABRIEL VALLEY—GOLD LINE FOOTHILL EXTENSION PHASE II.—In evaluating the local share of the San Gabriel Valley—Gold Line Foothill Extension Phase II project authorized by subsection (b)(33) in the new starts rating process, the Secretary shall give consideration to project elements of the San Gabriel Valley—Gold Line Foothill Extension Phase I project advanced with 100 percent non-Federal funds.''.

(5) SECTION 3044.—

(A) PROJECTS.—The table contained in section 3044(a) of such Act (119 Stat. 1652) is amended—

(i) in item 25—

(I) by striking ''$217,360'' and inserting ''$167,360''; and

(II) by striking ''$225,720'' and inserting ''$175,720'';

(ii) in item number 36 by striking the project description and inserting ''Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) for bus and bus-related facilities in the LACMTA's service area'';

(iii) in item number 71 by inserting ''Metropolitan Bus Authority'' after ''Puerto Rico'';

(iv) in item number 84 by striking the project description and inserting ''Improvements to the existing Sacramento Intermodal Facility (Sacramento Valley Station)'';

(v) in item number 94 by striking the project description and inserting ''Pacific Transit, WA Vehicle Replacement'';

(vi) in item number 120 by striking ''Dayton Airport Intermodal Rail Feasibility Study'' and inserting ''Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority buses and bus facilities'';

(vii) in item number 152 by inserting ''Metropolitan Bus Authority'' after ''Puerto Rico'';

(viii) in item number 416 by striking ''Improve marine intermodal'' and inserting ''Improve marine dry-dock and'';

(ix) in item number 457—

(I) by striking ''$65,000'' and inserting ''$0''; and

(II) by striking ''$67,500'' and inserting ''$0''; and

(x) in item number 458—

(I) by striking ''$65,000'' and inserting ''$130,000'';

(II) by striking ''$67,500'' and inserting ''$135,000''; and

(xi) in item number 57 by striking the project description and inserting ''Wilmington, NC, maintenance and operations facilities and administration and transfer facilities'';

(xii) in item number 460 by striking the matters in the project description, FY08 column, and FY09 column and inserting ''460. Mid-Region Council of Governments, New Mexico, public transportation buses, bus-related equipment and facilities, and intermodal terminals in Albuquerque and Santa Fe'', ''$500,000'', and ''$500,000'', respectively.

(xiii) in item number 138 by striking ''Design'' and inserting ''Determine scope, engineering, design,'';

(xiv) in item number 23 by striking ''Construct'' and inserting ''Design, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction'';

(xv) in item number 439 by inserting before ''Central'' the following: ''Design, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction'';

(xvi) in item number 453 by inserting before ''Central'' the following: ''Design, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction'';

(xvii) in item number 371 by striking the project description and inserting ''Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, Sunset Bus Maintenance Facility'';

(xviii) in item number 487 by striking ''Central Arkansas Transit Authority Facility Upgrades'' and inserting ''Central Arkansas Transit Authority Bus Acquisition'';

(xix) in item number 491 by striking the project description and inserting ''Pace, IL, Cermak Road, Bus Rapid Transit, and related bus projects, and alternatives analysis'';

(xx) in item number 512 by striking ''Corning, NY, Phase II Corning Preserve Transportation Enhancement Project'' and inserting ''Transportation Center Enhancements, Corning, NY'';

(xxi) in item number 534 by striking ''Community Buses'' and inserting ''Bus and Bus Facilities'';

(xxii) in item number 570 by striking ''Maine Department of Transportation-Acadia Intermodal Facility'' and inserting ''MaineDOT Acadia Intermodal Passenger and Maintenance Facility'';

(xxiii) in item number 80 by striking the project description and amounts and inserting ''Flagler County, Florida–buses and bus facility'', ''$57,684'', ''$60,192'', ''$65,208'', and ''$67,716'' respectively;

(xxiv) in item number 135 by striking the project description and inserting ''Pace Suburban Bus, IL–Purchase Vehicles'';

(xxv) in item number 276 by striking the project description and amounts and inserting ''Long Beach Transit, Long Beach, California, for the purchase of transit vehicles and enhancement of para-transit and senior transportation services'', ''$128,180'', ''$133,760'', ''$144,906'', and ''$150,480'', respectively; and

(xxvi) by adding at the end—

(I)(aa) in the project description column ''666. New York City, NY, rehabilitation of subway stations to include passenger access improvements including escalators or installation of infrastructure for security and surveillance purposes''; and

(bb) in the FY08 column and the FY09 column ''$50,000'';

(II)(aa) in the project description column ''667. St. Johns County Council on Aging buses and bus facilities, Florida''; and

(bb) in the FY06, FY07, FY08, and FY09 columns ''$57,684'', ''$60,192'', ''$65,208'', and ''$67,716'', respectively;

(III)(aa) in the project description column ''668. The City of Compton, California, for the replacement of buses and paratransit vehicles''; and

(bb) in the FY06, FY07, FY08, and FY09 columns ''$128,180'', ''$133,760'', ''$144,906'', and ''$150,480'', respectively; and

(IV)(aa) in the project description column ''669. City of Los Angeles, California, for the purchase of transit vehicles in Watts and enhancement of paratransit and senior transportation services''; and

(bb) in the FY06, FY07, FY08, and FY09 columns ''$128,200'', ''$133,760'', ''$144,908'', and ''$150,480'', respectively.

(B) SPECIAL RULE.—Section 3044(c) of such Act (119 Stat. 1705) is amended—

(i) by inserting '', or other entity,'' after ''State or local governmental authority''; and

(ii) by striking ''projects numbered 258 and 347'' and inserting ''projects numbered 258, 347, and 411''; and

(iii) by striking the period at the end and inserting: '', and funds made available for fiscal year 2006 for the bus and bus-related facilities projects numbered 176 and 652 under subsection (a) shall remain available until September 30, 2009.''.

(6) SECTION 3046.—Section 3046(a)(7) of such Act (119 Stat. 1708) is amended—

(A) by striking ''hydrogen fuel cell vehicles'' and inserting ''hydrogen fueled vehicles'';

(B) by striking ''hydrogen fuel cell employee shuttle vans'' and inserting ''hydrogen fueled employee shuttle vans''; and

(C) by striking ''in Allentown, Pennsylvania'' and inserting ''to the DaVinci Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania''.

(7) SECTION 3050.—Section 3050(b) of such Act (119 Stat. 1713) is amended by inserting ''by negotiating the extension of the existing agreement between mile post 191.13 and mile post 185.1 to mile post 165.9 in Rhode Island'' before the period at the end.

(p) TRANSIT TUNNELS.—In carrying out section 5309(d)(3)(D) of title 49, United States Code, the Secretary of Transportation shall specifically analyze, evaluate, and consider—

(1) the congestion relief, improved mobility, and other benefits of transit tunnels in those projects which include a transit tunnel; and

(2) the associated ancillary and mitigation costs necessary to relieve congestion, improve mobility, and decrease air and noise pollution in those projects which do not include a transit tunnel, but where a transit tunnel was one of the alternatives analyzed.

(q) KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, PROPERTY ACQUISITION.—The acquisition of property for the city of Knoxville, Tennessee, for the Knoxville, Tennessee, Central Station project shall be deemed to qualify as an acquisition of land for protective purposes pursuant to section 622.101 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act. The Secretary of Transportation may allow the costs of such acquisition to be credited toward the non-Federal share for the project.

(r) CALIFORNIA TRANSIT SERVICES.—The Secretary of Transportation shall use not more than $3,000,000 of the funds made available for use at the discretion of the Secretary for fiscal year 2007 for Federal Transit Administration Discretionary Programs, Bus and Bus Facilities to reimburse the California State department of transportation for actual and necessary costs of maintenance and operation, less the amount of fares earned, for additional public transportation services that were provided by the department of transportation as a temporary substitute for highway traffic service following the freeway collapse at the interchange connecting Interstate Routes 80, 580, and 880 near the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, on April 29, 2007, until the reopening of that facility on June 29, 2007. The Federal share of the cost of activities reimbursed under this subsection shall be 100 percent.

TITLE III—OTHER SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS RELATING TO MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY.

(a) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO HIGH-PRIORITY ACTIVITIES.—Section 31104(f) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking the designation and heading for paragraph (1) and by striking paragraph (2).

(b) NEW ENTRANT AUDITS.—

(1) CORRECTIONS OF REFERENCES.—Section 4107(b) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1720) is amended—

(A) by striking ''Section 31104'' and inserting ''Section 31144''; and

(B) in paragraph (1) by inserting ''(c)'' after ''the second subsection''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 7112 of such Act (119 Stat. 1899) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(c) PROHIBITED TRANSPORTATION.—Section 4114(c)(1) of the such Act (119 Stat. 1726) is amended by striking ''the second subsection (c)'' and inserting ''(f)''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE RELATING TO MEDICAL EXAMINERS.—Section 4116(f) of such Act (119 Stat. 1728) is amended by striking ''amendment made by subsection (a)'' and inserting ''amendments made by subsections (a) and (b)''.

(e) ROADABILITY TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 31151(a)(3)(E)(ii) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Act'' and inserting ''section''.

(f) CORRECTION OF SUBSECTION REFERENCE.—Section 4121 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1734) is amended by striking ''31139(f)(5)'' and inserting ''31139(g)(5)''.

(g) CDL LEARNER'S PERMIT PROGRAM TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 4122(2)(A) of such Act (119 Stat. 1734) is amended by striking ''license'' and inserting ''licenses''.

(h) CDL INFORMATION SYSTEM FUNDING REFERENCE.—Section 31309(f) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''31318'' and inserting ''31313''.

(i) CLARIFICATION OF REFERENCE.—Section 229(a)(1) of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 (49 U.S.C. 31136 note; 119 Stat. 1743) is amended by inserting ''of title 49, United States Code,'' after ''31502''.

(j) REDESIGNATION OF SECTION.—The second section 39 of chapter 2 of title 18, United States Code, relating to commercial motor vehicles required to stop for inspections, and the item relating to such section in the analysis for such chapter, are redesignated as section 40.

(k) OFFICE OF INTERMODALISM.—Section 5503 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)(2) by striking ''Surface Transportation Safety Improvement Act of 2005'', and inserting ''Motor Carrier Safety Reauthorization Act of 2005''; and

(2) by redesignating the first subsection (h), relating to authorization of appropriations, as subsection (i) and moving it after the second subsection (h).

(l) USE OF FEES FOR UNIFIED CARRIER REGISTRATION SYSTEM.—Section 13908 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f) and inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) USE OF FEES FOR UNIFIED CARRIER REGISTRATION SYSTEM.—Fees collected under this section may be credited to the Department of Transportation appropriations account for purposes for which such fees are collected and shall be available for expenditure for such purposes until expended.''.

(m) COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE DEFINITION.—Section 14504a(a)(1)(B) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''a motor carrier required to make any filing or pay any fee to a State with respect to the motor carrier's authority or insurance related to operation within such State, the motor carrier'' and inserting ''determining the size of a motor carrier or motor private carrier's fleet in calculating the fee to be paid by a motor carrier or motor private carrier pursuant to subsection (f)(1), the motor carrier or motor private carrier''.

(n) CLARIFICATION OF UNREASONABLE BURDEN.—Section 14504a(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''interstate'' the last place it appears and inserting ''intrastate''.

(o) CONTENTS OF AGREEMENT TYPO.—Section 14504a(f)(1)(A)(ii) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''or'' the last place it appears.

(p) OTHER UNIFIED CARRIER REGISTRATION SYSTEM TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Section 14504a of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1)(B) by striking ''the a'' and inserting ''a'';

(2) in subsection (f)(1)(A)(i) by striking ''in connection with the filing of proof of financial responsibility''; and

(3) in subsection (f)(1)(A)(ii) by striking ''in connection with such a filing'' and inserting ''under the UCR agreement''.

(q) IDENTIFICATION OF VEHICLES.—Section 14506(b)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: ''or under an applicable State law if, on October 1, 2006, the State has a form of highway use taxation not subject to collection through the International Fuel Tax Agreement''.

(r) DRIVEAWAY SADDLEMOUNT VEHICLE.—

(1) DEFINITION.—Section 31111(a)(4) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading by striking ''DRIVE-AWAY SADDLEMOUNT WITH FULLMOUNT'' and inserting ''DRIVEAWAY SADDLEMOUNT'';

(B) by striking ''drive-away saddlemount with fullmount'' and inserting ''driveaway saddlemount''; and

(C) by inserting ''Such combination may include one fullmount.'' after the period at the end.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Section 31111(b)(1)(D) of such title is amended by striking ''a driveaway saddlemount with fullmount'' and inserting ''all driveaway saddlemount''.

SEC. 302. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS RELATING TO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION.

(a) DEFINITION OF HAZMAT EMPLOYEES.—Section 7102(2) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1892) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(3)(A)'' and inserting ''(3)'';

(2) in subparagraph (A) by striking ''clause (i)'' and inserting ''clause (i) of subparagraph (A)''; and

(3) in subparagraph (B) by striking ''clause (ii)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (A)(ii)''.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 5103a(g)(1)(B)(ii) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Act'' and inserting ''subsection''.

(c) PREEMPTION CORRECTION.—Section 5125 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(1) by striking ''5119(e)'' and inserting ''5119(f)'';

(2) in each of subsections (e) and (g) by striking ''5119(b)'' and inserting ''5119(f)''; and

(3) in subsection (g) by striking ''(b), (c)(1), or (d)'' and inserting ''(a), (b)(1), or (c)''.

(d) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—Section 7124(3) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1908) is amended by inserting ''the first place it appears'' before ''and inserting''.

(e) REPORT.—Section 5121(h) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2) by striking ''exemptions'' and inserting ''special permits''; and

(2) in paragraph (3) by striking ''exemption'' and inserting ''special permit''.

(f) SECTION HEADING.—Section 5128 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking the section designation and heading and inserting the following:

''§ 5128. Authorization of appropriations''.

(g) CHAPTER ANALYSIS.—The analysis for chapter 57 of title 49, United States Code, is amended in the item relating to section 5701 by striking ''Transportation'' and inserting ''transportation''.

(h) NORMAN Y. MINETA RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS IMPROVEMENT ACT.—Section 5(b) of the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Special Programs Improvement Act (49 U.S.C. 108 note; 118 Stat. 2427) is amended by inserting ''(including delegations by the Secretary of Transportation)'' after ''All orders''.

(i) SHIPPING PAPERS.—Section 5110(d)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading by striking ''SHIPPERS'' and inserting ''OFFERORS''; and

(2) by striking ''shipper's'' and inserting ''offeror's''.

(j) NTSB RECOMMENDATIONS.—Section 19(1) of the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act of 2006 (49 U.S.C. 60102 note; 120 Stat. 3498) is amended by striking ''165'' and inserting ''1165''.

SEC. 303. HIGHWAY SAFETY.

(a) STATE MINIMUM APPORTIONMENTS FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAMS.—Effective October 1, 2007, section 402(c) of the title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking ''The annual apportionment to each State shall not be less than one-half of 1 per centum'' and inserting ''The annual apportionment to each State shall not be less than three-quarters of 1 percent''.

(b) CONSOLIDATION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS.—Section 402(m) of title 23, United States Code, is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by striking ''through'' and inserting ''for which''; and

(2) by inserting ''is appropriate'' before the period at the end.

(c) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—

(1) Section 2002(b) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1521) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (2); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as (2) and (3), respectively.

(2) Section 2007(b)(1) of such Act (119 Stat. 1529) is amended—

(A) by inserting ''and'' after the semicolon at the end of subparagraph (A);

(B) by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (B); and

(C) by striking subparagraph (C).

(3) Effective August 10, 2005, section 410(c)(7)(B) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking ''clause (i)'' and inserting ''clauses (i) and (ii)''.

(4) Section 411 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by redesignating the second subsection (c), relating to administration expenses, and subsection (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively.

SEC. 304. CORRECTION OF STUDY REQUIREMENT REGARDING ON-SCENE MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION CAUSATION.

Section 2003(c)(1) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (Public Law 109–59; 119 Stat. 1522) is amended in the second sentence by striking ''shall'' and inserting ''may''.

SEC. 305. MOTOR CARRIER TRANSPORTATION REGISTRATION.

(a) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.—Section 31138 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) GENERAL REQUIREMENT.—

''(1) TRANSPORTATION OF PASSENGERS FOR COMPENSATION.—The Secretary of Transportation shall prescribe regulations to require minimum levels of financial responsibility sufficient to satisfy liability amounts established by the Secretary covering public liability and property damage for the transportation of passengers for compensation by motor vehicle in the United States between a place in a State and—

''(A) a place in another State;

''(B) another place in the same State through a place outside of that State; or

''(C) a place outside the United States.

''(2) TRANSPORTATION OF PASSENGERS NOT FOR COMPENSATION.—The Secretary may prescribe regulations to require minimum levels of financial responsibility sufficient to satisfy liability amounts established by the Secretary covering public liability and property damage for the transportation of passengers for commercial purposes, but not for compensation, by motor vehicle in the United States between a place in a State and—

''(A) a place in another State;

''(B) another place in the same State through a place outside of that State; or

''(C) a place outside the United States.''; and

(2) by striking ''commercial'' each place it appears in subsection (c)(4).

(b) TRANSPORTATION OF PROPERTY.—Section 31139 of such title is amended—

(1) by striking ''commercial motor vehicle'' in subsection (b)(1) and inserting ''motor carrier or motor private carrier (as such terms are defined in section 13102 of this title)''; and

(2) by striking ''commercial'' in subsection (c).

(c) DEFINITIONS RELATING TO MOTOR CARRIERS.—Paragraphs (6)(B), (7)(B), (14), and (15) of section 13102 of such title are each amended by striking ''commercial motor vehicle (as defined in section 31132)'' and inserting ''motor vehicle''.

(d) FREIGHT FORWARDERS.—Section 13903(a) of such title is amended to read as follows:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall register a person to provide service subject to jurisdiction under subchapter III of chapter 135 as a freight forwarder if the Secretary finds that the person is fit, willing, and able to provide the service and to comply with this part and applicable regulations of the Secretary and the Board.''.

(e) BROKERS.—Section 13904(a) of such title is amended to read as follows:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall register, subject to section 13906(b), a person to be a broker for transportation of property subject to jurisdiction under subchapter I of chapter 135, if the Secretary finds that the person is fit, willing, and able to be a broker for transportation and to comply with this part and applicable regulations of the Secretary.''.

SEC. 306. APPLICABILITY OF FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATION ON LIABILITY.

(a) APPLICABILITY FOLLOWING THIS ACT.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, section 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207) shall apply to a covered employee notwithstanding section 13(b)(1) of that Act (29 U.S.C. 213(b)(1)).

(b) LIABILITY LIMITATION FOLLOWING SAFETEA–LU.—

(1) LIMITATION ON LIABILITY.—An employer shall not be liable for a violation of section 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207) with respect to a covered employee if—

(A) the violation occurred in the 1-year period beginning on August 10, 2005; and

(B) as of the date of the violation, the employer did not have actual knowledge that the employer was subject to the requirements of such section with respect to the covered employee.

(2) ACTIONS TO RECOVER AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY PAID.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to establish a cause of action for an employer to recover amounts paid before the date of enactment of this Act in settlement of, in compromise of, or pursuant to a judgment rendered regarding a claim or potential claim based on an alleged or proven violation of section 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207) occurring in the 1-year period referred to in paragraph (1)(A) with respect to a covered employee.

(c) COVERED EMPLOYEE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered employee'' means an individual—

(1) who is employed by a motor carrier or motor private carrier (as such terms are defined by section 13102 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by section 305);

(2) whose work, in whole or in part, is defined—

(A) as that of a driver, driver's helper, loader, or mechanic; and

(B) as affecting the safety of operation of motor vehicles weighing 10,000 pounds or less in transportation on public highways in interstate or foreign commerce, except vehicles—

(i) designed or used to transport more than 8 passengers (including the driver) for compensation;

(ii) designed or used to transport more than 15 passengers (including the driver) and not used to transport passengers for compensation; or

(iii) used in transporting material found by the Secretary of Transportation to be hazardous under section 5103 of title 49, United States Code, and transported in a quantity requiring placarding under regulations prescribed by the Secretary under section 5103 of title 49, United States Code; and

(3) who performs duties on motor vehicles weighing 10,000 pounds or less.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. CONVEYANCE OF GSA FLEET MANAGEMENT CENTER TO ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of this section, the Administrator of General Services shall convey, not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, by quitclaim deed, to the Alaska Railroad Corporation, an entity of the State of Alaska (in this section referred to as the ''Corporation''), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcel of real property described in subsection (b), known as the GSA Fleet Management Center.

(b) GSA FLEET MANAGEMENT CENTER.—The parcel to be conveyed under subsection (a) is the parcel located at the intersection of 2nd Avenue and Christensen Avenue in Anchorage, Alaska, consisting of approximately 78,000 square feet of land and the improvements thereon.

(c) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As consideration for the parcel to be conveyed under subsection (a), the Administrator shall require the Corporation to—

(A) convey replacement property in accordance with paragraph (2); or

(B) pay the purchase price for the parcel in accordance with paragraph (3).

(2) REPLACEMENT PROPERTY.—If the Administrator requires the Corporation to provide consideration under paragraph (1)(A), the Corporation shall—

(A) convey, and pay the cost of conveying, to the United States, acting by and through the Administrator, fee simple title to real property, including a building, that the Administrator determines to be suitable as a replacement facility for the parcel to be conveyed under subsection (a); and

(B) provide such other consideration as the Administrator and the Corporation may agree, including payment of the costs of relocating the occupants vacating the parcel to be conveyed under subsection (a).

(3) PURCHASE PRICE.—If the Administrator requires the Corporation to provide consideration under paragraph (1)(B), the Corporation shall pay to the Administrator the fair market value of the parcel to be conveyed under subsection (a) based on its highest and best use as determined by an independent appraisal commissioned by the Administrator and paid for by the Corporation.

(d) APPRAISAL.—In the case of an appraisal under subsection (c)(3)—

(1) the appraisal shall be performed by an appraiser mutually acceptable to the Administrator and the Corporation; and

(2) the assumptions, scope of work, and other terms and conditions related to the appraisal assignment shall be mutually acceptable to the Administrator and the Corporation.

(e) PROCEEDS.—

(1) DEPOSIT.—Any proceeds received under subsection (c) shall be paid into the Federal Buildings Fund established under section 592 of title 40, United States Code.

(2) EXPENDITURE.—Funds paid into the Federal Buildings Fund under paragraph (1) shall be available to the Administrator, in amounts specified in appropriations Acts, for expenditure for any lawful purpose consistent with existing authorities granted to the Administrator; except that the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate 30 days advance written notice of any expenditure of the proceeds.

(f) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Administrator may require such additional terms and conditions to the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Administrator considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(g) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY AND SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the parcels to be conveyed under subsections (a) and (c)(2) shall be determined by surveys satisfactory to the Administrator and the Corporation.

SEC. 402. CONVEYANCE OF RETAINED INTEREST IN ST. JOSEPH MEMORIAL HALL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the terms and conditions of subsection (c), the Administrator of General Services shall convey to the city of St. Joseph, Michigan, by quitclaim deed, any interest retained by the United States in St. Joseph Memorial Hall.

(b) ST. JOSEPH MEMORIAL HALL DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''St. Joseph Memorial Hall'' means the property subject to a conveyance from the Secretary of Commerce to the city of St. Joseph, Michigan, by quitclaim deed dated May 9, 1936, recorded in Liber 310, at page 404, in the Register of Deeds for Berrien County, Michigan.

(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyance under subsection (a) shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

(1) CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the conveyance under subsection (a), the city of St. Joseph, Michigan, shall pay $10,000 to the United States.

(2) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Administrator may require such additional terms and conditions for the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Administrator considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

TITLE V—OTHER PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. DE SOTO COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.

Section 219(f)(30) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 110 Stat. 3757; 113 Stat. 334; 114 Stat. 2763A–220; 119 Stat. 282; 119 Stat. 2257) is amended by striking ''$55,000,000'' and inserting ''$75,000,000''.

SEC. 502. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REVIEW.

Consistent with applicable standards and procedures, the Department of Justice shall review allegations of impropriety regarding item 462 in section 1934(c) of Public Law 109–59 to ascertain if a violation of Federal criminal law has occurred.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

□ 1245

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill pending before us.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, here we are once again for at least the fifth time in 3 years to consider technical corrections to the SAFETEA–LU legislation.

In the 109th Congress, the gentleman from Alaska, then Chair of the full committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and I worked to bring this technical corrections bill to the House floor, passed it successfully. We dealt with hundreds and hundreds of minor adjustments, changes that normally happen in the course of passing a major bill of this nature. If I recall rightly, in ISTEA in 1991, there were 600 or 700 such technical corrections in the TEA–21 bill. In 1998 there were something like 1,200 technical corrections that had to be made. And we had a somewhat smaller number for SAFETEA–LU. We passed it three times in that Congress, and three times we could not get the other body, as we affectionately call them, to come to agreement and move the bill. We tried, in fact, after election in November, 2006, in a conference call, I recall, with Chairman YOUNG and me, with the other

body leadership, but they could not come to a resolution on the matter. So we took it up again in this Congress, and we passed it. It's been a year since we moved the bill.

This is bipartisan. Finally, it's a bicameral agreement among all the issues under jurisdiction of our committee on the bill that we passed. Finally, the Senate passed the bill by an overwhelming margin of 88–2. In our body it passed 422–1 in August of 2007.

So we now have a number of changes here. A good many of the adjustments were requested by the DOT Modal Administrators, and we have accommodated those in this legislation.

Particularly, there were errors made in drafting the final language in the research program. Funding calculations resulted in lower than intended funding levels for several research programs. These technical fixes now will finally recapture critical research funds for the Future Strategic Highway Research program aimed at dealing with highway safety, reliability, capacity, renewal; and the University Transportation Center program that provides funding for the many disciplines in the Academic Center that generate useful and productive ideas for the practitioners of highway and bridge construction and transit operation. We also have an important clarification to the repeat intoxicated driver law to allow for use of ignition interlock devices, strongly supported by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. This legislation gives States more flexibility to either continue with the 1-year license suspension or permit a 45-day license suspension with limited driving privileges.

We also have clarifying language to help the Federal Transit Administration to interpret section 3011 of SAFETEA–LU on new start and small start projects. I say ''help.'' It will put them on the right course to do the right thing that we intended in House-Senate conference on the transit title of the bill. As then Chairman YOUNG will recall, we had a very vigorous debate with the conferees from the other body on this matter, and we came out with this language, and now it's been misrepresented over there by the Federal Transit Administration.

The number of technical corrections that we provide in this legislation will allow hundreds, maybe even thousands, of projects to move more vigorously ahead to the construction stage, and I'm quite certain that we will see a generation of at least 40,000 family-wage, highway-related construction jobs that will help lift this economy out of its doldrums. With over a million construction trades workers out of a job, we'll make at least a start in getting the economy back on track and putting them back to work.

For bringing us to this stage, I especially want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), ranking member of the committee, who has devoted a great deal of time. I know personally that he has interceded with the leadership in the other body to ask them to move this legislation along, and proceeded with one of the principal recalcitrant Members of the other body. He's really done his share of shouldering the workload and then some, and I'm grateful to the gentleman. And I appreciate the enduring participation with the former chairman, Mr. YOUNG, the work that we did together in the last Congress to move the SAFETEA–LU legislation and then the technical corrections portion of it, and I appreciate that participation.

This really is a bipartisan initiative in the best tradition of this committee. Again, I thank the gentleman from Florida for his splendid work and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for the splendid effort he has made.

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

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

As we consider before the House H.R. 1195, I want to express my support for this legislation. And, first off, I'd like to thank the chairman of the committee, Mr. OBERSTAR, for his work and efforts, for his staff; Mr. DEFAZIO, who chairs the Highway Subcommittee; and also Mr. DUNCAN on our side of the aisle.

Now, I know that this bill's being here didn't come by accident. As you heard, this has passed the House at least four other times. A great deal of credit for the achievement in bringing this legislation forward also must go to the former Chair of the committee, the distinguished gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG). Mr. YOUNG worked closely with Mr. OBERSTAR in crafting legislation to deal with some of the needed changes that were necessary. When you pass a, I think it was, $286 billion transportation and highway transit authorization bill, there are always technical corrections that are needed. It's almost impossible to pass a bill of that magnitude with that many numbers, that many projects, and not come back and make adjustments, both in some of the formulas that are required and also in some of the requests from Members. So this is part of the process.

One of the most important things, as people also ask us what we are doing to move the economy forward, I think it's absolutely essential that our transportation and infrastructure projects move forward. And without this legislation that cannot be possible because, again, of some of the drafting requirements under the July, 2005, SAFETEA–LU bill that was passed.

So here we are, the fifth time the House of Representatives will pass this legislation. It should be on its way to the President. As you heard, this legislation passed in the 109th Congress. It passed in the 110th Congress. Under the leadership of Chairman YOUNG and then ranking member of the committee Mr. OBERSTAR, it moved forward, and now we have it in this Congress.

The technical corrections in this bill have been clearly identified by the Department of Transportation and also by State Departments of Transportation and are mostly a conforming nature or correcting drafting errors. Again, a huge bill with many provisions.

The largest section of the bill, section 105, makes changes to 386 high-priority projects in section 1702 of the SAFETEA–LU bill. These changes address surface transportation projects that cannot be executed as they are currently drafted in the current law, again, that we passed back in July of 2005. And, of course, next year we will be doing another bill, and that's why it's so important that we get this on the President's desk as soon as possible so that these technical changes clarify who the recipients are and project descriptions and make corrections that in some instances will increase project funding levels and decrease others to achieve budget neutrality.

There are many Members of Congress in the House and Senate who have written to our committee or to the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works or the Banking Committee in the Senate supporting specific projects and policy corrections. These requests have been submitted, I believe, through an open and transparent process. On my side of the aisle, I've tried to keep all of these requests public, available to the press, and, again, in a very transparent manner for everyone to see what has been requested, what the projects are, and who has requested them.

In this legislation there are 150 corrections made at the request of Senators, 197 corrections made at the request of House Democrats, and 138 corrections made at the request of House Republicans.

I support this legislation. It's necessary, again, to move these projects forward to stimulate our economy and build our Nation's infrastructure.

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

Mr. OBERSTAR. I have no further speakers on our side at this time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, one of the members of our committee, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MACK) has requested time, and I would like to yield him 2 minutes.

Mr. MACK. I want to thank the ranking member for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lend my strong support to passage of this important legislation, which would restore $10 million to the critical widening of I–75, which is now underway in Southwest Florida. It is the same language that we included in the transportation bill when we voted on it in 2005.

By ensuring this $10 million will be spent to widen I–75 in Lee and Collier Counties in Florida, we are protecting the economic viability, quality of life, and public safety for all who rely on it. For that, I thank my colleagues for supporting this important legislation.

While this matter has received well-deserved scrutiny, the legislative process, however flawed it has been, is now

doing what the people want and deserve. I would hope that as a result of what we have learned and what we may continue to learn that this institution will be better and that we will ensure it never happens again.

Again, I want to thank my colleagues for supporting this legislation and for doing what is best and right for the people of Southwest Florida.

□ 1300

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

Mr. MICA. Might I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 14 minutes.

Mr. MICA. I would like to yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains on our time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 13½ minutes remaining.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Alaska will be recognized for 11 minutes.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. First, let me thank the chairman of the full committee, Mr. OBERSTAR, and the ranking member, Mr. MICA, for bringing this technical corrections bill to the floor. I will be supporting this bill today because it is a good bill.

I want to again thank my minority member, Mr. OBERSTAR. When I was chairman, we had worked very hard on TEA–LU. It was the only positive piece of legislation this Congress passed in 6 years. When I say positive, it left a part of infrastructure, not all of it, for the good of this Nation. I take great pride in that because it probably created about 185,000 new jobs, $286 billion to be spent for the infrastructure and for the economy of this great Nation.

I bring that up because I hear some people talking about, well, we will repeal the 18.2 percent tax on fuel to help our consumers out. Then goodbye to the roads, the repairs, the new needs for the additional automobiles on our highways. I say beware. It will be a terrible disaster for this great Nation of ours. We have other ideas about solving the high gas prices, but that is probably the worst I have heard of all.

Having said that, I am going to go through a chronological order of what has occurred about the issue of Coconut Road. In 2001, I became chairman of the House Committee on Transportation, a position I held for 6 years. This committee is the largest committee in the House of Representatives, with oversight over all modes of transportation; aviation, highways, railroads, all public buildings, waterways, and emergency management.

As the only Congressman from Alaska, I worked very hard for the State of Alaska. I worked with the Governor, State legislature, and local officials. I can say with great pride we did very well for the State of Alaska because we need transportation in that State, as every other State needs it.

I want to remind people, the responsibility of a chairman is to address the transportation needs in all of the country. As chairman, I worked with officials throughout the country, Governors, mayors, transportation officials, and, of course, all 434 Members and delegates of this body.

As we prepared for the writing of the national transportation bill, members of our committee and I traveled extensively throughout the country at the request of House Members and State and local officials. For the thousands and thousands of transportation projects requested of us, I visited as many communities as possible to meet with the Members, local officials, and public to discuss these requests.

In 2004, Florida Gulf Coast University President William Merwin commissioned a study of a road improvement that would increase the university's ability to cope with hurricanes and other disasters. One of the recommendations in the report was for the construction of an on-ramp from Coconut Road to I–75.

In 2005, the City of Bonita Springs hired a consultant to determine if the interchange at Coconut Road and I–75 would improve traffic congestion on Bonita Beach Road, Corkscrew Road, Old 41, I–75 and Coconut Road. The study determined that the Coconut interchange would take 9,000 cars off of Bonita Road and Corkscrew Road each day, but add about 6,000 cars per day to Coconut Road.

In February 2005, I was invited by a congressional colleague, who was a member of the Transportation Committee, to his district in Florida to hear the needs and concerns of local constituents. On February 19, a town hall meeting was held at Florida Gulf Coast University, whose arena also serves as a hurricane shelter.

This town hall meeting was attended by more than 200 local constituents, transportation officials, and elected officials. One of the issues discussed at the town hall meeting was the need for a hurricane evacuation route to ensure that people could get to safety more quickly during a national disaster. This project was to be an interchange from the heavily traveled I–75 highway to Coconut Road, which leads to the Florida Gulf Coast University in Bonita Springs.

At the town hall meeting, University President William Merwin spoke of the need for a research center at the university that would focus on transportation improvements using new technologies. He also presented a study showing the need for the interchange at Coconut Road to help hurricane evacuees reach the two main shelters in south Lee County. The goal was to provide $10 million for a study, not to build, but study this interchange.

I also would like to note, to the credit of the Florida delegation, this area received $81 million for the widening of I–75. This funding was totally justified and important to the area. The $10 million for the Coconut Road study did not take any money away or divert any funds of the $81 million allocated for I–75 widening. The $10 million for the Coconut Road was funded separately under the national highway bill. Otherwise, it was money above the line.

This interchange study had the support of the Florida Gulf Coast University, the Technical Advisory Committee, which consisted of city and county transportation experts, and the local citizens' advisory committee. The Bonita Springs City Council and the Regional Planning Council Staff have also supported the interchange study. The Technical Advisory Committee and local citizens' advisory committee voted unanimously to include the study in the long range Lee Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation plan. Unanimously voted for. However, the Metropolitan Planning Organization voted not to include the interchange study in their long range plan. They instead wanted to transfer the $10 million to another project, including I–75.

While I don't agree with this organization's decision, I respect it. It's important to stress that this study funding did not go to any one person, it did not go to any one group of people. The funding was to go to the State of Florida, were they to choose to proceed with the study.

This has always been a good project. The residents of this community deserve to have a safe and effective evacuation route for themselves in case of a national disaster. With Hurricanes Katrina and Rita we saw firsthand what happens when Americans are unable to get to safety. But for now, I support these residents in their wanting to put this money towards another project. I have always supported the community's right to do what they think is best for them. The change is in this technical corrections bill, and I support it.

So why I am talking about this, other than to give the chronological order of event that occurred? Well, it's very easy. I have been the subject of much innuendo concerning my intent and motivation of this project. These accusations have little, if any, connection with what actually occurred.

I outlined my intent and motivations on this, and it is quite different from what I have been hearing lately about this study. Some of the media have made this study into being about one land owner in the area. Not one word has been mentioned about the hundreds of people who attended the town hall meeting in support of this study or about the numerous local organizations and officials who supported it.

This study was included in the largest national highway bill in history.

There were more than 6,200 high priority projects, some call them earmarks, in that bill. About half of these were sponsored by the Democrats and Republicans of this body. About half were sponsored evenly by Republicans and Democrats in the other body. These 6,200 high priority project earmarks from the House and Senate totaled 5 percent of the total highway bill. Five percent.

Two committees handled this bill, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and the Ways and Means Committee. Four committees worked on this bill in the Senate. I did not write this bill by myself. There were six committee chairmen, six ranking members, and dozens of subcommittee chairmen and subcommittee ranking members, members of both party's leadership, and countless others who played major roles in the legislation.

The 6,200 high priority projects, earmarks, were requested by virtually every Member in this House, other than 14 Members of the House, including Mr. FLAKE. This body had nothing to do with the projects requested by the other body, and they had nothing to do with those requested by this body.

This was a massive bill that was not completed until several months after the previous highway authorization had already expired. Members and staff were literally working around the clock until we were able to pass the bill in July, 2005.

As to the debate concerning the process of the enrollment of this and any other legislation, that is not a process I own or control. There are officers of the House and the Senate whose job it is to oversee this process. A committee chairman does not control the enrollment process. I have never been in an enrollment office, and I do not believe any chairman has that right.

After all the accusations and rumors about this bill, I hope this sets the record straight. This project was asked for by the community, it was supported by the Congressman from that district, and there are letters to back that up. But, the Senate is meddling in House affairs. I am supporting this bill. I welcome, if you want to welcome, an investigation into the House. I will support that. But, remember, that is a slippery, slippery road which we are about to be involved in.

We have an opportunity in this bill to stimulate the economy, keep our people working. I am going to support this legislation. But keep in mind that Coconut Road was not my idea. It was created and fostered by the local people of that community.

It's not the first time in the enrollment process. Even in this bill, Jacksonville was mentioned in the bill. What we didn't know, when the Senate and the House voted on it, was that there were six Jacksonvilles in this Nation. It had to be changed, and it was changed prior going to the President's desk, and the House never voted on it. I can go on to other cases where legislation has been changed by the enrollment process when it is considered not the intent of the House.

I thank the gentleman.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I would inquire of the gentleman from Florida if he has other speakers. We are waiting for one speaker on our side.

Mr. MICA. I do have other speakers. I would be pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

Mr. FLAKE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in opposition to this bill. H.R. 1195 is purported to be a technical corrections bill. When you hear ''technical corrections,'' you often think of missing commas or misspellings or inverted numbers or other drafting errors. We are doing far, far, far more than that here with this legislation. There are, I believe, more than 200 earmarks that are receiving so-called technical corrections here. These are substantial in nature. They are not simply technical. I think they deserve further scrutiny.

We have all found out what happens when we rush legislation like this through. The underlying bill had 6,300 or 6,200 earmarks, as was mentioned. If you're making technical corrections, they should be technical. These are more than technical. They deserve more scrutiny. We don't want to find out later that we have the same problems that we had before. For that reason, I will oppose the legislation.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to reserve my time.

Mr. MICA. May I inquire as to how much time our side has?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 7 minutes.

Mr. MICA. I would like to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman who heads up the Highway Subcommittee on our side, our ranking member, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I first would like to thank Chairman OBERSTAR, Ranking Member MICA, and Mr. DEFAZIO, the chairman of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee, for continuing to work on this important technical corrections bill. I rise to voice my support for H.R. 1195 as amended by the Senate, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same. This is the fifth time we have brought a SAFETEA–LU technical corrections bill to the House floor in the past 2 years.

The bill we are considering today is H.R. 1195. This is a bill that the House passed in March of 2007. The House also passed a more recent version of SAFETEA–LU technical corrections on August 1, 2007, H.R. 3248. As Chairman OBERSTAR mentioned, that bill passed the House with only one dissenting vote. The Senate has amended H.R. 1195 so that the version of H.R. 1195 that we are considering today includes all the changes that were made in H.R. 3248.

Once the President signs this bill, SAFETEA–LU will finally be able to accomplish what the Congress voted for it to do almost 3 years ago. There were many minor errors in policy and in Members' projects in SAFETEA–LU that needed technical correction.

□ 1315

We have heard from the U.S. Department of Transportation and several State DOTs regarding fixes to different programs and high priority projects. I believe this bill addresses most of the issues that have been brought to our attention.

This bill makes critical corrections to the Federal Highway Research Program to ensure that the department can continue essential research programs, including the Future Strategic Highway Research Program and the University Transportation Center Research Program. The bill also corrects several drafting errors regarding the Magnetic Levitation Transportation Deployment Program.

It is important to note that this bill does not make substantial policy changes to SAFETEA–LU. Rather, this bill corrects provisions that were not workable by State DOTs or the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Let me just add a couple of things. Ranking Member MICA, Chairman OBERSTAR and others have mentioned that our economy needs this bill. Just a couple of hours ago, I met with homebuilders from my district in Tennessee. In 2000, Fortune Magazine said the Knoxville metropolitan area was the most popular place to move to in the whole country based on the number moving in in relation to fewest moving out. Ours has been a very popular, fast growing area. Yet this group of homebuilders told me that their market was down 60 percent just from last year. I have been hearing similar stories. We have got some problems that need work.

One of the Republican Presidential candidates was talking about the stimulus package that we passed earlier and they said the problem with it was that we were going to be borrowing money from the Chinese so that people could buy Chinese products. I am not really talking about the merits or demerits of that bill, but he suggested that what we should do is have a stimulus package on infrastructure, because that would be doing things that needed to be done here in this country and the money would be going to American workers to do that very needed work in this country. So I think that is something that we might want to consider at a later point.

But I simply will close at this time by once again thanking our great chairman, Mr. OBERSTAR, and my boss and good friend, Ranking Member MICA, for their persistence on this technical corrections bill. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

One of the items in our technical corrections bill that I mentioned at the outset was clarifying language to help the Federal Transit Administration to properly interpret section 3011 of SAFETEA–LU on New Start and Small Start project justifications. The reason for that language was that in the consideration of the bill in the House and Senate, and then during conference on SAFETEA–LU, it was clear the Federal Transit Administration was trying to, by administrative action, change existing law.

So we, the lawmakers, gave specific direction to FTA that rather than rely so heavily on their own fabricated cost-effectiveness index in determining authorization or approval of New Start and Small Start projects, they are giving inadequate consideration to other factors, economic development and environmental benefits among them, the investments that private sector interests make at transit stops on major projects, such as Dallas Area Rapid Transit, such as the Washington Area Metro project, where over $20 billion in private sector capital investments have been made along the stops. In Dallas, it is over $1 billion. FTA was not taking into consideration those additional benefits that flow from the investment in a transit project.

Similarly, they were not taking those factors into consideration in evaluating the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project extension out to Wiehle Avenue, which is otherwise known as the Dulles Metro Extension.

Well, I am delighted that even before we moved this bill through to final enactment, the Federal Transit Administration announced this morning that it intends ''to approve entry into final design for the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project,'' one of the most important transit projects in the entire United States. This is a vital decision. It is very important to move ahead with this project, so, frankly, we don't look like a third world country when it comes to moving people and goods in our economy.

I would also like to take this opportunity to note that one of the technical corrections that was so important for us to make in this legislation is for the authority to move ahead with MAGLEV development. Magnetic levitation technology was initiated in the United States going back even before ISTEA in 1991 under an amendment that I advanced with the support of the Congressional Steel Caucus to perfect magnetic levitation technology.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Minnesota has expired.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I yield myself an additional 2 minutes.

While we continued to study it and develop it in university research centers and in contracts with the private sector, Germany and Japan moved ahead with test track MAGLEV technology projects. One of those, the German technology version, has already been implemented in Shanghai, China, while we continue to lag behind because we have not moved ahead with sufficient authority.

Well, we have provided that authority in SAFETEA–LU, but the language wasn't precise enough to satisfy the Federal Transit Administration to move ahead. So we have corrected that ambiguity, if you will, or at least what the Department of Transportation considered to be an ambiguity, with the following language. ''Fifty percent of the funds will be allocated to the Nevada Department of Transportation, who shall cooperate with the California-Nevada Super Speed Train Commission for the MAGLEV project between Las Vegas and Primm.'' In addition, the other 50 percent of the funds shall be allocated ''for existing MAGLEV projects located east of the Mississippi River, using such criteria as the Secretary deems appropriate.''

In the accompanying report, section 102 language on MAGLEV, we further specify how those funds are to be used, specifically, the 50 percent allocated to the California-Nevada Super Speed Train Commission for Las Vegas-Primm and the other 50 percent for projects east of the Mississippi. The intent of this clarification is to limit the eligible projects to three existing projects east of the Mississippi River; Pittsburgh, Baltimore-Washington and Atlanta-Chattanooga, in a competition to be determined by and evaluated and resolved by the Secretary of Transportation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Minnesota has again expired.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I yield myself an additional minute.

I earnestly hope now that after two decades of studying, evaluating and developing in very limited test modes, MAGLEV technology will now be able to move ahead with passenger MAGLEV technology.

I also note for the record that the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) and I have been working with the Port Authority of Los Angeles-Long Beach and the California Transportation Department, and Mr. ROHRABACHER with the Governor's office in California, on a MAGLEV circular route, loop route, from the Port of Los Angeles to Riverside, California, to carry container cargo that can actually pay its own way to the interior of California and avoid the grade crossings and actually haul paying passenger containers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Minnesota has again expired.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I yield myself 1 additional minute.

I think these opportunities for advancing the state of the art of this very exciting magnetic levitation technology will now come to fruition with the final language in this legislation on these two projects, plus the initiative in the Port of Long Beach-Los Angeles.

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing for our side, again I want to thank Mr. OBERSTAR and Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. DUNCAN, who spoke previously, and Mr. YOUNG, the previous Chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Let me just respond to a couple of items here. First of all, I want to join Mr. OBERSTAR. Both of us worked very hard and intently with the Governor of Virginia and with the delegation from Virginia, the Northern Virginia congressional delegation. I am so delighted to see that the extension of the Metrorail will continue out to Dulles.

It is expensive, folks. It is not going to get any cheaper. If you are looking at solutions to help the environment and deal with congestion, that is one of them, and we have to move forward. I am very pleased, and I thank the gentleman for his efforts and our joint efforts in making that possible.

We are all joined together by one common denominator in transportation, from sea to shining sea: We face congestion everywhere, in small towns, middle-sized towns, metropolitan areas. This bill, more than any other legislation that we will do this year, will move projects forward.

Now, there has been some criticism that this changes earmarks or redefines some earmarks. Yes, it does. These are congressional earmarks, and I say from our side of the aisle, I can tell you that we have done everything we can to make this process transparent, open, and have Members publicly state what their intent is. So I feel good about what we have done.

I can't control what the other body does. Mr. OBERSTAR can't either. But we have done our best to vet these projects and move the interests of this country, which is building and moving the infrastructure of this country forward. This legislation will do that. I urge Members to support this legislation.

Now, I know it does have a provision in here that does allow the Department of Justice to conduct an investigation on one of the projects. The leadership of the House and Senate and Mr. YOUNG and others have agreed to move forward with this. I don't think it sets a good precedent, because the House and Senate should be the judge of their own Members under the Constitution. Be that as it may, I will still support this bill, move forward with the process, and we will try to do our best to keep America moving forward with its infrastructure and transportation projects, which is absolutely vital to our economy at this time.

I ask Members to support this legislation, and again thank all those involved.

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

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. How much remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Two minutes.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I yield myself the balance of my time again to express my great appreciation to the gentleman from Florida for the splendid cooperation, bipartisan participation, for the efforts made here in this body and with the other body on moving them along to bring the technical corrections to a conclusion.

I also want to note for the record the gentleman from Florida joined with me in the appeal, in fact, he initiated the request to the Secretary of Transportation, Ms. Peters, last October, for a meeting in our committee offices with the Governor of Virginia, the Commissioner of Transportation for Virginia, the Northern Virginia bipartisan Republican and Democratic House delegation, with Senator WARNER's staff and FTA Administrator Simpson to discuss this Dulles Metrorail project, to bring to the attention of the administration that this is a bipartisan initiative, that we are together on supporting it, and to move it ahead. Now we are there. I thank the gentleman for his consistency and constancy on that initiative.

I concur also with the gentleman's remarks. These are technical corrections. There are 485 of them. Some of them, a good many of them, are just misspellings that needed to be technically corrected. There was some wording that the Federal Highway Administration wanted clarification on, that the Federal Transit Administration asked us to provide clarifying language on, and we do that in this legislation.

□ 1330

There were other projects where Members found that a project had been designated and was not exactly what their constituents were anticipating, they wanted to change it, dollar for dollar, no increasing, no additional spending. It is appropriate.

As former Chairman Bud Shuster was fond of saying: We Members of Congress are not potted plants. We are not there to just stand and look on benignly while the executive branch implements the legislation that we vote for. We are the ones who are accountable to raise the revenues; we are the ones who are accountable to put the policies in place, and we have a say in how they are carried out. And that is what we do with these Member high-priority projects.

So I urge all Members to support this legislation as an affirmation of the role of the people's body in setting transportation policy.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, today the House is considering H.R. 1195, a bill to make technical corrections to the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA–LU). Included in this bill is an important technical correction to a previously authorized high-priority project (HPP) which would increase vehicle crossing capacity over the Mississippi River and provide congestion relief for many of my constituents in Anoka County.

Development associated with population growth in the northwestern portion of the Twin Cities metro region has significantly increased traffic volume along the Highway 101, Highway 169, and 1–94 corridors. These increases currently cause significant delays at corridor crossings over the Mississippi River during the rush hours. Congestion experienced along these existing corridors will increase markedly as the area continues to grow.

Unfortunately, H.R. 1195 includes an error in the language referring to this project, mislabeling US 169 as US 160. In the past, typo mistakes have held up funding previously authorized by the House. I hope that my statement will serve to clarify this typo now and in the future as this important project moves forward.

Mr. OBERSTAR. 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 Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1195.

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. OBERSTAR. 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.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 308) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 308

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary (in this resolution referred to as the ''sponsor'') shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the 27th annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service (in this resolution referred to as the ''event''), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to honor the law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during 2007.

(b) DATE OF EVENT.—The event shall be held on May 15, 2008, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

(1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and

(2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsor shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsor is authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment, as may be required for the event.

SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, in connection with the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 308.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 308 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the 27th National Peace Officers' Memorial Service. Statistics from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund indicate that, in 2007, 181 officers died in the line of duty, and they will be honored at this year's memorial service.

On average, in the United States a peace officer is killed every 53 hours. Sadly, these numbers make 2007 one of the deadliest years for peace officers. Five officers were women. Forty States plus the District of Columbia experienced officer fatalities in 2007; 13 States had five or more fatalities.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as Police Week.

The first official Memorial Service took place on May 15, 1982, at which 91 law enforcement officers were honored. Over the past 27 years, the Memorial Service has honored over 3,000 law enforcement officers from around our Nation. Today, the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service on Capitol Hill has become one in a series of well-attended events during Police Week.

Activities on the Capitol Grounds conducted under H. Con. Res. 308 will be coordinated with the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, will be free

and open to the public. I support this resolution and urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

House Concurrent Resolution 308 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service to be held Thursday, May 15, 2008, as was pointed out. The National Peace Officers' Memorial Service will pay tribute to the 191 officers killed in the line of duty during 2007 and years prior.

Since 1962, this ceremony, sponsored by the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary, has honored fallen Federal, State, and local officers and their families.

This year will be the 28th time the memorial service has been held on the grounds of the Capitol. The events of National Police Week lead up to the annual Peace Officers' Memorial Service with honors for the fallen officers.

This year, National Police Week will run from Sunday, May 11, through Saturday, May 17, with events around the country and here in Washington, D.C. The families and colleagues of officers killed in duty will gather to remember and honor the men and women who protect our communities.

One of the fallen officers who will be recognized this year is Deputy Sheriff Charles Cook from Missouri. Deputy Cook served the Buchanan County Sheriffs Office honorably for 3 years before his death in the line of duty. It is entirely appropriate to honor on the floor of the House the service and sacrifice of Deputy Cook and the other officers who have lost their lives serving and protecting our communities and our country.

The service and the other events of National Police Week are valuable reminders of the sacrifices of many of our Nation's police officers and their families. I encourage my colleagues to attend the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, to pay tribute to the fallen officers, and recognize the individuals nationwide who put their lives at risk every day for the safety of our communities. I support the measure and would encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 308, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the 27th National Peace Officers' Memorial Service. More than 150 Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2007 will be honored at this Memorial Service. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, 181 officers died in the line of duty in 2007. Five officers were women. Forty States and the District of Columbia experienced officer fatalities in 2007. Thirteen States had five or more fatalities.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week in which that date falls as "Police Week". The first official memorial service took place on May 15, 1982, at which 91 law enforcement officers were honored. Over the past 27 years, the Memorial Service has honored more than 3,000 law enforcement officers from around our nation. Today, the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service on Capitol Hill has become one in a series of well attended events during Police Week.

Activities on the Capitol Grounds conducted under H. Con. Res. 308 will be coordinated with the Architect of the Capitol, will be free, and open to the public.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 308.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 308, which authorizes the use of the Capitol grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

Peace officers, the sworn, public-sector officers entrusted with law enforcement authority and the power of arrest, risk their lives daily to protect our nation. These individuals, who are responsible for safeguarding the rights and freedoms we enjoy as Americans, are true heroes.

Peace Officers Memorial Day honors those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and security of their communities and our nation. Created by Public Law 87–726, signed by President Kennedy in 1962, this day gives us the opportunity to acknowledge and pay our respects to those who, through their courageous deeds, have fallen in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, May 15, 2008, our nation will come together to honor, remember and record those law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty during the year of 2007. Mr. Speaker, one of the names of the fallen heroes added to the list last year was Officer Rodney J. Johnson of the Houston Police Department. Officer Johnson, a 12 year veteran of the Houston Police Department, was killed September 21, 2006, while taking a suspect in custody during a traffic stop. He leaves to honor his memory his beloved wife, Houston Police Department Officer Joslyn Johnson, and five teen-age children; three daughters and two sons, ages 14 to 19.

Officer Rodney Johnson was born in Houston and served in the U.S. Army as a military police officer until being honorably discharged in 1990. He then went to work as a corrections officer for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and then as a jail attendant. He graduated from the Houston police academy in 1994.

As a member of the department's Southeast Gang Task Force, Officer Rodney Johnson earned two Lifesaving Awards and one Medal of Valor from the state of Texas. In January 1998, Officer Rodney Johnson rescued a physically challenged driver trapped in rising floodwaters in January 1998 and later that year he rescued mentally challenged people trapped inside of a burning house.

Officer Rodney Johnson, who stood 6 feet 5 inches tall and weighed nearly 300 pounds, served on his union's board of directors. As Hans Marticiuc, the president of Officer Johnson's union stated, "he was big and he was intimidating-looking, but he was as gentle as a baby bear."

Although the number of officers killed in the line of duty has declined in recent years, the fact that one officer is killed every two-and-a-half days in our country is a sober reminder that protecting our communities and safeguarding our democracy come at a heavy price. Last year, the total number of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty was represented by 17,917 names engraved on the Memorial, representing officers from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, US territories, and federal law enforcement and military police agencies.

This resolution permits the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary to sponsor a free public event, the 27th Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, on the Capitol grounds on May 15, 2008. This service will honor the law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty during 2007 who have died in the line of duty, as well as the 800,000 officers who continue to serve in Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution.

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

Mr. CARNEY. 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 308.

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. CARNEY. 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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN DAY

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 444) supporting the goals and ideals of National Aviation Maintenance Technician Day, honoring the invaluable contributions of Charles Edward Taylor, regarded as the father of aviation maintenance, and recognizing the essential role of aviation maintenance technicians in ensuring the safety and security of civil and military aircraft.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 444

Whereas the safety of the flying public is ensured and the integrity of the aircraft airworthiness is personally guaranteed by individuals who comprise the professional aviation maintenance technician workforce;

Whereas the professional aviation maintenance technician is a key member of the United States military in protecting America through a strong armed forces aviation infrastructure;

Whereas the duties of aviation maintenance technicians are critical to United States homeland security and an integral component of the Nation's aerospace industry;

Whereas the professional aviation maintenance technician provides the strong infrastructure on which public confidence in our airborne transportation safety and military aviation strength is ensured;

Whereas the professional philosophy of the certificated aviation maintenance technician is embodied in the Aviation Mechanic's Creed:

UPON MY HONOR I swear that I shall hold in sacred trust the rights and privileges conferred upon me as a certified mechanic. Knowing full well that the safety and lives of others are dependent upon my skill and judgment, I shall never knowingly subject others to risks which I would not be willing to assume for myself, or for those dear to me.

IN DISCHARGING this trust, I pledge myself never to undertake work or approve work which I feel to be beyond the limits of my knowledge nor shall I allow any non-certified superior to persuade me to approve aircraft or equipment as airworthy against my better judgment, nor shall I permit my judgment to be influenced by money or other personal gain, nor shall I pass as airworthy aircraft or equipment about which I am in doubt either as a result of direct inspection or uncertainty regarding the ability of others who have worked on it to accomplish their work satisfactorily.

I REALIZE the grave responsibility which is mine as a certified airman, to exercise my judgment on the airworthiness of aircraft or equipment. I, therefore, pledge my unyielding adherence to these precepts for the advancement of aviation and for the dignity of my vocation.

Whereas in 1902 Charles Edward Taylor began working as a machinist for Orville and Wilbur Wright at the Wright Cycle Company in Dayton, Ohio;

Whereas using only a metal lathe, drill press, and hand tools, Charles Edward Taylor built, in 6 weeks, the 12-horsepower engine that was used to power the Wright brothers' first flying machine;

Whereas Charles Edward Taylor's ingenuity earned him a place in aviation history when the Wright brothers successfully flew their airplane in controlled flight on December 17, 1903;

Whereas Charles Edward Taylor had a successful career in aviation maintenance for more than 60 years;

Whereas Charles Edward Taylor was honored by the Federal Aviation Administration with the establishment of the Charles Edward Taylor Master Mechanic Award, which recognizes individuals with 50 years or more of aviation maintenance experience;

Whereas Charles Edward Taylor has become a hero to aircraft maintenance technicians worldwide; and

Whereas 45 of the States together with the Commonwealths, Territories, Republics, and Federations of the United States have already declared May 24 to be Aviation Maintenance Technician Day within their jurisdictions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports National Aviation Maintenance Technician Day to honor the professional men and women who ensure the safety and security of our airborne aviation infrastructure; and

(2) recognizes the life and memory of Charles Edward Taylor, the aviation maintenance technician who built and maintained the engine that was used to power the Wright brothers' first controlled flying machine on December 17, 1903.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

I thank the Speaker and I thank our House Speaker for bringing this to the floor today, H. Res. 444, a resolution which supports the goals and ideals of National Aviation Maintenance Technician Day, honoring the invaluable contributions of Charles Edward Taylor, regarded as the father of aviation maintenance, and recognizing the essential role of aviation maintenance technicians in ensuring the safety and security of civil and military aircraft.

With all the concerns, Mr. Speaker, today about safety and airlines, it is the men and women who actually do the maintenance that we depend on so greatly.

It was Charles Edward Taylor who built and maintained the engine that was used to power the Wright brothers' first controlled aircraft, the Flyer, and he was born in 1868. He is widely regarded as the father of aviation maintenance, and was a vital contributor of mechanical skills in the building and maintaining of early Wright brothers engines and airplanes. Taylor also built the wind tunnel used by the Wrights to test their early designs. He became a leading mechanic in the Wright Aircraft Company when it was formed in 1909. In fact, when Calbraith Perry Rodgers made his famous cross-country trip in a Wright brothers aircraft, he paid Charles Edward Taylor $70 a week, a pretty large sum at the time, to be his mechanic. Taylor followed the flight by train, making required repairs and preparing the aircraft for the next day's flight throughout the cross-country trip from Long Island to California.

Although Taylor was largely ignored by history, it is important to note that the Wright brothers were very close friends with him, and remained in close contact with him throughout their lives.

Charles Edward Taylor saved enough money from his ventures to buy several hundred acres of farmland near the Salton Sea, which is located in my district. However, the economic climate of the time eventually brought him to poverty, and he died penniless in 1956 at the age of 87. He was buried at the Portal of Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation in Burbank, California.

Mr. Speaker, the humble beginnings of the aviation maintenance profession belies the fact that all of us in the Congress and our constituents rely on the work that these technicians do every day. They play an invaluable role not only in ensuring the safety of commercial aircraft, but also ensuring that our men and women in uniform have safe, reliable planes and helicopters while in their combat and training. Thanks to these dedicated, well-trained professionals, the United States has by far the safest air transportation system in the world. We owe aircraft mechanics a debt of gratitude for their service to the flying public.

We are hearing a lot today about consolidations in the airline industry, and some airlines have already been outsourcing aviation maintenance abroad to cut their costs. I urge everyone in this Chamber to remember how critical it is for our own safety to have a well-trained U.S.-based workforce to fix and maintain our aircraft. As the airline industry seeks to cut costs and merge, it is very important for all of us to keep a watchful eye on the impact of these consolidations on aviation maintenance technicians. We cannot afford to cut corners when it comes to safety.

Mr. Speaker, 45 U.S. States have already declared May 24 to be Aviation Maintenance Technician Day within their jurisdictions. My resolution is intended to support these efforts and honor aviation maintenance technicians, including the first, Charles Edward Taylor. I urge all my colleagues to vote for H. Res. 444.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Resolution 444, Supporting National Aviation Technician Day, and honoring Charles Edward Taylor. This resolution was introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) in honor of aviation maintenance mechanics and their profession.

Day in and day out, aviation mechanics ensure the safety of the flying public. They are also critical for the safety of our Armed Forces aviation infrastructure. They keep our military aircraft flying and are key elements in ensuring their security.

The aviation mechanics creed embodies their professional philosophy. Words such as ''sacred,'' ''trust,'' ''judgment,'' and ''dignity'' are used to describe their duties and professionalism.

Our public confidence in aviation transportation is a direct result of their commitment to these ideals and the unwavering integrity of their work.

H. Res. 444 also rightly honors Charles Edward Taylor, who played a fundamental role in aviation history. In 1902, Mr. Taylor began work as a machinist in Dayton, Ohio for the Wright Cycle Company. In just 6 weeks, he built a 12 horsepower engine with only a metal lathe, a drill press, and hand tools. On December 17, 1903, his engine was used on the Wright brothers' first flying machine and propelled the world into controlled flight. Mr. Taylor's career lasted 60 years and earned him a place in aviation history. To this day, he is known as the father of aviation maintenance.

The Federal Aviation Administration's Charles Edward Taylor Master Mechanic Award is bestowed upon individuals who have over 50 years of experience in aviation maintenance and is truly an honor to receive.

Mr. Speaker, 45 States currently designate May 24 as Aviation Maintenance Technician Day. I encourage my Members to support this resolution to honor

the men and women of aviation maintenance and the life and memory of Charles Edward Taylor.

Mr. Speaker, I actually got to hear one of the very original Wright brothers engines, which was built by Mr. Taylor, at Oshkosh just a few years ago. There are still a couple of them that are existing today. They were actually built by hand, very crudely built, and I got an opportunity to hear one of them started up running. It was actually the third engine that he ever built, and it was absolutely a neat thing to see.

□ 1345

In my district I have one of the American Airlines overhaul bases which houses a lot of mechanics and aviation technicians who work on those aircraft, and from a base as large as that right down to some of our very small businesses, like Joe Rankin who runs an aviation shop in a little airport in Marionville, Missouri, those aviation mechanics are important to the entire industry.

Being a pilot myself, I know just how important good maintenance and those mechanics can be to your aircraft. It really is an honor to have the opportunity to be able to handle this bill for the minority side today. I thank the gentleman from California for his work on it. I think it truly says a lot about aviation mechanics and the reason we are honoring them.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 444. H. Res. 444 highlights the House of Representatives' support for the May 24 National Aviation Maintenance Technician Day to honor Charles Edward Taylor, the first aviation maintenance technician who created and maintained the engine used to power the Wright brothers' aircraft, and the men and women who followed in his footsteps as aviation maintenance technicians.

This resolution celebrates the life and achievements of one of the fathers of aviation while also recognizing the indispensable role aviation maintenance technicians play by ensuring the safety of civil and military aircraft and infrastructure as well as the American people. In 1901, Charles Edward Taylor left his job making 25 cents an hour at the Dayton Electric Company to make 30 cents an hour in the Wright brothers' bicycle shop. Within a year of starting, Taylor helped them build a wind tunnel to test the Wrights' theories on winds and control surfaces.

When, in 1903, the Wright brothers' tasked Taylor with creating an 8-horsepower engine to power the Flyer, his only prior experience was an attempt to repair a gasoline automobile engine in 1901. He designed and built an aluminum, water-cooled, 12-horsepower engine. He built the engine from scratch in only 6 weeks, and without drawings, using a drill press, metal lathe, and hand tools.

Taylor said, "[I] always wanted to learn to fly, but I never did. The Wrights refused to teach me and tried to discourage the idea. They said they needed me in the shop and to service their machines, and if I learned to fly, I'd be gadding about the country and maybe become an exhibition pilot, and then they'd never see me again."

After assisting the Wright brothers, Taylor went on to a pioneering aviation maintenance career spanning more than 60 years including a job as the chief mechanic for the first transcontinental flight in 1911 by Calbraith Perry Rodgers.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 444, honoring the first aviation maintenance technician, Charles Edward Taylor, and every aviation maintenance technician who has or will follow in his footsteps.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today, we are considering H. Res. 444, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of national aviation maintenance technician day, honoring Charles Edward Taylor, and recognizing the essential role of aviation maintenance technicians in ensuring the safety and security of both civil and military aircraft.

This important legislation was introduced by our colleague, Mr. FILNER.

Charles Edward Taylor was born in Illinois in 1868 and worked as the machinist for the Wright brothers in their Dayton, Ohio facility. It was here that he built the 12-horsepower engine to power the Wright brothers' first flying machine.

Taylor had an impressive career spanning over sixty years, where he did all of the preliminary engine design work for the Wright brothers and later taught them to build aircraft engines.

As a testament to his skill and this important craft, the Federal Aviation Administration awards the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award recognizing the lifetime accomplishments of certificated mechanics and repairmen who have worked in aviation for at least 50 years.

Our aviation maintenance professionals ensure the safety of aircraft each and everyday. By honoring Charles Taylor, we demonstrate our respect and admiration for this important profession.

Mr. Speaker, aviation maintenance professionals continue to keep our civil and military aircraft safe and secure. That is why I support H. Res. 444 and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. FILNER. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 444.

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.

PROMOTING THE SAFE OPERATION OF 15-PASSENGER VANS

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 964) to promote the safe operation of 15 passenger vans, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 964

Whereas an organization that owns or operates a 15-passenger van should not allow an inexperienced driver of such a van to drive the van because design and handling characteristics of a 15-passenger van make it drive differently than other passenger vehicles;

Whereas the safety records of drivers experienced in driving a 15-passenger van are significantly better than drivers not experienced in driving such a van;

Whereas according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, from 1997 through 2006, there were 1,090 fatalities of van occupants resulting from crashes involving 15-passenger vans of which 534 fatalities resulted from largely preventable single-vehicle rollover crashes of such vans;

Whereas according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, in 2005, 59 percent of the fatalities in 15-passenger van crashes occurred in single-vehicle rollover crashes, which is higher than the rollover fatality rates for any other passenger vehicle type;

Whereas 15-passenger vans require special driving skills because they are larger, with higher centers of gravity, which makes them less stable than vehicles such as cars, especially if the van is heavily loaded;

Whereas adding passengers in a 15-passenger van increases the center of gravity, causing the van to be increasingly difficult to handle and less stable;

Whereas the death rate for all occupants was higher for 15-passenger vans than for other passenger vehicle types combined;

Whereas during the period 2001 through 2005, the death rate for occupants of 15-passenger vans was 250 fatalities per million registered vehicles compared to 151 fatalities per million of all other registered vehicles;

Whereas impressing upon 15-passenger van drivers the inherent dangers of operating these vehicles, particularly when fully loaded, and educating them about proper handling and control, particularly during emergency situations, can reduce the risk of rollover, and such training can also help dispel the expectation that these vans operate like large passenger cars;

Whereas wearing safety belts dramatically increases the chances of survival during a rollover crash;

Whereas nearly 80 percent of those who died in 15-passenger van rollovers nationwide between 1990 and 2003 were not buckled up;

Whereas in fatal, single-vehicle rollover crashes involving 15-passenger vans over the past decade, 91 percent of occupants wearing safety belts survived; and

Whereas driver education and training, and general awareness of the dangers of these vans are effective means of reducing the death rates of occupants of 15-passenger vans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the House of Representatives recognizes the need for awareness regarding the increased risks of driving 15-passenger vans and encourages any operator of such a vehicle or person who provides transportation in such a vehicle to provide adequate training for drivers and safety information, including the necessity for wearing safety belts, to passengers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 964.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this issue has been highlighted and brought to the attention of the committee by the ranking member, Mr. DUNCAN. It is his resolution and he has been an activist on the committee in highlighting the problems of safety with 15-passenger vans. I appreciate his work on this issue.

We are intending to hold a hearing on safety issues, and include some testimony from individuals who have had family tragedies because of these vans. The vans have had particular problems with single-vehicle rollover crashes. They have higher rollover fatality rates than any other passenger vehicle type. From 2001 to 2005, the death rate for 15-passenger vans was 250 per million registered vehicles compared to 151 per million for all other registered vehicles.

The committee had formerly noted problems with this, and in the SAFETEA–LU legislation which was amended by technical corrections earlier by the House, Congress directed the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration to test 15-passenger vans as part of their rollover resistance program.

We also prohibited schools from purchasing, renting or leasing 15-passenger vans to transport students. But there are still a lot of these vans on the road. It is imperative that drivers be alerted to the increased risk of driving a 15-passenger van compared to a regular passenger vehicle. There have been cases even when the occupants, particularly children, because of their smaller size, were wearing lap and shoulder belts where tragic deaths occurred in some of these rollover crashes.

I look at this resolution as a first step in raising public awareness, and I hope that the committee and other committees which have jurisdiction in this area will take more definitive action in the near future.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to thank Chairman DEFAZIO for his strong and enthusiastic support for this resolution, and I want to add my support for House Resolution 964.

I introduced this resolution because of a tragic 15-passenger van accident last July in which a 10-year-old girl from my hometown of Knoxville was killed.

Alexis ''Lexie'' James was traveling in a 15-passenger van being driven by close family friends to Savannah, Georgia, for a softball tournament. The driver was not a professional driver with a commercial driver's license. In fact, a commercial driver's license is not required to drive 15-passenger vans. This van was privately owned, and there were only five passengers: the dad and mom, their 16- and 10-year-old children, and Lexie.

On July 17, 2007, as the van was traveling east on Interstate 26 near St. Matthews, South Carolina, the left rear tire of the van blew out, and the van ran off the right side of the highway, down an embankment, overturned, struck a fence, crossed the frontage road, and came to rest on its side.

Everyone in the van was wearing a seat belt, but somehow Lexie slipped out of her belt and was ejected from the van onto the frontage road and was killed.

I have met with Lexie's dad, Patrick James, and he is asking some hard questions about the safety of 15-passenger vans. The resolution we are considering today focuses on safety issues that are firmly within the jurisdiction of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee regarding driver and passenger behavior, including the need for better driver training and passenger safety information.

A 15-passenger van does not handle or operate like a larger version of a passenger car. These vans have a higher center of gravity, which makes them less stable and more difficult to handle. In addition, the bodies of the vans extend 4 to 5 feet beyond the rear wheels, causing instability during emergency maneuvers such as sudden turns. This causes the vans to fishtail, and because they are top heavy and may be overloaded in the rear, they are prone to roll over and result in devastating crashes.

In May of 2005, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued a consumer advisory safety warning to all drivers of these vehicles. The precautions that NHTSA recommends for all drivers of 15-passenger vans are:

One, keep your passenger load light.

Two, check your van's tire pressure every week.

Three, require all occupants to use seat belts or the appropriate child restraint.

Four, if possible, seat passengers and place cargo forward of the rear axle.

Five, do not place loads on the van's roof.

Six, be very mindful of speed and road conditions.

Better driver training and more thorough dissemination of safety tips like these are the best tools we have right now to help save the lives of other children and adults riding in 15-passenger vans.

As Chairman DEFAZIO just stated, this resolution is a first step towards calling the public's attention to the very dangerous situation or condition of some of these 15-passenger vans and how prone they are to very serious vehicle accidents.

I strongly support this resolution and hope to make this important safety issue a priority for the Nation. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I would again congratulate the gentleman. It is sad that such a tragedy occurred to one of his constituents. But the best we can do to try to make sense of that tragedy is to try and prevent future tragedies as a result of these sorts of vehicles.

It has been fully my intention as chairman of the committee to hold hearings on both these vans and some other related safety items that have come to the attention of the committee. The reason the hearing has been delayed is because the head of the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration has been on administrative leave for personal reasons. We expect her back in the not-too-distant future, and then intend to go ahead.

But in the interim, by passing this legislation we can at least send the message that we have concern and we can try to alert the American public, we can try and avert more tragedies.

I would also point out that our colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee have substantial jurisdiction in this area. And hopefully as they cast their votes for this initiative, this resolution here today, they will think about their jurisdiction and perhaps they too will join with us in raising concerns.

With that, I have no further requests for time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers. Once again I would thank Chairman DEFAZIO for his support and for his offer to hold a hearing on the safety involving these 15-passenger vans. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution, H. Res. 964, which seeks to promote the safe operation of 15-passenger vans and highlights an important safety issue. I thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for bringing this important issue to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the House.

This resolution encourages all organizations owning or operating a 15-passenger van not to allow inexperienced drivers to operate these vehicles without proper training and education regarding the safe operation of these vehicles. The design and handling characteristics of 15-passenger vans make them different to drive than other passenger vehicles.

The operators of these vehicles must understand the special driving skills necessary for their safe operation due to the larger size and higher centers of gravity. These characteristics make 15-passenger vans less stable than vehicles such as cars.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, from 1997 through 2006, there were 1,090 fatalities of van occupants resulting from crashes involving 15-passenger vans, of which 534 fatalities resulted from largely preventable single-vehicle rollover crashes of such vans.

Furthermore, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, in 2005, 59 percent of the fatalities in 15-passenger van crashes

occurred in single-vehicle rollover crashes, which is higher than the rollover fatality rates for any other passenger vehicle type. The threat of rollover in these vehicles becomes even greater when operators place heavy loads on the roofs of the vans, such as luggage.

Mr. Speaker, safety belts dramatically increase the chances of survival during a rollover crash. Nearly 80 percent of those who died in 15-passenger van rollovers nationwide between 1990 and 2003 were not buckled up. These striking statistics paint a very clear portrait of the dangers associated with 15-passenger vans, and that the operation of these vans by inexperienced drivers raises significant safety concerns for operators and passengers in these vehicles.

In the last federal surface transportation act, we made progress on this issue. However, more must be done to bring public awareness to this critical issue impacting the public safety on our nation's roadways. As we embark on the initial stages of our next surface transportation authorization bill, we must include the concerns raised by H. Res. 964 in our discussions and ensure that the safety problems associated with 15-passenger vans are addressed.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 964.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. 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 Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 964, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: ''Resolution promoting the safe operation of 15-passenger vans.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO NEWBORN SCREENING SAVES LIVES ACT

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5919) to make technical corrections regarding the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5919

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO NEWBORN SCREENING SAVES LIVES ACT.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.—

(1) IMPROVED SCREENING.—Section 1109 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b–8(j)), as added by section 2 of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007, is amended by striking subsection (j) and inserting the following:

''(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated—

''(1) to provide grants for the purpose of carrying out activities under subsection (a)(1), $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; $15,187,500 for fiscal year 2010, $15,375,000 for fiscal year 2011, $15,562,500 for fiscal year 2012, and $15,750,000 for fiscal year 2013; and

''(2) to provide grants for the purpose of carrying out activities under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (a), $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, $15,187,500 for fiscal year 2010, $15,375,000 for fiscal year 2011, $15,562,500 for fiscal year 2012, and $15,750,000 for fiscal year 2013.''.

(2) EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS.—Section 1110(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b–9(d)), as added by section 3 of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007, is amended by striking ''2008'' and all that follows and inserting ''2009, $5,062,500 for fiscal year 2010, $5,125,000 for fiscal year 2011, $5,187,500 for fiscal year 2012, and $5,250,000 for fiscal year 2013.''.

(3) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Section 1111 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b–11), as amended by section 4 of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007, is amended—

(A) in subsection (d)(2), by striking ''2007'' and inserting ''2008'';

(B) in subsection (e), by striking ''2007'' and inserting ''2008'';

(C) in subsection (f), by striking ''2007'' and inserting ''2008''; and

(D) in subsection (g), by striking ''2008'' and all that follows and inserting ''2009, $1,012,500 for fiscal year 2010, $1,025,000 for fiscal year 2011, $1,037,500 for fiscal year 2012, and $1,050,000 for fiscal year 2013.''.

(4) CLEARINGHOUSE.—Section 1112 of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 5 of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(4)(D), by striking ''2007'' and inserting ''2008''; and

(B) in subsection (d), by striking ''2008'' and all that follows and inserting ''2009, $2,531,250 for fiscal year 2010, $2,562,500 for fiscal year 2011, $2,593,750 for fiscal year 2012, and $2,625,000 for fiscal year 2013.''.

(5) LABORATORY QUALITY.—Section 1113(b) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 6 of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007) is amended by striking ''2008'' and all that follows and inserting ''2009, $5,062,500 for fiscal year 2010, $5,125,000 for fiscal year 2011, $5,187,500 for fiscal year 2012, and $5,250,000 for fiscal year 2013.''.

(6) INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—Section 1114(e) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 6 of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007) is amended by striking ''2008'' and all that follows and inserting ''2009, $1,012,500 for fiscal year 2010, $1,025,000 for fiscal year 2011, $1,037,500 for fiscal year 2012, and $1,050,000 for fiscal year 2013.''.

(7) HUNTER KELLY RESEARCH PROGRAM.—Section 1116(a)(1)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 7 of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007) is amended by striking ''and or'' and inserting '', or''.

(b) OTHER TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—The Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007 is amended—

(1) in section 1, by striking ''2007'' and inserting ''2008''; and

(2) in section 4(2)(A), by inserting '', respectively'' before the semicolon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5919, a bill to make minor technical corrections to the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act that was signed into law last week by President Bush.

I thank Chairman DINGELL and Chairman PALLONE for bringing this technical corrections bill to the House floor so promptly.

Passage of H.R. 5919 will help us implement the provisions of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act to address the State disparities that currently exist in newborn screening. The act encourages States to uniformly test newborns, and keep an updated scientifically recommended panel of disorders.

The new law also provides resources for States to expand and improve their newborn screening programs; it provides grants to empower health care professionals and parents with information about the importance of newborn screening and follow-up care; and it requires the Centers for Disease Control to ensure the quality of laboratories involved in newborn screening.

Passage of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act has been one of my legislative priorities for over 4 years. I sincerely thank my original co-sponsors, Congressmen MICHAEL SIMPSON, TOM REYNOLDS, and HENRY WAXMAN, and my colleagues in the House whose support helped to make passage of the bill a reality.

I also thank Senators CHRIS DODD, HILLARY CLINTON, and ORRIN HATCH for championing the Senate companion bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5919 so we can begin to eliminate preventable newborn disabilities and deaths, and give all newborn babies in our country an equal opportunity for a healthy life.

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

□ 1400

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I too rise in support of H.R. 5919, a bill to make technical corrections to the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007.

The House and Senate both overwhelmingly agreed to the underlying legislation just last month. However, there needed to be a change in the date. Another version was sent to the White House, so now we're here to make the corrections that were supposed to have been made then. So that's all that this is. We all support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his support.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5919.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5919.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5522, COMBUSTIBLE DUST EXPLOSION AND FIRE PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1157 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1157

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5522) to require the Secretary of Labor to issue interim and final occupational safety and health standards regarding worker exposure to combustible dust, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration in the House of H.R. 5522 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROSS). The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

I yield myself such time as I may consume. I also ask unanimous consent that all Members may be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 1157.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 1157 provides for the consideration of H.R. 5522, the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act of 2008, under a structured rule. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate controlled by the Committee on Education and Labor, and makes in order the committee-reported substitute. It also makes in order two amendments printed in the Rules report, with a manager's amendment debatable for 10 minutes and the Wilson substitute debatable for 30 minutes.

Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this rule and the underlying legislation, H.R. 5522, the Worker Protection Against Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Act of 2008. It directs the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue rules regulating combustible industrial dust that can build up to hazardous levels and explode.

Combustible dust has caused deaths and injuries to workers in our Nation, deaths and injuries that could have been prevented. Most recently, everyone can recall the enormous explosion in February at the Imperial Sugar refinery in Savannah, Georgia, which claimed the lives of 13 workers and injured over 60. Many of these workers remain hospitalized today, receiving care for the severe burns they received on that awful day.

While OSHA has marginally improved dust inspection procedures, this legislation goes further to bring combustible dust emissions under control by establishing stronger standards. Included are engineering controls, hazardous inspection, security assessments, housekeeping and explosion protection standards.

□ 1415

Specifically, the Worker Protection Against Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Act requires OSHA to issue an interim final standard to control the risk of combustible dust explosions. The standard would contain provisions for housekeeping, engineering controls, and worker training.

Mr. Speaker, in 2003, there was a series of similar explosions at various factories due to combustible dust. The U.S. government undertook a study carried out by the Chemical Safety Board to determine the causes and make recommendations to OSHA. That report came out 2 years ago in 2006. OSHA has yet to issue standards to control the risks to workers and companies on the hazards of combustible dust.

For this reason, the bill requires an interim standard to be issued. OSHA would then be required to issue a final standard within 18 months through its regular procedures. OSHA would be required to ''include relevant and appropriate provisions of National Fire Protection Association combustible dust standards.''

H.R. 5522 would also direct OSHA to explicitly list combustible dusts as a ''physical hazard'' in the Hazard Communication Standard, which requires employers to train workers about the chemical hazards that they are exposed to.

Mr. Speaker, every worker in this country deserves a safe and healthy work environment. The AFL–CIO, the UAW, the International Association of Firefighters, the American Industrial Hygiene Association, the SEIU, the Teamsters, and the United Food and Commercial Workers Union all strongly support this important legislation.

By establishing stronger protections and safer standards, this legislation better ensures thousands of workers in refineries, mills, and plants from risk of death or injury.

I urge my colleagues to support the rule, and I support the underlying legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for the time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On February 7, 2008, a terrible explosion occurred at the Imperial Sugar Company refinery in the community of Port Wentworth, Georgia. The explosion killed 13 people, injured over 40 refinery workers. That explosion at the Imperial Sugar Company refinery pointed to the danger of combustible dust in the workplace. It's a very serious concern, and we must take every possible step to protect workers from those dangers.

The underlying legislation, the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act, would require OSHA to issue an interim final combustible dust standard within 90 days and a permanent standard within 18 months. It also

lists a specific number of items that would be required under the Interim Final Standard including a written dust control program, hazard assessment, worker training and employee participation in the development and conduct of the dust control program. OSHA would also be required to include combustible dust in the definition of physical hazards in OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard.

It is quite disconcerting, Mr. Speaker, that on an issue as important as workplace safety, the majority is only allowing the House of Representatives to consider one amendment by the minority, one Republican amendment. The majority campaign platform said they would run the House of Representatives in an open and bipartisan manner, yet they systematically and consistently block the minority time and time again from offering amendments.

All Members of this representative institution wish to do the most they can to provide workers a safe working environment, Mr. Speaker. And it is most unfortunate that the majority blocks Members from offering their proposals. Instead of offering such a tightly structured rule, the majority should be allowing every Member the opportunity to offer their thoughts and proposals to the House for consideration.

As important as the underlying legislation may be, I believe there are other issues that are on the minds of Americans at this point that are pressing to Americans: For example, confronting the rising cost of gasoline.

On Monday, hundreds of truckers drove through the streets of this capital city to protest in desperation the rising cost of diesel fuel. They are not the only ones desperate due to the rising oil prices. All consumers are paying more for gasoline, which also causes price increases in virtually every consumer product, including food. A recent policy found that 44 percent of Americans find paying for gasoline to be their top personal economic problem.

Since Democrats took control of Congress in January of last year, the cost of a gallon of unleaded gasoline has skyrocketed. According to AAA, the national average for regular unleaded gas has gone up $1.20 during that time. The cost of gas has gone up more in 15 months than it had gone up in the prior 6 years.

But oil prices don't have to be so high, Mr. Speaker, because I understand the majority claims to have a plan, a plan to reduce oil prices. Just over 2 years ago, April 2006, now-House Speaker NANCY PELOSI, then the Democrat minority leader, issued a press release claiming that House Democrats, ''have a commonsense plan to bring down skyrocketing gas prices.'' Two weeks after that press release, then-Minority Leader PELOSI said that Democrats have ''real solutions'' that would lower the price at the pump. That was 2 years ago.

Democrats have controlled Congress for a year and a half, and we have yet to see them act on their ''commonsense plan to bring down skyrocketing gas prices.''

Instead of empty promises, Republicans are working on providing relief to consumers faced with the constantly rising cost of gasoline. For example, last week, I, along with several of my colleagues, introduced H.R. 5905, the CARS Act, the prime sponsor of which is Congressman MARIO DIAZ-BALART. That legislation would give commuters a tax break on their commuting expenses. That important legislation will actually help taxpayers with the rising cost of gasoline, unlike the majority's ''mystery plan,'' the mystery plan, Mr. Speaker, that we have not yet seen.

At this time, I reserve my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I would ask the gentleman if he has any other speakers.

I will reserve my time and let the gentleman close.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to thank Mr. MCGOVERN for the time. Back in April of 2006, as I just said, over 2 years ago, the now distinguished Speaker, Ms. PELOSI, issued the following statement, ''With skyrocketing gas prices, it is clear that the American people can no longer afford the Republican rubberstamp Congress and its failure to stand up to Republican big oil and gas company cronies. Americans this week are paying $2.91 a gallon on average for regular gasoline, 33 cents higher than last month and double the price than when President Bush first came into office.''

Mr. Speaker, most Americans would be happy if they were paying $2.91 for a gallon of gasoline.

In the same press release, the distinguished Speaker went on to say, ''Democrats have a commonsense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices.''

Well, while I hear they have a plan, I haven't seen the mystery plan, Mr. Speaker. Instead, while we wait for the majority to act, the cost of fuel continues to rise with the average cost of a gallon of gasoline now being over $3.60, hitting consumers at the pump every time they go to fill up their cars, reinforcing the fact that the majority has yet to confront the high price of gasoline.

Today, Investor's Business Daily in an editorial said that this Congress is ''possibly the most irresponsible in modern history. This is especially true when it comes to America's dysfunctional energy policy.''

Mr. Speaker, I insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that editorial from Investor's Business Daily.

[From Investor's Business Daily, Apr. 30, 2008]

CONGRESS VS. YOU

We've said it before, but we'll say it again: This Congress is possibly the most irresponsible in modern history. This is especially true when it comes to America's dysfunctional energy policy.

The media won't call either the House or the Senate on its failures, for one very obvious reason: They mostly share an ideology with the Democrats that keeps them from understanding how free markets and supply and demand really work. Sad, but true.

So we were happy to hear the president do the job, calling out Congress for its inaction and ignorance in his wide-ranging press conference Tuesday.

''Many Americans are understandably anxious about issues affecting their pocketbook, from gas and food prices to mortgage and tuition bills,'' Bush said. ''They're looking to their elected leaders in Congress for action. Unfortunately, on many of these issues, all they're getting is delay.''

Best of all, Bush didn't let the issue sit with just generalities. He reeled off a bill of particulars of congressional energy inaction, including:

Failing to allow drilling in ANWR. We have, as Bush noted, estimated capacity of a million barrels of oil a day from this source alone—enough for 27 million gallons of gas and diesel. But Congress won't touch it, fearful of the clout of the environmental lobby. As a result, you pay at the pump so your representative can raise campaign cash.

Refusing to build new refineries. The U.S. hasn't built one since 1976, yet sanctions at least 15 unique ''boutique'' fuel blends around the nation. So even the slightest problem at a refinery causes enormous supply problems and price spikes. Congress has done nothing about this.

Turning its back on nuclear power. It's safe and, with advances in nuclear reprocessing technology, waste problems have been minimized. Still, we have just 104 nuclear plants—the same as a decade ago—producing just 19% of our total energy. (Many European nations produce 40% or more of their power with nuclear.) Granted, nuclear power plants are expensive—about $3 billion each. But they produce energy at $1.72/kilowatt-hour vs. $2.37 for coal and $6.35 for natural gas.

Raising taxes on energy producers. This is where a basic understanding of economics would help: Higher taxes and needless regulation lead to less production of a commodity. So by proposing ''windfall'' and other taxes on energy companies plus tough new rules, Congress makes our energy situation worse.

These are just a few of Congress' sins of omission—all while India, China, Eastern Europe and the Middle East add more than a million barrels of new demand each and every year. New Energy Department forecasts see world oil demand growing 40% by 2030, including a 28% increase in the U.S.

Americans who are worried about the direction of their country, including runaway energy and food prices, should keep in mind the upcoming election isn't just about choosing a new president. We'll also pick a new Congress.

The current Congress, led on the House side by a speaker who promised a ''common sense plan'' to cut energy prices two years ago, has shown itself to be incompetent and irresponsible. It doesn't deserve re-election.

Today, I will be asking my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the previous question for this rule, Mr. Speaker. If the previous question is defeated, I will amend the rule to make it in order for the House to consider any amendment that would actually do something to reduce gas prices for consumers, such as H.R. 5905, the CARS Act, which would give

commuters a tax break on their commuting expenses and actually help alleviate the price of energy for the consumer. It will also give the majority the chance to introduce, Mr. Speaker, the ''mystery plan'' that they claim to have.

By voting ''no'' on the previous question, Members can take a stand against these high fuel prices and demand that the majority act on their plan. The majority said they had a plan. Let's see the mystery plan, Mr. Speaker. Let's see the mystery plan.

I encourage a ''no'' vote on the previous question.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, let me remind my colleagues that the underlying bill that we are dealing with is a bill that would actually protect workers in the workplace, the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act of 2008, and it's a bill that responds to a terrible tragedy that has killed a number of workers and injured a number of workers. We need to pass this bill, and I hope we will pass the rule and pass the underlying bill.

But I have to say, Mr. Speaker, it is almost laughable to hear a member of the minority get up and talk about energy prices. The Republicans have controlled the White House for 8 years. They controlled the Congress for 12 years, and we have seen energy costs rise and rise and rise under their leadership; and we have seen their policy, which is to give more subsidies and more tax breaks to Big Oil, and they have fought us consistently in trying to invest resources into alternative sources of energy, into forms of energy to help make us more independent from foreign oil.

Speaker PELOSI called on President Bush to suspend purchases of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve temporarily. You know, filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, Mr. Speaker, takes 70,000 barrels of oil off the market each day even though the reserve is 97 percent full with enough to meet our national security needs. That's a good idea. Republicans opposed that.

At a time of record gas prices, suspending these government purchases, as we have done in the past, could reduce gas prices by 5 to 24 cents a gallon, a critical first step for America's families, businesses and the economy.

For years, Mr. Speaker, Democrats fought to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and bring down gas prices and launch a cleaner, smarter energy future for America. Yet with Republican obstructionism, American consumers and businesses have had more pain at the pump paying a record $3.56 a gallon.

President Bush and congressional Republicans have spent all of their time in power doling out billions and billions and billions of dollars in subsidies to big oil companies instead of working for energy independence plans for America.

We have had a number of important pieces of legislation that we have brought to the floor such as H.R. 1252, the Federal Price Gouging Prevention Act, to crack down on gas price gouging, something that is a reality in this market.

□ 1430

It was opposed by 140 Republicans.

We had a bill, H.R. 2264, the No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act, to hold OPEC accountable for oil price fixing. That was opposed by 67 Republicans, including almost the entire Republican leadership.

We have had a bill to repeal the subsidies to profit-rich big oil companies and invest in renewable energy, which was H.R. 5351, the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008. It passed on February 27, 236–182. One hundred seventy-four Republicans opposed that, including the President of the United States. Now, get this, Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have opposed a measure that would take away the taxpayer-funded subsidies from the five biggest oil companies in this country that are making record profits, historic profits, it would take those subsidies and put it into renewable energy to help us become more energy independent, and they opposed it, and the President said he would veto it. And they have stopped progress on that measure.

They opposed the Energy Independence and Security Act, which would be an energy independence law with a market manipulation ban and new vehicle mileage standards. Again, the majority of the Republicans stood up and opposed these commonsense measures to help us become more energy independent and to help bring these gas prices down.

So their record is clear. It has been one of obstructionism. And it has been a record that has always been in the corner of Big Oil and against investing properly in some of these new technologies.

So President Bush and the Republicans have blocked our efforts virtually every step of the way. I hope that that will change after the next election. I expect that will change after the next election. But it is time for the Republicans to change their habit of saying ''no'' to consumers and American business on gas prices and always saying ''yes'' to Big Oil.

Enough is enough. It is time for House Republicans to provide the critical votes needed for a veto-proof majority for the legislation that I have outlined here today.

Americans are paying a heavy price for the obstructionism of the Republicans in this Congress and the President of the United States. They don't want to give any more taxpayer subsidies to the big oil companies. They want us to redirect those resources into commonsense, clean, renewable, alternative sources of energy. If we do that, Mr. Speaker, then we will get these gas prices under control, and we will also take a big step forward in cleaning up our environment.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would urge a ''yes'' vote on the previous question and on the rule.

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 1157 OFFERED BY MR. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALARAT OF FLORIDA

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution or the operation of the previous question, it shall be in order to consider any amendment to the substitute which the proponent asserts, if enacted, would have the effect of lowering the national average price per gallon of regular unleaded gasoline. Such amendments shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for thirty minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 of rule XXI.

SEC. 4. Within five legislative days the Speaker shall introduce a bill, the title of which is as follows: ''A bill to provide a common sense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices.'' Such bill shall be referred to the appropriate committees of jurisdiction pursuant to clause 1 of rule X.

(The information contained herein was provided by Democratic Minority on multiple occasions throughout the 109th Congress.)

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Democratic majority agenda and a vote to allow the opposition, at least for the moment, to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives, (VI, 308–311) describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as ''a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.'' To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that ''the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition'' in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: ''The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.''

Because the vote today may look bad for the Democratic majority they will say ''the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.'' But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the definition of the previous question used in the Floor Procedures Manual published by the Rules Committee in the 109th Congress, (page 56). Here's how the Rules Committee described the rule using information from Congressional Quarterly's ''American Congressional Dictionary'': ''If the previous

question is defeated, control of debate shifts to the leading opposition member (usually the minority Floor Manager) who then manages an hour of debate and may offer a germane amendment to the pending business.''

Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled ''Amending Special Rules'' states: ''a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.'' (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: ''Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.''

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Democratic majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

COMMENDING THE KANSAS JAYHAWKS FOR WINNING THE 2008 NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1096) commending the University of Kansas Jayhawks for winning the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I basketball championship.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1096

Whereas on April 7, 2008, the University of Kansas Jayhawks defeated the University of Memphis Tigers 75–68 in the final game of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Men's Basketball Tournament in San Antonio, Texas, on the 20th anniversary of the historic win by the team led by Danny Manning, known as ''Danny and the Miracles'';

Whereas the Jayhawks now hold 5 men's basketball national titles, including 3 NCAA men's basketball championships;

Whereas with this win, the Jayhawks achieved a school record for all-time season wins, posting a 37–3 record during their run for the title, and finished the season with a 13-game winning streak, securing the Big XII Conference Championship title after starting the season with a 20-game undefeated record, in addition to the 2008 NCAA Division I men's basketball crown;

Whereas Kansas head coach Bill Self won his first NCAA title and improved his all-time record at Kansas to 142–32;

Whereas Kansas guard Mario Chalmers was chosen as the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four, and was named to the NCAA Final Four All-Tournament Team, along with guard Brandon Rush and forward Darrell Arthur;

Whereas Kansas seniors Jeremy Case, Darnell Jackson, Sasha Kaun, Russell Robinson, Rodrick Stewart, and Brad Witherspoon ended their collegiate careers with a national championship;

Whereas the roster of the Kansas Jayhawks also included juniors Brennan Bechard and Matt Kleinmann; sophomores Sherron Collins and Brady Morningstar; and freshmen Cole Aldrich, Chase Buford, Tyrel Reed, and Conner Teahan;

Whereas the Jayhawks' student-athletes, coaches, staff, and others associated with the team continue to represent the University of Kansas and the State of Kansas with exemplary sportsmanship, and deserve praise and credit for their efforts and their dedication to the common goal of winning the NCAA men's basketball championship;

Whereas the students at the University of Kansas, Jayhawk fans, and members of the Lawrence, Kansas, community showed tremendous class in their celebration of the Jayhawks' historic win; and

Whereas the families of the student-athletes, students, alumni, and faculty of the University of Kansas, and all the supporters of the University of Kansas, are to be congratulated for their commitment to, and pride in, the basketball program at the University: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the University of Kansas men's basketball team for winning the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I basketball championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all the student-athletes, coaches, and support staff who were instrumental in helping the University of Kansas men's basketball team win its 3rd NCAA Division I basketball championship and 5th national championship; and

(3) respectfully requests the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to—

(A) the University of Kansas for appropriate display;

(B) Robert Hemenway, the Chancellor of the University of Kansas;

(C) Lew Perkins, the Athletic Director of the University of Kansas; and

(D) Bill Self, the Head Coach of the University of Kansas men's basketball team.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert relevant material to H. Res. 1096 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, all of us know of the tremendous importance of the game of basketball to the United States of America and all that it provides for all of us in terms of the thrills everybody shares when they're watching their favorite team.

I rise to congratulate the University of Kansas Jayhawks for their win in the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I men's basketball tournament.

On April 7, 2008, the University of Kansas won their fifth men's national basketball title by defeating the University of Memphis Tigers. College basketball fans and players were treated to an exciting national championship game, with victory coming to the Jayhawks after an amazing effort which pushed the game into overtime.

I want to extend congratulations to Head Coach Bill Self, Athletic Director Lew Perkins, University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemingway, and Kansas' student athletes on an excellent season. While securing their first national title in 20 years, the Jayhawks also won the Big 12 Conference championship title. The Jayhawks also set a school record for all-time season wins with a 37–3 record.

I also wish to extend congratulations to the University of Memphis Tigers and their student athletes for a great season. The Tigers' loss in the finals was only their second loss of the season. Memphis also won Conference USA with a perfect 16–0 record.

Winning the 2008 national championship has brought national attention and acclaim to the University of Kansas' outstanding basketball program. I know that the fans of this university will remember this very special moment for many years to come.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1096, commending the University of Kansas Jayhawks for winning the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I basketball championship.

On April 7 of this year, trailing 60–51 with just 2:12 left in regulation, the University of Kansas Jayhawks mounted a comeback that will go down as one of the most memorable in NCAA history. In overtime, the Jayhawks defeated Memphis 75–68 to win the national championship, its fifth national title in school history. With this win, the Jayhawks achieved a school record for all-time season wins, posting a 37–3 record during their run for the title. The Jayhawks finished the season with a 13-game winning streak, securing the Big 12 Conference championship in addition to the national title.

Jayhawks guard Mario Chalmers was chosen as the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four and was named to the NCAA Final Four All-Tournament Team along with guard Brandon Rush and forward Darrell Arthur. Seniors

Jeremy Case, Darnell Jackson, Sasha Kaun, Russell Robinson, Rodrick Stewart and Brad Witherspoon ended their collegiate careers with a national championship. In addition, this was Head Coach Bill Self's first NCAA title. He improved his all-time record at Kansas to 142 wins, 32 losses.

KU has a rich history beyond the basketball court as well. Opened in 1866, the University of Kansas is a comprehensive educational and research institution with 29,000 plus students and more than 2,000 faculty members. KU includes the main campus in Lawrence, a city of about 88,000 in northeastern Kansas; the Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas; the Edwards Campus in Overland Park; a clinical campus of the School of Medicine in Wichita; and educational and research facilities throughout the State.

Pulitzer and Nobel Prize winners have graduated from this great university, and many pharmacists, teachers, nurses and doctors have begun their careers at KU as well.

Today, I would like to congratulate Robert Hemingway, KU's Chancellor; Lew Perkins, the Director of Athletics; the student athletes, the students, alumni and all fans for the Jayhawks' historic win.

I'm happy to join with my colleague, Representative MOORE, in honoring this exceptional team and all its accomplishments, and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Kansas, Representative DENNIS MOORE.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, it's my great privilege today to honor the 2008 NCAA men's Division I basketball champions, the University of Kansas Jayhawks, and to encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 1096.

The University of Kansas men's basketball team began their season by winning 20 straight games on their way to a final regular season record of 28–3, a share of the Big 12 regular season title and the Big 12 Conference tournament title.

Upon being selected a number one seed in the NCAA tournament, the Jayhawks defeated their first three opponents by 24 points, 19 points and 15 points, respectively. When challenged by Davidson in the regional final and the University of North Carolina in the national semifinal game, Kansas won these competitive, emotionally charged games by emphasizing teamwork, persistence, and focus, three qualities they displayed all season long.

And finally, the Jayhawks won the national title by besting a skilled Memphis team in one of the most dramatic games in Final Four history, 20 years after another Kansas team lead by Danny Manning also won the national championship in dramatic fashion.

As a proud alum of the University of Kansas, I was proud that through the entire season the students, athletes, coaches and everyone associated with the University of Kansas men's basketball team represented the university and the State of Kansas in great fashion by demonstrating sportsmanship, skill, and the ability to overcome adversity. They deserve praise and credit for their efforts and for their dedication of the common goal of winning the NCAA championship.

It should also be said that the students of the University of Kansas, the members of the Lawrence, Kansas community and Jayhawk fans everywhere showed tremendous class in the celebration of the Jayhawks' historic win. And, friends, this is a Jayhawk.

Students and fans take great pride in Kansas basketball, and I believe that this commitment and passion was demonstrated by the fact that nearly 80,000 people showed up on a chilly spring afternoon for the team's championship parade and celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to stand here today to pay tribute to the hard work and success of this championship team, its coaches and its fans, and I ask my colleagues to please support House Resolution 1096.

Rock Chalk Jayhawks!

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and would recognize that he is proudly wearing his KU colors as an undergraduate and law degree graduate of the university.

□ 1445

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today with my colleague the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) as we commend and congratulate an amazing year at the University of Kansas in its Department of Athletics with an earlier victory at the Orange Bowl in the football program followed up by a victory by our basketball team at the Final Four in San Antonio, Texas, just a few weeks ago. We're anxious to have the Jayhawks—the players, the team, and school athletic officials—here so that our colleagues from Congress can greet and congratulate them, and we hope that happens in the near future. And we are also expecting that the President will invite the Jayhawks to the White House for the traditional commendation from the President of the United States.

I, of course, support House Resolution 1096 commending my alma mater, the University of Kansas. It's been a long time for Kansas Jayhawk basketball fans since ''Danny Manning and the Miracles'' shocked the sporting world and defeated the Oklahoma Sooners and won KU's last basketball championship. In that time since 1988, KU has had many memorable moments but also some real heartbreaks as at times it came up just a bit short in returning the championship trophy back to Kansas.

On April 7 the Jayhawks were trailing the Memphis Tigers 60–51 with 2:12 left in regulation. Then began one of the most amazing comebacks that we have seen in the history of basketball and one of the most memorable college basketball experiences. With just 2.1 seconds left in regulation, Final Four MVP Mario Chalmers hit a game-tying 3 point shot. It was the exact scenario that every young kid dreams of when practicing shooting those baskets in their home driveway. KU went on to defeat Memphis 75–68 to claim its fifth national championship to the jubilation of Kansans everywhere.

In our State we have a number of choices for students to attend college and a lot of rivalries within our State. Two of the greatest rivalries, Kansas State University and their outstanding program, as well as the University of Kansas and their program. But even our Wildcat fans and K State supporters were pleased and proud of the Kansas victory. Forty thousand fans celebrated that night in Lawrence, and later close to a hundred thousand Kansans came across our State to share in the Jayhawk victory parade in Lawrence, Kansas.

I should also mention that the class that all Kansans showed that night in celebrating, Kansans were typical Kansans that evening, well behaved but in a great mood of celebration.

The University of Kansas has one of the most distinguished histories in college basketball. The founder of basketball, Dr. James Naismith, was the first coach at the University of Kansas, and he was also the only coach in KU's history to ever have a losing season. This is KU's fifth national championship, and they've been to the Final Four 13 times and have captured an astounding 51 conference titles in history.

My congratulations to the chancellor of the university, my friend Bob Hemenway; and to my friend the athletic director, Lew Perkins; Coach Bill Self; the assistant coaches Danny Manning, Joe Dooley, Kurtis Townsend, Brett Ballard, and Ronnie Chalmers; and the outstanding KU basketball team.

All Kansans are proud. We commend you on this amazing year and your success. And as the congressman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) says, ''Rock Chalk Jayhawk.''

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to yield now such time as she may consume to the distinguished cosponsor of this resolution, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Mrs. BOYDA).

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise again with my colleague Mr. MORAN to salute the 2008 national champion Kansas Jayhawks.

Rock Chalk Jayhawk. Rock Chalk Jayhawk.

My district includes some of the most loyal college basketball fans in the Nation. Every week they get up, go

out in the dark in the middle of the Kansas prairie winter, and they journey out into the cold and dark to sit on wooden benches in an old field house, and they cheer on our local team, the Kansas Jayhawks, just like their parents and grandparents did. They are also some of the luckiest college basketball fans in the Nation. Our field house is the legendary Allen Field House, and our local team is the Kansas Jayhawks, one of the most dominant college basketball teams in this Nation. This year the Kansas Jayhawks made their 13th, their 13th, Final Four and they won their fifth national championship.

Eat your heart out, MU.

In 109 years of basketball, the Jayhawks have had only eight head coaches. The position was first held by James Naismith, the very founder of this legendary game, but there have been none better than our current head coach, Bill Self. Self came to Kansas 5 years ago, and since then he's led the Kansas Jayhawks to four consecutive Big 12 Conference regular season championships and through three consecutive Big 12 tournament championships. And, Mr. Speaker, this is a tough, tough conference where even the lowly Missouri Tigers were able to hold Kansas close until the final minutes.

The Kansas Jayhawks won the first Final Four where all four number one seeds participated. This year all four of the number one seeds were in the last Final Four. And our Kansas Jayhawks won in dramatic fashion. Those of us who are from Kansas were hoping that the last three points that Mario Chalmers sunk into that basket might replace some of those annoying comments about Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz and then they're going to say, ''You're from Kansas. Aren't they the great basketball team that won in such a wonderful fashion?'' And I'm going to say yes, Mr. Speaker, they are. Our Kansas Jayhawks have made us all proud. And I congratulate them; I congratulate our chancellor, Bob Hemenway; and the entire KU and Bill Self for their wonderful victory and for making Kansans so proud.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to again join with all of the residents of Kansas and also indicate that they have a tremendous recruitment program because Mario Chalmers, the young fellow that people have been talking about as the outstanding player, grew up in my neighborhood, in my community, went to Crane High School. It just happened that I talked to the principal of that school this morning about something else, and I didn't know that I would get an opportunity to congratulate them on the floor this afternoon.

And so I join with all of America in congratulating the great Jayhawks on an outstanding season and urge passage of this resolution.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for H. Res 1096, Head Coach Bill Self, and his national champion basketball team at Kansas University. Congratulations to the team on an outstanding season, and a thrilling ride through March Madness.

The season began with high expectations, as the Jayhawks were ranked fourth in the preseason ESPN/USA Today poll. These expectations were justified, as KU won the first 20 games of the season and climbed as high as number 2 in the polls, before losing to Kansas State University at the end of January. Two additional losses, including a heartbreaker to then 7th ranked Texas, dropped them as low as 7th in the national polls, and many sports pundits questioned their ability to win in big games.

Coach Self and his players continued to believe in themselves, however, and finished the season ranked fourth in the Nation, with a 28–3 record. It was a rocky trip through the Big XII Conference Tournament, with narrow wins against Nebraska and Texas A&M, before avenging their regular season loss against co-conference regular season champion Texas. The Jayhawks were getting hot at the right time. Their 10 point victory over the Longhorns gave them their 7th Conference Tournament championship in 12 years, and was enough to lock up a number one seed in the national tournament.

KU did not meet a significant challenge in the tournament until the regional final, where they met tournament darlings Stephen Curry and Davidson. They played each other neck and neck throughout the game, with neither team leading by more than 5 points at any time during the game. An errant three point shot by Davidson as time expired gave Kansas the win, and secured their place in the Final Four.

Kansas avenged another loss in the national semi-final—that of former coach Roy Williams, who left the university in 2003. Thought to be the best team in the country this year, North Carolina could not keep up with KU's fast paced game plan, and had no answer for their swarming defense. Kansas won in a rout, 84–66.

The national final against Memphis was an instant classic. Though the teams were close for much of the game, Memphis began to pull away towards the end. Undeterred, KU was able to capitalize on the Achilles' Heel of Memphis—free throw shooting. Even so, they were still trailing by 3 with 10 seconds left when Sherron Collins drove the length of the floor, and passed to Mario Chalmers who drained a 3–pointer with 2.1 seconds left, sending the game into overtime. Kansas continued to perform well through overtime, and won the game 75–68. This was the first national championship for Coach Bill Self, and the first for KU since Danny and the Miracles in 1988.

Congratulations to Coach Self, the basketball team, and the entire Kansas University community. Rock, Chalk, Jayhawk!

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1096.

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.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA HAWKEYES WRESTLING TEAM ON WINNING THE 2008 NCAA DIVISION I NATIONAL WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1100) congratulating the University of Iowa Hawkeyes Wrestling Team on Winning the 2008 NCAA Division I National Wrestling Championships, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1100

Whereas the University of Iowa Hawkeyes Wrestling Head Coach Tom Brands was named the Big Ten Coach of the Year, the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) Coach of the Year, and led the team to its 21st national title and his 1st national title;

Whereas the University of Iowa Hawkeyes Wrestling Team crowned two national champions, Mark Perry, and Brent Metcalf;

Whereas Mark Perry won his 2d national title making him only the 14th University of Iowa wrestler to earn 2 national titles while also overcoming a knee injury during his match, and was awarded his 4th all-American honor making him only the 17th University of Iowa wrestler to earn 4 all-American honors;

Whereas Brent Metcalf won his 1st national title, was awarded his 1st all-American honor, was awarded the Dan Hodge Trophy, was named as the Big Ten Wrestler of the Year, was crowned a Big Ten Champion, finished the season with a 32-match winning streak, was named Outstanding Wrestler at the NCAA and Big Ten Championships, and was named Outstanding Wrestler at the Division I NWCA/Cliff Keen National Duals;

Whereas the University of Iowa Hawkeyes Wrestling Team was represented proudly by three NCAA Division I National Wrestling Championship Finalists by Mark Perry, Brent Metcalf, and Joe Slaton;

Whereas the University of Iowa Hawkeyes Wrestling Team was honored by having seven all-Americans with Mark Perry, Charlie Falck, Joe Slaton, Brent Metcalf, Jay Borschel, Matt Fields, and Phillip Keddy being named;

Whereas the University of Iowa Hawkeyes Wrestling Team was honored by having six Academic All-Big Ten wrestlers with Matt Ballweg, Jay Borschel, Matt Fields, Dan LeClere, T.H. Leet, and Brent Metcalf being named;

Whereas the University of Iowa Hawkeyes Wrestling Team also won their 32d Big Ten title, which is the 1st for Head Coach Tom Brands, with a perfect 8–0 conference record;

Whereas the University of Iowa Hawkeyes Wrestling Team had a final team score of 117.5 to place them 1st in the Division I standings with the 2d place team scoring only 79;

Whereas the University of Iowa Hawkeyes Wrestling Team has a rich tradition and history of producing champions and outstanding collegiate athletes and coaches since the program began in 1911;

Whereas former University of Iowa Hawkeyes Wrestling Head Coach, and Olympic Gold Medalist, Dan Gable helped establish one of the most successful wrestling programs in the nation and is commended for his leadership and guidance provided to the current 2008 championship team;

Whereas the current University of Iowa Hawkeyes Wrestling team has continued the teams winning history which includes Big Ten Conference Championships in 1915, 1916, 1958, 1962, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2004, and 2008, and NCAA Division I National Wrestling Championships in 1975, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2008;

Whereas the hard work and dedication of the University of Iowa Hawkeyes Wrestling team's Brodie Ambrose, Matt Ballweg, Chad Beatty, Jay Borschel, Derek Coorough, Daniel Dennis, Dan Erekson, Michael Fahrer, Charlie Falck, Matt Fields, Stew Gillmor, Tyler Halverson, Aaron Janssen, Jordan Johnson, Phillip Keddy, Jake Kerr, Nick Kolegraff, Brooks Kopsa, J.J. Krutsinger, Ryan Kurovski, Dan LeClere, Nick LeClere, T.H. Leet, Rick Loera, Luke Lofthouse, Thomas Magnani, Montell Marion, Weston Marling, Jordan McLaughlin, Derrick Mehmen, Brent Metcalf, Ryan Morningstar, Mark Perry, Blake Rasing, Ethan Sebert, Joe Slaton, Alex Tsirtsis, Vinnie Wagner, Head Coach Tom Brands, Assistant Coach Wes Hand, Interim Assistant Coach Doug Schwab, and Strength Training Coach Mike Zadick all contributed to an outstanding season culminating in the 2008 national title; and

Whereas the University of Iowa Hawkeyes Wrestling Team have brought honor to themselves, the University of Iowa, the City of Iowa City, and the State of Iowa: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the University of Iowa Hawkeyes Wrestling Team for winning the 2008 NCAA Division I National Wrestling Championship; and

(2) congratulates the team on winning their 21st national title since 1975 and finishing the season with a 21–1 overall dual record and a perfect 8–0 conference record.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H. Res. 1100 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK).

Mr. LOEBSACK. I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an amazing team from the Second District of Iowa, which I represent. I'm proud to stand before my colleagues today and commend the University of Iowa Hawkeyes wrestling team for winning the 2008 NCAA Division I national wrestling championship.

As many wrestling fans know, the University of Iowa has a celebrated history of exemplary wrestlers and coaches who have allowed the University of Iowa, the city of Iowa City, and the entire State of Iowa to boast numerous Big Ten titles and NCAA championships.

In total, the University of Iowa Hawkeyes wrestling team has won 32 Big Ten Conference championships and, since 1975, a total of 21 NCAA Division I national wrestling championships. The current team has kept the Hawkeye record strong, and it's my privilege to congratulate them on the 32nd Big Ten title and the 21st national championship for the school.

The University of Iowa Hawkeyes wrestling team is led by Head Coach Tom Brands, who, in addition to this championship win, was named Big Ten Coach of the Year and National Wrestling Coaches Association Coach of the Year. Under Coach Brands' leadership, along with his assistants and strength coaches, the team also had two individual national champions.

Mark Perry won his second national title even while overcoming a knee injury during his match and also was awarded his fourth All-American honor. Brent Metcalf won his first national title. He was also awarded his first All-American honor, the Dan Hodge Trophy, was named Big Ten Wrestler of the Year, was crowned a Big Ten champion, finished the season with a 32-match winning streak, was named outstanding wrestler at the NCAA and Big Ten championships, and was named outstanding wrestler at the Division I NWCA/Cliff Keen National Duals. Including the two individual national champions, the team had a total of seven All-Americans and six Academic All-Big Ten wrestlers.

With the wrestling program starting in 1911, the current University of Iowa Hawkeyes wrestling team has built upon past successes to continue the team's and school's winning tradition. As wrestling fans know, much of this past success was made possible by the leadership of former head coach and Olympic gold medalist Dan Gable, who continues to provide guidance and leadership to the program.

Congratulations to the entire University of Iowa Hawkeyes wrestling team, the University of Iowa, the city of Iowa City, and to my home State of Iowa for this great victory.

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1100, congratulating the University of Iowa Hawkeyes wrestling team.

Since the program began in 1911, the University of Iowa wrestling team has had a rich tradition and a history of producing champions and outstanding collegiate athletes and coaches, and this year proved to be no different as the top-ranked Hawkeyes wrestling team clinched its 21st national team title in the NCAA championships. In addition to the team title, the Hawkeyes also crowned two national championships, Mark Perry and Brent Metcalf; seven All-Americans; and six Academic All-Big Ten wrestlers.

At the helm of this outstanding team sits Head Coach Tom Brands, who was named the Big Ten Coach of the Year and the National Wrestling Coaches Association's Coach of the Year. Coach Brands, a former Hawkeyes wrestler, 1996 Olympic gold medalist, and four time All-American, is in his second season as head wrestling coach at the University of Iowa.

Former head coach and Olympic gold medalist Dan Gable should also be commended for his leadership and guidance provided to the current 2008 championship team. Throughout his tenure, Coach Gable helped establish one of the most successful wrestling programs in the Nation.

The University of Iowa wrestling team has brought honor to themselves, but I would be remiss if I failed to also recognize the university for its outstanding commitment as a public university. Established in 1847, Iowa has won international recognition for its wealth of achievements in the arts, sciences, and humanities. Iowa was the first United States public university to admit men and women on an equal basis and the first institution of higher education in the Nation to accept creative work in theater, writing, music, and art as theses for advanced degrees. It established the first law school and the first educational radio station west of the Mississippi, broadcast the world's first educational television programs, and developed and continues to hold preeminence in educational testing.

I extend my congratulations to the University's president, Sally Mason; Athletics Director Gary Barta; Head Coach Tom Brands and his staff; all the hardworking wrestlers; their fans; and the entire University of Iowa community.

I am happy to join with my distinguished colleague Representative LOEBSACK in honoring this exceptional team and all of its accomplishments and wish all involved continued success.

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

□ 1500

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleague, Representative LOEBSACK from Iowa, and the entire Iowa delegation, as well as all of the Members of the House in congratulating the University of Iowa Hawkeyes wrestling team for their victory in the 2008 NCAA Division I national wrestling championship.

On March 22, college wrestling fans were treated to an exceptional wrestling match as the top-ranked University of Iowa won its 21st national team title and crowned two individual national champions, Mark Perry and Brent Metcalf. Three of the Hawkeyes' seven All-Americans competed in the finals in St. Louis for a combined team score of 117.5 points.

I want to extend my congratulations to coach Tom Brands, who returned to his alma mater and led the team to a perfect 8–0 conference record in his second season as head coach. Impressive feats such as these are why Coach Brands was named Coach of the Year by both the Big Ten Conference and the National Wrestling Coaches Association.

Congratulations also are in order for senior Mark Perry, who overcame a knee injury to win his second national title. He is only the 14th University of Iowa wrestler to earn two national titles. Additionally, Perry rounded out his final year with his fourth All-American honor.

The other individual national title winner was sophomore Brent Metcalf. Metcalf ended the season on an impressive 23-match winning streak and earned many accolades, including the Dan Hodge Trophy, Big Ten Wrestler of the Year, and Outstanding Wrestler at both the NCAA and Big Ten championships.

The University of Iowa Hawkeyes wrestling program began in 1911 and has produced a rich history of champions. With 32 Big Ten conference championships and 21 NCAA Division I national championships, the Hawkeyes wrestling team is a premier program. The extraordinary achievement of this season is a tribute to the skill and dedication of the many wrestlers, coaches, students, alumni, families, and fans that have helped to make the University of Iowa a wrestling powerhouse.

Winning the national championship, finishing the season with a 21–1 overall dual record, and winning the Big Ten conference championship for the 32nd time has brought national acclaim to the University of Iowa. I know the fans of the university will revel in this accomplishment as they look forward to the 2009 season.

So, Mr. Speaker, once again I congratulate the University of Iowa for their tremendous success.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Iowa Men's Wrestling Program on winning the 2008 NCAA Division I National Wrestling Championship.

Dating back to the early 1900's my home State of Iowa has lead the way in shaping what competitive collegiate wrestling has become today. In fact, the first ever NCAA Division I National Wrestling Championship Tournament took place in Ames, Iowa. Anyone who follows the sport will tell you that you can always count on a team from the State of Iowa finishing among the top of almost every tournament.

At all levels, the State of Iowa has a long storied and honored wrestling tradition and it is the preferred sport of many Iowa households. It has been a hallmark of Iowa athletics for decades and its competition remains prominent in the majority of middle schools, high schools, state colleges and universities throughout the state today. There is a tremendous amount of hard-work, discipline and dedication required to succeed in wrestling, common characteristics of all Iowans which may explain why we have been so successful in the sport for so long.

The University of Iowa's wrestling program has significantly contributed to this success and tradition. It has historically been, and remains, considered among the nation's elite programs. In 2008 the University of Iowa won its 21st national title, its first since 2000, and crowned two individual champions—senior Mark Perry and sophomore Brent Metcalf. And, Coach Tom Brands was selected as 2008 Coach of the Year.

Again, I wish to congratulate the Iowa wrestling program on a job well done as they celebrate their 2008 national championship and I encourage my colleagues to do so as well by adopting this resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1100, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 330) supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 330

Whereas on average, a person is sexually assaulted in the United States every two-and-a-half minutes;

Whereas the Department of Justice reports that 191,670 people in the United States were sexually assaulted in 2005;

Whereas 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been victims of rape or attempted rape;

Whereas the Department of Defense received 2,688 reports of sexual assault involving members of the Armed Forces in fiscal year 2007;

Whereas children and young adults are most at risk of sexual assault, as 44 percent of sexual assault victims are under the age of 18, and 80 percent are under the age of 30;

Whereas sexual assault affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, age, ethnic, and economic groups in the United States;

Whereas only 41 percent of sexual assault victims pursue prosecution by reporting their attack to law enforcement agencies;

Whereas two-thirds of sexual crimes are committed by persons who are not strangers to the victims;

Whereas sexual assault survivors suffer emotional scars long after the physical scars have healed;

Whereas prevention education programs carried out by rape crisis and women's health centers have the potential to reduce the prevalence of sexual assault in their communities;

Whereas because of recent advances in DNA technology, law enforcement agencies have the potential to identify the rapists in tens of thousands of unsolved rape cases;

Whereas aggressive prosecution can incarcerate rapists and therefore prevent them from committing further crimes;

Whereas free, confidential help is available to all survivors of sexual assault through the National Sexual Assault Hotline, more than 1,000 rape crisis centers across the United States, and other organizations that provide services to assist survivors of sexual assault; and

Whereas April is recognized as ''National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month provides a special opportunity to educate the people of the United States about sexual violence and to encourage the prevention of sexual assault, the improved treatment of its survivors, and the prosecution of its perpetrators;

(B) it is appropriate to properly acknowledge the more than 20,000,000 men and women who have survived sexual assault in the United States and salute the efforts of survivors, volunteers, and professionals who combat sexual assault;

(C) national and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in promoting awareness about sexual assault, providing information and treatment to its survivors, and increasing the number of successful prosecutions of its perpetrators; and

(D) public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals should be recognized and applauded for their hard work and innovative strategies to increase the percentage of sexual assault cases that result in the prosecution and incarceration of the offenders;

(2) Congress strongly recommends national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, colleges and universities, and the media to promote, through National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, awareness of sexual violence and strategies to decrease the incidence of sexual assault; and

(3) Congress supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

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

Studies show that 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men will be a victim of rape or attempted rape in their lifetime and that, on average, a person is sexually assaulted in the United States every 2½ minutes. In my State of Wisconsin, there were 5,628 sexual assaults reported in the year 2004, the last year statistics are available. This marks a 3.7 percent increase from the previous year. Nationwide, we know that children and young adults are most at risk. Forty-four percent of sexual assault victims are under the age of 18, and 80 percent are under the age of 30.

Although most victims are younger women, the effects of sexual assault cross all racial, social, religious, ethnic, and economic boundaries. Whether the crime is rape, incest, child sexual abuse, stalking, or sexual harassment, sexual assault impacts our schools, our workplaces, our streets, and our homes. Survivors are our sons, our daughters, our brothers, our sisters, our friends, our grandparents.

In addition to the physical effects of victimization, the emotional scars felt by sexual assault survivors may persist long after the physical scars have healed. Sexual violence costs an estimated $127 billion per year in medical expenses, lost productivity, treatment of psychological trauma, and pain and suffering. Yet we know that only 41 percent of sexual assault survivors pursue prosecution by reporting their attack to law enforcement officials, and despite the support services offered by the National Sexual Assault Hotline and more than 1,000 crisis centers across the Nation, fewer than 50 percent of survivors ever tell anyone about their experience. These statistics are staggering and unconscionable. Despite the alarming prevalence of sexual assault, there is a clear and significant need for more public education and awareness.

National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month does just this. Observed each year in April, this dedicated month provides a special opportunity to educate Americans about sexual violence and to encourage the prevention of sexual assault, the improved treatment of its survivors, and the prosecution of its perpetrators.

As part of the National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, we recognize national and community organizations, as well as private sector supporters, for their work in promoting awareness about sexual assault. We also applaud public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals for their hard work and innovative strategies to increase the percentage of sexual assault cases that result in the prosecution and incarceration of offenders.

Along with my colleague, Congressman TED POE from Texas, I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 330 to recognize April 2008 as National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. By supporting this resolution, we highlight the efforts of individuals and agencies that provide rape crisis intervention and prevention services. We also call attention to sexual violence as a major public health issue and raise awareness of the need for increased resources for preventing sexual violence.

Mr. Speaker, I want to quickly extend my thanks to a number of advocates for their work on sexual assault prevention. In Wisconsin, we are incredibly lucky to have the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault working to create the social change necessary to end sexual violence. My thanks to the Coalition and their member organizations across the State for the important work that they do.

Since the first national observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in 2001, many Members of Congress have been actively involved in ensuring congressional support for efforts to raise awareness around sexual violence. I wholeheartedly thank all the cosponsors of this bipartisan resolution for once again lending their names to this worthy cause.

Finally, I want to extend my sincerest thank you to my colleague, Congressman TED POE, for his strong support as the lead sponsor of this resolution. Mr. POE has been a dedicated advocate for victims and victims' rights in this Congress, and I have very much admired his commitment to ending sexual violence in all forms. Thank for your hard work and leadership on this resolution.

Although we have made significant progress, we still have far to go in eradicating the harm inflicted on our community by sexual assault. I urge all of my colleagues to fully support this resolution recognizing the National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

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

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 330, recognizing April as National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. Every 2½ minutes, a person is sexually assaulted in the United States. Sadly, one in six women have been victims of rape or attempted rape. Two-thirds of these assaults are committed by someone known to the victim, and yet only 40 percent of sexual assaults are reported to the police.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month attempts to change these startling statistics by promoting educational programs, victim support services, advances in DNA and forensics technology, and aggressive prosecution and incarceration of sexual offenders. National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month helps to educate the public about sexual violence in our communities and the long-term effects on these victims. It also recognizes the selfless work of staff and volunteers at rape crisis centers and other community organizations across the United States that provide counseling and victim support services to sexual assault survivors.

This year, the featured event of Sexual Assault Awareness Month was ''Shop to End Sexual Violence.'' Businesses throughout America pledged to donate a percentage of their sales during April to increase awareness of sexual violence and promote community involvement in reducing these crimes.

With education and community support, it is my hope that more victims will pursue prosecution of their attackers by reporting these assaults. Once the victims take the first and critical steps, it is up to lawmakers and law enforcement to ensure these violent offenders are put away.

Earlier this month, the Judiciary Committee held a hearing on H.R. 5057, to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Program. The Debbie Smith Program, originally authorized in 2000, awards grants to State and local governments to reduce the DNA backlog of samples collected from crime scenes and the backlog for entry into the national DNA database. Through these grants, State and local governments received funding to test approximately 104,000 DNA cases between 2004 and 2007.

These grants have also funded the collection of 2.5 million DNA samples from convicted offenders and arrestees for inclusion in the national DNA database. The Department of Justice estimates that over 5,000 ''hits'' or matches are the result of this DNA backlog reduction. This is a positive step forward, but we must continue our efforts to reduce the DNA backlog to provide justice for sexual assault victims and put their attackers behind bars for good.

I wish to thank my Judiciary colleague, Congresswoman TAMMY BALDWIN, for sponsoring this resolution, and also thank Congressman TED POE for taking the lead on our side of the aisle in moving forward this important resolution. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time at this moment. I would continue to reserve.

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), the coauthor of this resolution.

Mr. POE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I am proud to have introduced this National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month resolution with my friend, Congresswoman BALDWIN from Wisconsin. I appreciate her leadership in bringing this issue to the national attention of all of us.

When I was an assistant district attorney back in Texas, I prosecuted rapists for 8 years, and then I sat on the bench as a judge in Houston for 22 years, hearing felony criminal cases.

□ 1515

During those 30 years, I learned a lot about sexual assault and the devastation it has on victims.

Probably one of the best statements ever made about a sexual assault and how it affects the victim was a sexual assault victim who was 90 years old and had been raped. She testified on the witness stand that what happened to her ''was a fate worse than death.'' And, yes, many times it is a fate worse than murder itself, the crime that occurs against these individuals throughout our country. It devastates the victim, and after the crime occurs the victim faces a lifetime of battle to recover. In many cases, sexual assault or rape is an attempt on the part of the offender to destroy the inner soul and being of the victim, and sometimes that actually occurs.

When I came to Congress, I founded the Victims' Rights Caucus to advocate on behalf of victims so that this caucus could be a voice for all crime victims. The gentlewoman from Wisconsin who introduced this resolution is a member of this caucus and continues to be a leader in public awareness.

With this resolution, I hope we can educate the public about this horrendous crime, but also thank the outstanding victim advocates who hold the victim's hand from the time the crime is committed and sometimes throughout the entire episode until the trial is over with.

Rape and sexual assault statistics are difficult to determine because many victims are ashamed and afraid to come forward and report these crimes. There are outstanding support services in this country, like the National Sexual Assault Hotline, and many, many hundreds of thousands of crisis centers throughout the country, but still sexual assault victims are reluctant to come forward. By drawing attention to sexual violence and speaking about it on the national level here in our Congress, we can encourage victims to report these crimes and get the help they need.

Predators intimidate and threaten victims with the hope that these victims will never tell anyone about it. Victims need to understand that American citizens support victims and are on their side. Of those reported sexual assaults, there are haunting statistics. Three out of four victims knew the perpetrator that committed the crime against them. The rapist is not a stranger.

I would like to relate one case that occurred many years ago when I was prosecuting these types of cases. I will call this young lady Lisa, to protect the privacy of her family. She was a student at one of our universities in Houston. She left the university one night and stopped at a service station for help, because her car was having difficulty in moving down the highway.

She came in contact with an individual that I will call Luke. He was not a service station attendant. He was just a criminal. He kidnapped Lisa. He sexually assaulted her. He pistol-whipped her. He beat her so bad that he thought he had killed her, and when he was arrested, he was mad that he hadn't killed her. He was captured and he was tried. A jury in Houston, Texas, convicted him and gave him 99 years in the Texas penitentiary, which he earned and deserved.

But Lisa's life fell apart. She never went back to school. She lost her job. Her husband, the kind of individual he was, sued her for divorce, got all the children and left the State. She started using drugs, first alcohol and then everything else. Not long after the trial, I received a phone call from Lisa's mother telling me that she had taken her own life, and she left a note that I still have today that says, ''I am tired of running from Luke Johnson in my nightmares.''

You see, crime occurs. Victims are victimized. But sometimes they live a short life thereafter because of the crime that has occurred. And no crime is more devastating to a victim than sexual assault.

So it is important that we designate April as National Sexual Assault and Awareness Month so we can educate our fellow citizens on these statistics and encourage rape and sexual assault victims to no longer be afraid. We need to promote justice for sexual assault victims, because justice is what we do in America.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish to urge my colleagues to support this resolution. As we have heard, this bill supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month and highlights the need for increased awareness about this major public health issue. I wish to again commend my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), for his heartfelt and strong leadership on this issue, and urge all of my colleagues to support its passage.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 330, which supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

I was the lead Democratic sponsor of the original legislation, introduced by former Representative Mark Green and signed into law in 2003, that designated April as National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

It is important that we remember that preventing sexual assault should be a top priority during each month of the year. Every 2½ minutes, someone in the United States is sexually assaulted. I have long been a champion of increased efforts to prevent violence against women and in 2004, legislation that I first introduced, ''The Debbie Smith Act,'' was signed into law. Through this landmark act, we have the ability to protect our daughters, our sisters, and our friends by putting rapists behind bars through DNA evidence. We know that DNA evidence is better than a fresh set of fingerprints. And we know that it is often better than eyewitness testimony. With ''The Debbie Smith Act,'' the hundreds of thousands of rape kits that were gathering dust across the country are finally being processed.

In January I introduced H.R. 5057, ''The Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act,'' to extend the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Elimination Program through FY 2014. I am pleased to have been joined in introducing the legislation by the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, Chairman CONYERS and Ranking Member SMITH.

It is vitally important that we support the Violence Against Women Act by fully funding the important programs that will help women escape abusive and dangerous situations and begin new lives that are free from violence and fear. The organizations, shelters, and counseling centers that are on the front lines of this problem need our steadfast commitment that they will have the resources to continue their important work.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 330, ''Supporting the Goals and Ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month''. I would like to thank my distinguished colleague, Congresswoman TAMMY BALDWIN of Wisconsin, for introducing this important piece of legislation.

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month highlights an issue that has often been covered up even in this great nation. Rape is a violent assault, not a sexually-motivated or gratifying act. The rapist's aim is to dominate, humiliate, control and degrade the victim. For the victim of sexual assault, it is a wound that while covered never truly heals.

TEXAS STATISTICS ON SEXUAL ASSAULT

Approximately 1.9 million adult Texans, or 1 in 5 women and 1 in 20 men, have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lifetime. While these numbers are daunting they pale in comparison to the vast number of incidents that we never hear about.

An estimated 82 percent of rapes go unreported. The vast majority of rape victims—nearly 80 percent—know the person who rapes them.

In any given year, sexual assault of adults costs the state of Texas $27,161,428. Nine percent of sexual assault victims in Texas sought medical care after being victimized (5 percent of male victims, 10 percent of female victims).

Over 30,000 sexual assault survivors receive services at Texas rape crisis centers each year. Sadly approximately 43 Texas counties are not currently served by a rape crisis center or other victim's assistance organization. Which leaves victims feeling further isolated and without support from the local community.

As of January 1, 2005, there were 2,546 cases pending for sexual assault of an adult and 10,543 cases pending for sexual assault or indecency with a child. In that same year, there were only 559 convictions for sexual assault of an adult, and 2,449 convictions for sexual assault or indecency with a child.

PREVENTION

For many years now, rape crisis centers across Texas and the U.S. have provided invaluable services to survivors of sexual violence while also educating their communities

about the prevalence and nature of sexual violence. Unfortunately, the need for services continues to exceed the capacity of most of our State's crisis centers. In order to address the astonishing rates of sexual violence, we are now increasing our focus on the primary prevention of sexual violence.

Plainly put, we're trying to engage communities to stop sexual violence before it occurs and to build safe, healthy communities. Dr. George Albee, a pioneer in clinical psychology, put it best, "No mass disorder afflicting humankind has been eliminated or brought under control by attempts at treating the affected individual. Sexual violence prevention requires comprehensive, community-based initiatives that address the various systemic issues, attitudes, behaviors and norms that perpetuate sexual violence."

As a member of the Women's and Children's Caucus, I strongly urge my colleagues to examine the issue of sexual assault and prevention. Let's stop trying to sweep the issue under the rug simply because it is difficult to hear. For it affects you and me, and our families and our communities. Eighty-two percent of victims reported that the rape permanently changed them. Thirteen percent of rape victims attempt suicide. Thirty percent said they contemplated suicide.

These lasting scars are on the hearts, minds, and souls of women, men, and children. Sexual Assault—Sexual Violence is a problem that must be dealt with for it is not going away.

As the electronic games our children play, the sexual exploitation and violence they see on television grows, and the miseducation of what love, sex, and violence really mean continues to exist. We will need to highlight this important issue.

In the time it took me to give this statement, someone in America was sexually assaulted for the Department of Justice has stated that every two minutes someone in America is sexually assaulted. I express my support for the designation of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. I believe we should increase public awareness of sexual assault and continue to look at new ways to focus on prevention.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 330.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING AMERICA'S TEACHERS

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1130) recognizing the roles and contributions of America's teachers to building and enhancing our Nation's civic, cultural, and economic well-being.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1130

Whereas education and knowledge are the foundation of America's current and future strength;

Whereas teachers and other education staff have earned and deserve the respect of their students and communities for their selfless dedication to community service and the future of our Nation's children;

Whereas the purpose of National Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4, 2008, through May 10, 2008, is to raise public awareness of the unquantifiable contributions of teachers and to promote greater respect and understanding for the teaching profession; and

Whereas a number of organizations representing educators, such as the National Education Association and the National Parent Teacher Association, are hosting teacher appreciation events in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives thanks and promotes the profession of teaching to encourage students, parents, school administrators, and public officials to participate in teacher appreciation events during National Teacher Appreciation Week.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important contributions that teachers make to our Nation. Next week is National Teacher Appreciation Week. The National PTA created Teacher Appreciation Week in 1984 to show gratitude to the many teachers in the United States. It is a chance for us to thank those individuals who have contributed greatly to society in ways that cannot be measured. It is a chance for us to recognize the selflessness and dedication of teachers and to show our respect for the teaching profession.

Mr. Speaker, we know that good teachers make a tremendous difference to our Nation's youth. During the last decade, a body of evidence has grown to support the notion that teacher quality is the single most important factor outside of the home in affecting student achievement. Teachers serve as excellent role models and instill a love for knowledge and lifelong learning in our students.

We know that teaching is an important profession that deserves our support and respect. Teachers have the important job of helping to shape tomorrow's leaders. Those in the teaching profession work tirelessly for little reward, and good teachers constantly reflect on their lessons and modify instruction to reach the diverse needs of the students in their classrooms. Quality teachers hone their skills and are experts not only in the subject matter, but also in connecting with young people and making learning come alive.

Unfortunately, research has also shown us the negative impacts of teacher shortages. It is important and imperative that schools and communities support teachers. National Teacher Appreciation Week is an opportunity for all of us to pursue and recognize the selfless dedication of our educators. It is also an opportunity for us to recognize the importance of education and make absolutely certain that every child in America has the greatest opportunity to achieve this commodity that we call education. So we have to search our budgets, stretch our imagination and find the resources that are necessary to attract the best and the brightest individuals into the teaching profession.

Yes, there is no greater profession in our country than that of teaching. I call teachers the salt of the Earth, the pillars of the universe, those individuals who give of themselves each and every day so that others will have the opportunity to connect with this vast reservoir of knowledge that we have to be spread around.

I am indeed pleased, Mr. Speaker, to join with all of those who urge passage of this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1130, recognizing the roles and contributions of America's teachers in educating and nurturing our Nation's children and thereby building and enhancing our Nation's civic, cultural and economic well-being.

A teacher's role in student development is irreplaceable. All of our lives have been influenced by the teachers that directed our classrooms, classrooms where students acquire the knowledge necessary to become a part of our Nation's future.

Showing teachers appreciation and recognition during the upcoming National Teacher Appreciation Week which takes place next week helps to remind us how important teachers are and what an integral role they play in the lives of our Nation's citizens. It is important that we recognize teachers for the critical work they do in improving our Nation in so many ways.

Teachers today devote more of their lives to teaching young people than ever before and spend more time on professional development, their own education and on class preparation outside the classroom. Teachers spend an average of over 50 hours per week on teaching duties and an average of $443

each year out of their own pockets to meet the needs of their students, all the while earning an average annual salary of slightly more than $31,000.

The future of our Nation's children is dependent on the individuals to make these time, energy and monetary commitments, and they deserve recognition for their service.

On a personal note, I certainly am honored to recognize the teachers I had in kindergarten through 12th grade in the New York suburban school district and know but for their support and guidance, I would not have had the opportunity to pursue my dreams, including the dream of serving in this very body, the United States House of Representatives.

Behind the upbringing of my mom and dad, my teachers, Dorothy Mirtz, my third grade teacher who is now 97 years old and still going strong as I visited with her just a few weeks back, my eighth grade teacher, Earl Lucius, who took the lessons of my parents of community service and inspired me to pursue a career in public service, they and so many other teachers and administrators I had the blessing to interact with in my education and career played a critical role in my life, as teachers do in all of our Nation's children's lives, in the past, the present and the future.

So I am honored and pleased to stand in support of this resolution, recognizing the important roles and contributions of America's teachers and support National Teacher Appreciation Week.

I certainly thank my colleague, Mr. GRAVES from Missouri, for introducing this resolution, and encourage an ''aye'' vote in favor of the resolution.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, teachers plant the seeds of learning in the minds of their students. I support America's teachers and I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution. This measure recognizes significant roles and contributions that America's teachers have had and continue to have building and enhancing our country's civic, cultural and economic well-being.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that there are 6 million teachers in the United States. I, like many others in this House, turned out the way I did because of teachers that were in my background, like my seventh grade Texas history teacher, Mrs. Wilson. She formed early on a desire in my soul to go into public service, and she gets the credit or the blame, whichever people see, for my lifetime career in public service.

□ 1530

I also come from a long line of teachers. My mother was a teacher; my wife is a teacher; my three daughters are teachers, and two of those teach at elementary school level and one of my daughters teaches at Baylor University. And even while I was prosecuting back in Houston, Texas, I spent some time teaching law at the University of Houston.

But teaching isn't just a tradition in my family. Teaching has been a tradition in this country since its very inception. Back then, of course, most teaching happened at home under the instruction of parents. Today, parents have many options when it comes to education of their children. Some are taught in private schools, others public schools, some at charter schools, and others continue to home school.

Teachers play a primary role in equipping our youth to be good citizens, to take pride in the democratic heritage of our Nation, and to be competitive on the world marketplace of ideas. Teachers spend a long week and long hours teaching our greatest resource, children.

This year, we celebrate National Teachers Week on May 4 through 10, and let's be sure to let teachers know that those, especially that have touched our lives, how important they are. And like the bumper sticker says, ''If you can read, thank a teacher.''

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote, and again thank all the teachers of our great Nation for their devotion to our Nation's children and for their commitment to bettering the lives of those children and, in doing so, strengthening our Nation as a whole.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to thank Representative PLATTS and Representative POE for their comments relative to this resolution, and certainly join with them in expressing again tremendous appreciation for all of those in the teaching profession.

As I listened to them, I couldn't help but be reminded of important teachers during my life. I began school in a one-room school, as a matter of fact, in your home State of Arkansas, where one woman, Ms. Beadie King, taught eight grades plus the little primer and the big primer all by herself. But then I was fortunate because, later on, she was the high school English teacher. And there are individuals who would suggest that I sometimes use poems and poetry and pithy words in expression, and practically all of that really came from Ms. Beadie King. She was unbelievable. As a matter of fact, she walked at least seven, eight miles to school every day to teach.

There are a lot of teachers who give that kind of dedication today. They don't necessarily walk 7, 8 miles, but they go into their pockets and buy materials; they purchase clothing for their students when they don't have the appropriate things to wear; they purchase lunch for students; buy materials for their classes. They give the very best of everything that it is that they have.

I don't think that we can ever express—I use the opportunity to express appreciation to my wife who taught for more than 30 years, members of my family, my sister who just retired as a principal, my sister-in-law who just retired. And so there are many teachers that all of us stand on their shoulders. Like you, Representative PLATTS, I know that had not it been for those individuals that I came into contact with growing up, there is no way that I would be standing here this evening expressing myself as a Member of the greatest body that exists in the world, the United States House of Representatives.

Again, I thank all of the teachers in America and urge passage of this resolution.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I introduced this resolution to provide the Members of this body the opportunity to express our common thanks and appreciation for our Nation's teachers.

Many people enter the teaching profession as a calling.

There are other jobs with much better pay, shorter hours and, often times, less hassle than teaching.

However, each year thousands of college graduates choose teaching as a profession, in no small part as the result of a personal experience they had with one of their own teachers.

National Teacher Appreciation Week is designed to provide a means for students, parents and entire communities to come together and participate in events and activities that show their appreciation for teachers.

Personally, I will be hosting an event in my district to recognize Alesia Hamilton, a first-grade teacher at Edison Elementary School in St. Joseph, Missouri who in accordance with the character and commitment that defines all teachers, has invited into her class as a student Mr. Alferd Williams, a 70-year-old man born into poverty who never had the opportunity to learn how to read, much less receive a formal education.

Each day, Alesia Hamilton works with Mr. Williams on reading assignments and other tasks that will ultimately help Alferd Williams earn his GED.

Mr. Speaker, what Alesia Hamilton is doing with Mr. Williams is just one example of what teachers do every day to improve the lives of not only their students but the people of our communities.

I appreciate my colleagues for the opportunity to offer this resolution on the floor of the House today.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill to recognize the roles and contributions of America's teachers to building and enhancing our Nation's civic, cultural, and economic well-being.

It is clear that we cannot improve schools or ensure student success without good teachers. We know that an engaged teacher can be the difference between kids getting ahead and falling behind. And I'm sure we can all remember a teacher who provided guidance or sparked interest in a new subject.

Today's bill recognizes teachers, but they deserve more than recognition. We have to make sure we are taking tangible steps to assist them. And that means funding for our schools, high quality training, and fair pay. It means making sure that every teacher is prepared to walk into the classroom and every teacher has support through the school day.

We trust our Nation's teachers with our most important task—caring for and educating our children. We need to honor their commitment and support that mission.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1130 "Recognizing the roles and contributions of America's teachers to building and enhancing our Nation's civic, cultural, and economic well being," introduced by my distinguished colleague from Missouri, Representative, SAM GRAVES. This important legislation illustrates a Nation's commitment to recognize the work and fortitude of America's teachers. It is the teacher's remarkable dedication to our students and their tireless efforts in support of education. These hard workers deserve the care, the admiration, and the benefits they have earned through their honorable service.

From the beginning, our Nation has recognized the importance of education and has always taken a leading role in its development. Teachers provide an education that represents mankind's potential to turn distant dreams into a practical reality. The expansion of our horizons has been essential for reasons beyond the advances it may provide. An education is a symbol of upward mobility and privileged wisdom. It is the foundation in which we generate innovative technology, methods and ideas that are used for the advancement of society. A higher education is vital. As we progress in technology and other critical advancements, there is a continuing shift from blue-collar to white-collar occupations; the number of available traditional jobs decline and new jobs demand greater sophistication, expertise, and an advanced degree.

Teachers are the catalyst to the quality of life and the gatekeepers to extensive knowledge. An instructor's dedication to educating and conveying knowledge is significant to the foundation of America's present and potential strength. Horace Mann, a well-renowned politician and educator, articulated the goals of public schools in the 1800s; not only would the country provide public schools, but there would be a teacher hired by the locals. Education was once decentralized to the level of the classroom where educators believed their "professional place" was in the classrooms. Instructors viewed teaching as a true profession; however, before long, they were expected to solve problems of society. Teachers were expected to teach health, sexual education, D.A.R.E., driver's education and supplementary courses that were not in conjunction with regular academia. Teachers provide an education which represents mankind's capability to turn remote dreams into a sensible reality. Teachers play a significant role in the greatness and affluence of the United States. Therefore, I humbly commend teachers for their outstanding contributions to this great Nation and throughout the year for their unyielding dedication and spirit to educate.

Mr. Speaker, we should continuously honor the teachers who have given their lives in service to this country. May 6, 2008 is Teacher Appreciation Day; this day will celebrate and recognize the valuable services that millions of teachers provide to the nation. Teacher Appreciation Day should be the crescendo of a years long's worth of recognition efforts. All too often, the contributions made by teachers to our country are forgotten. During National Teacher Appreciation Week, which is May 4, 2008, through May 10, 2008, the profession of teaching is promoted to encourage students, parents, school administrators, and public officials to partake in teacher appreciation events. It is fitting that we take time each year during Teacher Appreciation Week to thank our teachers—as the work they do has a tremendous and very direct effect on the lives of young people. As President Bush has said, "There's nothing more noble than to teach."

The innumerable contributions of teachers are invaluable and shall never go unnoticed. The strategic teaching methods that teachers employ are ostensibly successful. Because of the exceptional work of their students, their involvement should never be disregarded. Teachers and other education staff undeniably deserve the respect of their students and communities for their selfless dedication to community service and the future of our Nation's children.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation, and, in-so-doing, honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H. Res. 1130, and for our Nation's teachers. Their hard work and dedication to the students of this Nation is exemplary, and I commend them for it.

If the United States is to remain competitive, if our economy is to continue to grow, our children must have access to quality education, specifically in the areas of science and mathematics. One of the best ways to stimulate the economy is through a well-rounded and well-educated workforce. A quality education provides options for students to achieve the skills necessary to successfully compete in today's demanding job market. And our students would not be able to obtain a quality education were it not for the dedication of America's educators.

Teachers in this Nation are over-worked, and under-appreciated. Teaching has never been an easy profession. The work of teachers extends far beyond the time spent in the classroom, preparing lessons, grading papers, and looking for additional ways to enhance the educational experience in the classroom. We in Congress have not made their jobs any easier. In our, albeit laudable, effort to enhance the performance of our students, we have placed additional requirements on our teachers that demand more and more of their time. Federal regulations place additional pressure on both teachers and students. Our teachers do not receive nearly enough recognition for the care and concern they show for their students.

So today, I take the time to thank the many teachers who helped educate a restless boy that now has the honor of serving in this remarkable institution, the teachers who have guided my children and given them the skills to pursue their dreams, and also my beloved wife, Vicki, who has used her many talents to help teach children with disabilities. I urge my colleagues to show their support for America's teachers by voting in favor of this resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1130.

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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS HIGHLIGHTED THROUGH NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1119) supporting the goals and ideals highlighted through National Volunteer Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1119

Whereas National Volunteer Week will be observed during the week of April 27, 2008 through May 3, 2008;

Whereas the National Volunteer Week will give Americans the opportunity to thank some of our Nation's most valuable assets, our volunteers, and to recognize the myriad of ways they improve our communities;

Whereas the theme of this year's National Volunteer Week is "Volunteer to Change the World", and is about engaging individuals in service, inspiring a Nation to join a movement for change, and recognizing the deserving volunteers, including those that have received the President's Volunteer Service Award, for their work in their local communities;

Whereas National Volunteer Week began in 1974 when President Nixon signed an Executive Order establishing the week as an annual celebration of volunteering, and since then, every United States President, along with many governors, mayors, and other elected officials has signed a proclamation promoting National Volunteer Week;

Whereas about 61,000,000 people volunteered through or for an organization at least once between September 2006 and September 2007, according to a recent survey by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, which represents more than a quarter of the total United States population;

Whereas an analysis of data from the Longitudinal Study of Aging found that those individuals who volunteer have lower mortality rates than those who do not volunteer and research shows that communities with high levels of social networks have higher levels of parental engagement in schools, stronger local economies, less crime, and lower incidence of illnesses;

Whereas volunteers have contributed to the enhancement and improvement of communities across the United States, especially with respect to the aftermath of the hurricanes on the Gulf Coast; and

Whereas National Volunteer Week will continue to build awareness of the role that volunteers play in local, national, and international communities, and their commitment and dedication to improving lives, strengthening communities, and fostering civic engagement through service and volunteering: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals highlighted through National Volunteer Week;

(2) acknowledges the diligent efforts of our major federally funded community service and volunteer programs;

(3) recognizes with gratitude the contributions of the millions of dedicated and caring individuals who have chosen to serve others through volunteerism; and

(4) encourages all American people, of any age and background, to seek out opportunities to serve through volunteerism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days in which Members may have the opportunity to insert material relevant to H. Res. 1119 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the designation of April 27 to May 3, 2008, as National Volunteer Week, and to laud the efforts of volunteers who serve without reward to support America's communities.

National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to engage individuals throughout the Nation in a common goal of service to better our Nation. This year's theme, Volunteer to Change the World, hopes to inspire all people to connect with their community and truly make a difference through working together to effect positive change. In addition to many volunteer opportunities, the week will recognize deserving volunteers with the President's Volunteer Service Award and other significant signs of thanks.

Next week, volunteers across the Nation will work on a wide variety of projects. Activities range from community arts projects, school renovations, park rehabilitation, and many more equally engaging projects. With a large force of volunteers working together, National Volunteer Week will demonstrate the power of volunteerism and highlight the strength of compassion. The large number of volunteers will continue to inspire the Nation to mobilize for positive change and help people discover their ability to make a difference.

Volunteering has far reaching positive impacts on the community as a whole, and even on individual volunteers themselves. Research has shown that communities with high levels of social capital have a higher quality of life. Communities with strong volunteer networks, therefore, are healthy and dynamic places to live and work. Additionally, data shows that individuals who volunteer live longer than those who do not. Individuals and communities reap numerous constructive benefits from volunteering and can be the center of positive social change.

So, Mr. Speaker, once again I express my support for National Volunteer Week, and recognize all the hard work that volunteers put in on a daily basis. I encourage more people to become volunteers and recognize the fact that, by working together, we can more effectively meet the challenges our Nation face. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1119, which supports the goals and ideals highlighted through National Volunteer Week. I am proud to have introduced this resolution, with my National Service Caucus cochairs, Representatives CHRIS SHAYS, DAVID PRICE, and DORIS MATSUI, as well as Representative BUCK MCKEON.

Mr. Speaker, National Volunteer Week was created in 1974, when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order to establish the week as an annual celebration of volunteering. Every year since that time, each President of the United States, along with many Governors, mayors, and other elected officials, have signed a proclamation promoting National Volunteer Week.

This year, National Volunteer Week is being recognized this very week, April 27 to May 3. Various events are being held throughout the Nation to promote the 2008 theme of ''Volunteer to Change the World.''

Throughout the history of the United States, Americans have valued an ethic of service. Volunteering not only has a positive impact on local communities, but also on the volunteer himself or herself. Those Americans who give their time to serve are valuable assets to our local communities, and National Volunteer Week is our opportunity to thank them for their service and to encourage others to serve.

Across our country, Americans of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities are donating their time and talents to schools, churches, hospitals, and local nonprofits in an effort to improve their communities and serve a purpose greater than themselves. According to data collected over the past 30 years by the United States Census Bureau, Americans are volunteering at historically high rates. Between September 2006 and September 2007, 61.2 million Americans donated their time to help others, by mentoring students, beautifying neighborhoods, restoring homes after disasters, and much more.

In fact, earlier this week I had the pleasure of participating in a recognition ceremony at a local senior center, the Red Land Area Senior Center in York County, Pennsylvania, where dozens of senior volunteers and others were recognized for thousands of hours of donated volunteer service time in 2007. In fact, the top two volunteers recognized, Jim Fitzkee and Leona Deardorff, each contributed almost 700 hours of volunteer service to this center in 2007.

Volunteering is not only a rewarding but a necessary aspect of meeting the most pressing needs facing our Nation, including combating crime and gangs, poverty, disasters, illiteracy, and homelessness. Volunteering is also an important part of maintaining the health of our citizens, as research consistently shows that those who volunteer, especially those 65 years of age and older, lead healthier lives than those who do not engage in their communities. The intangible benefits alone, such as pride, satisfaction, empowerment, and accomplishment are worthwhile reasons to serve and give back.

Today I would like to recognize the diligent efforts of our major federally funded community service and volunteer service programs, thank the millions of dedicated and caring volunteers for their service, and encourage all Americans to give of themselves to make a difference in their local communities. I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 1119.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1119.

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.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2008 AS NATIONAL SARCOIDOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1149) expressing support for the designation of April 2008 as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month, and supporting efforts to devote new resources to research the causes of the disease, environmental and otherwise, along with treatments and workforce strategies to support individuals with sarcoidosis, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1149

Whereas sarcoidosis is a noncontagious systemic disease of unknown origin and is commonly diagnosed with the detection of inflamed, microscopic growths called granulomas that grow and often affect the lungs, skin, eyes, and nervous system;

Whereas sarcoidosis can affect any organ of the body and more than one organ at any given time;

Whereas the inflammation of such vital organs may cause seizures, blindness, disfiguring lesions, and heart failure;

Whereas many individuals stricken with sarcoidosis eventually develop a serious disabling or potentially fatal condition;

Whereas sarcoidosis was once thought to be an uncommon condition, but is now known to affect tens of thousands of people throughout the United States;

Whereas sarcoidosis afflicts African-Americans up to 8 times more frequently than other races;

Whereas as many people with sarcoidosis have no symptoms, it is difficult to measure how many people have the condition;

Whereas sarcoidosis is a disease that affects Americans nationwide and people around the world, and yet its causes and potential treatments remain a mystery;

Whereas skin-related symptoms of this chronic, multisystemic disease were first recognized more than 100 years ago, but the effects of the disease on other organs were not observed until the first quarter of this century;

Whereas sarcoidosis was the chief diagnosis of the death of fluorescent light bulb workers in Salem, Massachusetts in the 1940s;

Whereas sarcoidosis was the first diagnosis for an overwhelming majority of rescue workers' health conditions on September 11, 2001;

Whereas sarcoidosis has been documented to be disproportionately found among factory workers and Navy deckgrinders;

Whereas today, researchers are still trying to learn more about the causes, cures, and overall nature of this affliction;

Whereas the American Lung Association has actively advocated for more research to better understand how environmental and occupational exposures may increase the risk of sarcoidosis;

Whereas the National Sarcoidosis Society strives to serve those afflicted by the disease by focusing its efforts on public policy, research funding, patient services, public awareness and education, and finding a cure; and

Whereas April 2008 would be appropriate to designate as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month to increase public awareness of the need to support individuals with sarcoidosis, to raise awareness of the environmental and occupational issues associated with sarcoidosis, and to educate medical professionals who care for individuals with sarcoidosis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

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

(2) recognizes that sarcoidosis has played a prominent yet hidden role in America's workforce history;

(3) acknowledges the diligent efforts of individuals and organizations who observe National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month with appropriate activities to further promote awareness of the disease; and

(4) supports research efforts to better understand the links between sarcoidosis and specific occupations where sarcoidosis is disproportionately represented.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert material relevant to H. Res. 1149 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1149, commemorating April 2008 as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month.

According to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, tens of thousands of Americans nationwide are afflicted with this disease. However, currently, there is no cure, no definitive identification of exactly what causes sarcoidosis, no known measures to prevent it, and many people who have sarcoidosis do not exhibit any symptoms. So one might ask the question, what is sarcoidosis?

Sarcoidosis is characterized by the inflammation associated with the production of tiny lumps of cells in various organs of our bodies called granulomas because they look like grains of sugar or sand. These grain-like cells grow and clump together in an organ, affecting how the organ works.

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The increase of these growths can inflame vital organs like the lung, brain, skin, eyes and nervous system, causing seizures, blindness, disfiguring lesions, heart failure and sometimes even death.

Sarcoidosis is overrepresented among African Americans compared to other races and ethnic groups, and afflicts African Americans more severely than other races in this country.

By documenting the prevalence of sarcoidosis among fluorescent light bulb workers in the 1940s and among U.S. Navy deck grinders, and recognizing that sarcoidosis disproportionately affects factory workers and was the first diagnosis for an overwhelming majority of rescue workers in New York after the September 11, 2001, attacks, researchers at the American Lung Association have uncovered a link between certain types of occupations and this disease.

More careful monitoring of a sarcoidosis diagnosis can dramatically improve public health, including the health of civilian and military workers. It is my hope that by passing this legislation, we will promote more careful examination and investigation of sarcoidosis diagnosis, and lead to the reduction of morbidity and mortality of workers, as well as reduce costs.

By supporting House Resolution 1149 designating April 2008 as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month, we as the House of Representatives of these United States of America will demonstrate our acknowledgment of and commitment to the importance of raising awareness for the purpose of uncovering the causes of sarcoidosis disease, environmental and otherwise, and the promotion of strategies to support and protect our thriving workforce. I urge passage of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1149, expressing support for the designation of the month of April 2008 as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month to bring attention to this disease, its potential causes, and the need for research on the causes and potential treatments.

Sarcoidosis is a noncontagious systemic disease of unknown origin that causes inflamed, microscopic growths called granulomas that often affect one or more systems in the body, including the lungs, skin, eyes, and nervous system. This disease is sometimes difficult to diagnose.

The American Lung Association reports that more than 90 percent of the people diagnosed with sarcoidosis experience some degree of problem with their lungs which may reduce their ability to absorb oxygen. Because of scarring caused by the inflammations, between 20 and 30 percent of people with pulmonary sarcoidosis end up with some degree of permanent lung damage. Although death is relatively uncommon, mortality can occur due to lung failure or if the disease causes serious damage to a vital organ other than the lungs.

It has been observed that the disease occurs throughout the world in all races and both sexes, although gender and ethnicity may have an impact on the risk of developing sarcoidosis and its severity. Women and people of African descent, along with those of Scandinavian, German, Irish and Puerto Rican descent, are particularly prone to the disease and its more chronic and serious manifestations. The reasons for this are yet unknown.

The cause or causes of sarcoidosis remain a mystery. Our best medical evidence to date has not discovered the extent to which lifestyle, environment, or heredity affects the development, severity, or length of this disease.

The American Lung Association reports that most researchers believe that the disease involves an altered immune system. Some studies suggest sarcoidosis is caused by a respiratory infection triggered by bacteria or a virus, or even by exposure to burning wood. Others suggest possible occupational or environmental risks. And some studies also show that sarcoidosis may run within families, suggesting a genetic link.

Medical science has developed treatments that manage the symptoms of the disease, but no treatment is clearly effective for a prolonged period, and there is no cure.

Considering the broad reach of this disease, across people of different genders and ethnicities throughout the

world, and the lack of scientific evidence as to its cause or a cure, it is important to acknowledge the efforts of individuals and organizations to observe National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month and work on promoting awareness and the search for the cause and effective treatments. I am pleased, therefore, to stand in support of this resolution and ask for a ''yes'' vote.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to be the sponsor of this resolution, and I want to commend and thank all of the sarcoidosis activists who have visited my office, who have called me, who have written letters and telegrams and e-mails urging that we do something to further promote and raise awareness around this illness. I am pleased we have this resolution on the floor today. I urge its passage.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1149, which expresses support for the designation of April 2008 as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month.

Sarcoidosis is an inflammatory disease that produces tiny lumps of cells called granulomas in the lungs, lymph nodes or skin. The cause of sarcoidosis is unclear, but it has been associated with exposures to organic and chemical dusts, metals, silica and wood dust or smoke.

We know that New York City Fire Fighters who responded to the World Trade Center collapses in the aftermath of 9/11 have markedly higher rates of sarcoidosis. In the year immediately following 9/11, there was a 6-fold increase from pre-9/11 levels.

There's no doubt that many heroes of 9/11 are sick because of their exposure to Ground Zero toxins. Raising awareness of sarcoidosis and encouraging funding for research into the disease is one small way we can honor the heroes and heroines of 9/11.

I thank the gentleman from Illinois for introducing this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1149, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1154) supporting the mission and goals of Workers Memorial Day in order to honor and remember the workers who have been killed or injured in the workplace.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1154

Whereas each year, more than 5,500 workers are killed due to workplace-related injuries in the United States, and more than 2,000,000 workers across the world die of workplace-related accidents and diseases;

Whereas each day, an average of 16 workers are killed due to workplace injuries in the United States;

Whereas there are more than 4,000,000 occupational injuries and illnesses in the United States annually;

Whereas tens of thousands of Americans with workplace injuries or illness become permanently disabled;

Whereas worldwide, more people are killed each year at work than in wars;

Whereas observing Workers Memorial Day allows us to honor and remember victims of workplace injuries and disease; and

Whereas observing Workers Memorial Day reminds us of the need to strive for better worker safety and health protections: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes Workers Memorial Day to honor and remember workers who have been killed or injured in the workplace;

(2) recognizes the importance of worker health and safety standards;

(3) encourages the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, industries, employers and employees to support activities aimed at increasing awareness of the importance of preventing illness, injury, and death in the workplace; and

(4) calls upon the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert material relevant to H. Res. 1154 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as she might consume to the sponsor of this resolution, the distinguished gentlewoman from the State of Texas, Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Illinois for bringing this bill to the floor.

On Monday of this week, millions of people worldwide recognized Workers Memorial Day. I introduced H. Res. 1154 because each year this country has thousands of workers who are killed due to workplace-related injuries, and tens of thousands more die of occupational illnesses. It is staggering to think that each day an average of 16 workers are killed due to injuries on the job. Worldwide, more than 2 million workers die of occupational illness and injuries annually. That means more people are killed on the job each year than in wars.

The bottom line is that everyone deserves a safe and healthy workplace. Many of us may take this basic right for granted. But for millions of Americans, the threat of being permanently disabled or even killed on the job is very real.

Workers Memorial Day not only recognizes and honors those who have been killed or injured on the job, it also reminds us of the overwhelming need to improve health and safety standards in our Nation's workplaces.

It has been 38 years since the creation of OSHA, and over this time worker health and safety standards have vastly improved. However, there is still work to be done, as evidenced by the Sago mine disaster and the recent combustible dust explosion at the Imperial Sugar refinery in Georgia that killed 12 workers.

Today we will take a step toward improving those safety standards by considering the Worker Protection Against Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Act. This bill represents a pressing need for OSHA standards to prevent combustible dust explosions which have killed more than 100 workers since 1980. That's 100 workers who went to work in the morning but never returned home to their families and loved ones. Workers Memorial Day remembers those workers who gave their lives and the families they left behind.

I would like to thank House leadership and Chairman MILLER for his support in bringing this resolution to the floor today; and, of course, Mr. DAVIS. I would also like to thank the House Labor and Working Families Caucus, and in particular Congresswoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ, for their assistance in bringing this resolution forward. I urge my colleagues to support recognizing this Workers Memorial Day.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1154, supporting the mission and goals of Workers Memorial Day in order to honor, remember and pay tribute to the workers who have been killed or injured in the workplace.

Monday, April 28 marked the 20th annual Workers Memorial Day, a day to honor our Nation's workers who were injured or lost their lives as a result of incidents in the workplace.

I was honored in my district in York, Pennsylvania, to participate with the York Adams County Central Labor Council in a Worker Memorial Day ceremony where three individuals were remembered following their deaths in the workplace in 2007, and pay tribute to them, with their families being in our thoughts and prayers and our sympathies going out to them on the loss of their loved ones.

We remember and pay tribute to all Americans who have given the most to ensure our Nation's economic growth and sustainability. On this day, we reaffirm our commitment to guarantee a safe and healthy work environment for all employees.

Employers, employees, and the local, State, and Federal Governments have all shared in the mission of protecting our Nation's workforce. I would note, Mr. Speaker, that labor organizations are not specifically mentioned in the resolution, but certainly they have played a critically important role in promoting and enhancing workplace safety. We all aspire to have hazard-free workplaces, and the combined efforts of these groups and individuals have moved us closer towards achieving this goal.

According to OSHA Administrator Edwin Foulke, Jr., in 2006, the Department of Labor reported that the Nation's injury and illness incident rate of 4.4 per 100 employees was the lowest ever recorded. Additionally, fatality rates remain at historic lows. Clearly these numbers show that workplaces are getting safer, but we must ensure that this trend continues.

April 28 also commemorated the 37th anniversary of the start-up of the Department of Labor's Occupation Safety and Health Administration. We commend OSHA for years of hard work and dedication. From day one, the agency has promoted a safe and healthy workplace for all employees. OSHA's regulations, educational efforts, and enforcement activities have enhanced both workplace safety and success across the United States.

Moving forward, it is important to remember that OSHA cannot guarantee the safety of our workers by itself. OSHA cannot write and enforce rules effectively if it does not receive adequate funding and valuable input from all interested stakeholders. We must ensure that our efforts to enhance workplace safety provide for this funding and input. We must maintain a strong commitment to work with OSHA on its mission of protecting the American worker.

Even one workplace injury or fatality is one too many. Workers Memorial Day serves to reaffirm our commitment to protecting all employees. On a day when we remember those who have sacrificed so much, it is clear Americans must work together to ingrain a culture of safety in all workplaces. I am pleased to support this resolution and ask for a ''yes'' vote.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Representative JOHNSON from Texas for introducing this resolution, and I am pleased to join with her and with Representative PLATTS in supporting its passage. I rise in support of the mission and goals of Workers Memorial Day.

□ 1600

Workers Memorial Day allows us to honor and remember the many workers who have been injured or even killed in the workplace. Unfortunately, while the United States loses about 5,500 workers each year, more than 2 million people die worldwide from workplace-related accidents and disease.

According to the National Safety Council and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job fatality rate has been cut by 78 percent since 1970. While direct comparisons of injury data for 2006 and years prior to 2003 are not possible due to a change in classification systems, in general, declines in workplace fatalities and injuries have been much greater in those industries where the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has targeted its standards and enforcement activities.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, which encourages OSHA industries, employers and employees, to support activities that increase awareness of the importance of preventing illness, injury and death in the workplace.

I would also like to thank all those who took the time on Monday to remember those Americans who were injured, or those who have lost their lives due to a workplace accident.

And so, again, Mr. Speaker, I commend Representative JOHNSON from Texas for introducing this timely and important resolution.

I also thank Mr. PLATTS, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, for his support. But I also thank him for the opportunity to work with him this afternoon. It's been a pleasure, as it always is. He is one of the most pleasant Members of this House, and it's always a pleasure to interact and work with him.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1154.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 1157, by the yeas and nays; adopting House Resolution 1157, if ordered; and suspending the rules and concurring in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1195, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5522, COMBUSTIBLE DUST EXPLOSION AND FIRE PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on House Resolution 1157, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 226, nays 194, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 227]

YEAS—226

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Speier
Spratt

Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

NAYS—194

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—11

Andrews
Doggett
Forbes
Granger
Higgins
Hill
Miller (FL)
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Rush

□ 1627

Mr. WALSH of New York and Mr. EHLERS changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 222, nays 193, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 228]

YEAS—222

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

NAYS—193

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lampson
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Pearce
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—16

Andrews
Berman
Boren
Cummings
Doggett
Forbes
Granger
Higgins
Hill
Lamborn
McKeon
Miller (FL)
Payne
Pence
Rush
Wexler

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining in the vote.

□ 1635

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SAFETEA–LU TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1195, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1195.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 358, nays 51, answered ''present'' 11, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 229]

YEAS—358

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castle
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Donnelly
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Graves
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hayes
Heller
Herseth Sandlin
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Pearce
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—51

Akin
Barton (TX)
Blackburn
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Carter
Chabot
Davis (KY)
Doolittle
Ehlers
Feeney
Flake
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Gohmert
Hensarling
Herger
Hoekstra
Inglis (SC)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
King (IA)
LaHood
Lamborn
Linder
Lungren, Daniel E.
Manzullo
Marchant
Miller (FL)
Musgrave
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Putnam
Rohrabacher
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Souder
Stearns
Tancredo
Thornberry
Wilson (SC)

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—11

Barrett (SC)
Bonner
Delahunt
Doyle
Green, Gene
Hastings (WA)
Jones (OH)
Kline (MN)
McCaul (TX)
Roybal-Allard
Weller

NOT VOTING—11

Andrews
Doggett
Forbes
Gordon
Granger
Higgins
Hill
Payne
Pence
Rush
Wexler

□ 1644

Mr. ROYCE changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. DELAHUNT changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''present.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 5534

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed from H.R. 5534, the Bear Protection Act of 2008.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. MCGOVERN, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110–614) on the resolution (H. Res. 1167) providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 5522.

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

There was no objection.

COMBUSTIBLE DUST EXPLOSION AND FIRE PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1157 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5522.

□ 1646

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5522) to require the Secretary of Labor to issue interim and final occupational safety and health standards regarding worker exposure to combustible dust, and for other purposes, with Mrs. CHRISTENSEN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5522, the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act of 2008.

On February 7 of this year, a huge explosion ripped through the Imperial Sugar refinery in Port Wentworth, Georgia. Eight workers died instantly, and five more have died in the months since the explosion from the horrific

burns that they suffered. More than sixty workers were injured, some so seriously that they will never fully recover. This was a terrible disaster, one of our Nation's worst workplace tragedies of the past decade.

The cause of the explosion was combustible sugar dust. It may surprise many of us that sugar dust can explode with such violence. But it can, and so can many other dusts that are commonly found in U.S. industrial sites.

In 2003, three fatal dust explosions occurred in the United States, killing 14 workers. The U.S. Chemical Safety Board investigated these incidents. The board examined whether these tragedies were just coincidences or a major national problem. The Chemical Safety Board also examined whether there were adequate laws to protect workers or whether new protections were needed. The Chemical Safety Board found that these explosions were not coincidences. In fact, between 1980 and 2005, 119 workers had been killed and 718 injured in dust explosions that had also extensively damaged the industrial facilities. The Chemical Safety Board also found that there were no enforceable national regulations to prevent combustible dust incidents. Let me repeat that. The Chemical Safety Board also found that there were no enforceable national regulations to prevent combustible dust incidents.

The Chemical Safety Board concluded that controlling combustible dust explosions isn't a mystery. In fact, the first National Fire Protection Association standards to prevent combustible dust explosions were issued in 1923. In November of 2006, the Chemical Safety Board, an independent Federal agency whose members were all appointed by President George W. Bush, concluded that the only way to prevent more worker deaths was for OSHA to issue a comprehensive standard covering combustible dust. That was in November of 2006. But to this day, OSHA has taken no action to issue a standard. In fact, OSHA has refused to act despite the fact that 70 more combustible dust explosions have occurred since 2006.

Even now, after 13 needless deaths in Georgia, OSHA demonstrates no understanding of the urgency of this problem. This is a shocking failure by the very governmental agency responsible for keeping workers safe.

Sadly, this isn't the only time that OSHA has failed to act on a Chemical Safety Board recommendation, and it's not the only time where the result of that inaction has been the death of American workers. The Chemical Safety Board warned OSHA in 2002 that new rules were needed to prevent reactive chemical explosions, but OSHA refused to act. Then last December a reactive chemical explosion in Jacksonville, Florida, killed four workers.

Because OSHA refused to act, Congress must now act. Congressman JOHN BARROW and I have introduced H.R. 5522 to force OSHA to do the job it should have done on its own. The legislation will require OSHA to issue an interim standard on combustible dust within 90 days and a permanent standard within 18 months. It would require OSHA to base the new standard on the National Fire Protection Association standards.

OSHA says that the combustible dust hazards are already covered by numerous existing regulations. But that simply is not true. Most of the existing standards do not even mention the word ''dust'' and do nothing to educate or inform employers and employees how to prevent combustible dust explosions. Existing OSHA standards also do not address what levels of dust are safe, how to clean the dust safely, or how to prevent dust from accumulating to unsafe levels.

And it is not true, as opponents of this bill say, that we don't allow for public input. In fact, OSHA would have to conduct full public hearings and a small business review but to do so on an expedited basis that reflects the life-or-death urgency of this issue.

Because of the serious hazards imposed by combustible dust, because OSHA has issued no major standard during this administration except under pressure of the courts or the Congress, and because OSHA is unable to meet the regulatory deadlines it sets for itself, it is necessary to set some tight deadlines for action.

It is also not true that this bill requires OSHA to adopt the National Fire Protection Association standards. The bill requires OSHA to include only the relevant and appropriate provisions of the National Fire Protection Association combustible dust standards. While the National Fire Protection Association standards have proven to be effective, OSHA should use its discretion, after full public hearings and comments, to determine how the National Fire Protection Association guidelines should be used in a final standard.

You will hear opponents of this measure say we should wait until the OSHA investigation is completed and the results of OSHA's current National Emphasis Program are in. But we have waited long enough. And, in fact, again, the Chemical Safety Board recommendations predate that accident based upon the urgent need for these regulations to save American workers' lives and to prevent their injuries prior to that time.

Again, if OSHA doesn't act, we must. We know that most businesses are doing the best they can to make their workplace safe. But it is also clear that other businesses may not be doing enough to ensure the safety of their employees. The bottom line is that workers need protection and the agency established by Congress 37 years ago to protect workers has once again failed in that duty.

The goal today is to protect workers from those preventable explosions, and we believe that this legislation accomplishes that goal without imposing unreasonable burdens on employers.

I want to leave the House with the closing words of a witness who appeared before the Education and Labor Committee, Tammy Miser. Tammy Miser's brother, Shawn Boone, was killed in a combustible dust explosion in 2003. Tammy recounted the terrible suffering that her brother went through before he died, her hopes that something would happen after the Chemical Safety Board recommendations were issued, and her disappointment that OSHA has yet to act, even after the Imperial Sugar explosion.

Tammy left us with this one request: ''that you not let our loved ones die in vain and help us keep other families safe from the dangers of combustible dust.''

It's the least we can do for Shawn Boone, the workers in Port Wentworth, and the many other workers who have needlessly lost their lives.

Madam Chairman, I strongly urge that all of my colleagues will support H.R. 5522.

Madam Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in opposition to the bill at this time and in this form.

Consideration of this bill is a somber occurrence. It reminds us that less than 3 months ago, workers at the Imperial Sugar refinery in Port Wentworth, Georgia, lost their lives to a tragic workplace accident. Even today many others remain injured.

As with any workplace accident of this magnitude, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, was dispatched to the scene to investigate what went wrong. Preliminary reports indicate that the explosion was linked to combustible dust, a known hazard for which at least 17 OSHA standards currently apply.

OSHA has 6 months to complete its investigation, a time frame that I think is appropriate for any injury of this seriousness. I expect that investigation to provide us a thorough, candid examination of exactly what went wrong so that steps can be taken to prevent such an accident in the future.

Among the first questions OSHA needs to answer is whether existing safety guidelines were followed at the Imperial refinery. This question is fundamental. It will tell us whether the cause of this accident was a lack of sufficient safety standards or a failure to follow the standards that exist.

The bill before us today presumes that current safety standards were insufficient. But the truth is we don't yet know whether that is the case. Less than 3 months after the accident, OSHA has not even had an opportunity to complete its investigation. We cannot possibly provide effective new safety standards when we don't know which standards, if any, we're lacking.

I understand why we're here today. Like Chairman MILLER; Representatives BARROW and KINGSTON, who represent the refinery and surrounding areas; and all Members of this body, I grieve for the workers who lost their lives. But making an end run around a proven process for establishing workplace safety guidelines is the wrong answer at the wrong time.

The bill before us proposes a highly proscriptive regulatory mandate in an excruciatingly compressed time frame. More concerning still, OSHA, the agency that would be responsible for implementing these new requirements, does not believe this bill will produce the most effective safety measures.

□ 1700

Of course, this is not to say that we should do nothing in the face of such an accident. To the contrary. I believe OSHA has a responsibility to complete a thorough, aggressive investigation of the accident at the Imperial Sugar refinery to determine its causes and consider whether additional regulatory guidance is needed. If it becomes clear that existing standards are ineffective, OSHA should move forward with a robust regulatory process that provides clearer, more effective guidance on combustible dust.

I want to be clear on this point. This bill at this time, and in this form, is not the only opportunity to strengthen safety standards for combustible dust. OSHA itself has not ruled out additional regulations if it becomes clear that the 17 existing standards that apply to workplaces with combustible dust hazards are not effective or clear enough to protect workers.

The danger of combustible dust in the workplace is a serious concern, and I am committed to appropriate and effective safety measures. That is why we plan to offer an alternative proposal today that calls for a more comprehensive approach that would include stakeholder input and expertise in any regulatory action that may be needed.

We had hoped to see another amendment made in order, as proposed by Representative KINGSTON. Because of the compressed timetable in the bill, OSHA will not have to take into account economic feasibility of the standard. Mr. KINGSTON's amendment would have simply asked that a study on the job losses resulting from the standard be reported to Congress. Surely it would not have been too much to ask whether Congress was exacerbating job losses in an already weakening economy. But, unfortunately, that amendment was not made in order.

Still, I continue to believe we can work together in good faith to protect worker safety without undermining the proven road to developing effective, enforceable safety protections.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), the Chair of the subcommittee.

Ms. WOOLSEY. This past Monday was Workers Memorial Day. Workers Memorial Day is the day when we remember those who have lost their lives or have been injured as a result of unsafe health and safety conditions in the workplace. On Workers Memorial Day we also recommit to the fight for safe working conditions for every single worker in America.

So, Madam Chairwoman, it's fitting that today we are considering H.R. 5522, the Worker Protection Against Combustible Dust Explosions and Fires Act, which was introduced by Chairman MILLER and Representative BARROW, a bill that requires OSHA to develop a standard for combustible dust. I am proud to be a cosponsor of that bill, and I want to commend Chairman MILLER and Representative BARROW because they introduced it.

Like other Members of Congress, I was absolutely shocked and saddened by the combustible dust explosion at the Imperial Sugar Company in Port Wentworth, Georgia, which resulted in 13 deaths and 60 injuries. My heart goes out to the families of those who died, and my hopes and prayers, all of our hopes and prayers are with those workers who were seriously injured. The survivors have a tough road ahead of them.

Unfortunately, Madam Chairwoman, this explosion, like so many other workplace incidents that have occurred lately, could have been prevented. That is the most important part of it. It didn't need to happen. Lives were senselessly lost, and more workers remain in critical condition.

That is why immediately after the explosion, Chairman MILLER and I sent a letter to OSHA demanding that the agency begin work on a standard for combustible dust. Such a standard was recommended not last year, but longer than that ago, a year and a half ago, at least, by the Chemical Safety Board. That is an independent Federal agency charged with investigating chemical accidents. But OSHA has failed to act on this recommendation, and unfortunately, but not surprisingly, OSHA has failed to respond to our letter in a timely manner.

So that is why we in Congress need to act, and we need to act now. We must act just as we did when we passed H.R. 2693, the Popcorn Lung Disease Prevention Act. That was legislation that requires OSHA to issue an emergency temporary standard to regulate workers' exposure to diacetyl, a chemical used in butter flavoring for microwave popcorn and other food products, a chemical that was killing and injuring workers.

I wish that we could trust OSHA under this administration to do the job that was laid out for them. But we cannot. So that is why I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 5522. Take care of our workers.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Chairman, I yield to the subcommittee ranking member that has jurisdiction over this issue, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE), such time as he may consume.

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chairman, I rise in support of workplace safety, but in opposition to H.R. 5522, the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act. We all share, I believe, the common goal of working to protect employees from hazards in the workplace. The accident at the Imperial Sugar refinery in Georgia is a tragedy. It must be fully investigated. The Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has undertaken the investigation that, by law, must be completed within 6 months. The results of this investigation will help identify the cause of the Imperial Sugar accident.

I appreciate the concern about workers' safety, but as lawmakers, we have the responsibility to debate and enact laws that are reasonable. The bill before us today is an impulsive attempt to rush into action before OSHA can complete the investigation.

Under this bill, OSHA will be required to adopt an interim rule within 90 days of enactment and a final rule within 18 months. This accelerated time frame is not only unrealistic, but would also deny stakeholder input ranging from industry, to academia, to organized labor, and other groups who could provide important and insightful contributions. By undermining the process, this legislation could have negative consequences and actually undercut workers' safety.

In a letter to the committee dated April 8, 2008, the Department of Labor's Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, Edwin Foulke, states: ''The time constraints of this legislation would give OSHA no choice but to ignore other statutory and regulatory requirements for rulemaking under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Administrative Procedures Act, numerous executive orders, and Office of Management and Budget bulletins and guidelines.''

H.R. 5522 also disregards the preventive efforts that have been under way well before the tragic accident in Georgia. Last year, based on the recommendations by the Chemical Safety Board, OSHA initiated a National Emphasis Program that aims to identify any gaps that may exist among the standards that currently apply to workplaces with combustible dust. While OSHA's opinion has been dismissed by the other side, yesterday the President issued a veto threat, reiterating serious concerns with this hasty regulatory proposal.

Again, we should not rush to legislative action. Rather, we should take the time to thoroughly and thoughtfully review all the facts. I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this bill.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW), the cosponsor of this legislation.

Mr. BARROW. I thank Chairman MILLER.

Madam Chairman, what we have learned in my community since the Imperial disaster hit us is the experts have known about this problems for decades. There have been voluntary standards that effectively deal with this problem, but not enough people even know about the problem, much less the solutions, and those who do know about the solutions, aren't required to adopt them.

We have also learned that the only standards that are mandatory really aren't designed with this problem in mind in the first place, and they aren't working. So we have good standards that are not mandatory and inadequate standards that are mandatory.

Up until now, the argument has been between those who say we wouldn't go too fast in developing a national standard and those who argue we are going too slow. There are those who argue the costs of a comprehensive solution outweigh the benefits. I disagree. I say that if we can prevent just one of these disasters from happening, if we can prevent just one family from having to go through what families at Imperial Sugar are still going through, it would all be worth it.

But don't take my word for it. The Savannah Morning News reported this morning that the chairman and chief executive officer of the National Safety Board believes this bill will, and I quote, ''would save lives.'' He believes that the measure ''is good for business and the corporate world should support it.''

He told the editorial board back home, ''I wish I could take 50 business people at a time to the refinery and have them take a look at the destruction. This is what your facility could look like if you don't take care of the dust.'' Mr. Bresland ought to know what he's talking about. He's not a bureaucrat, he's a ''hard-headed businessman from the corporate world'' who worked for many years at Honeywell International. He is right. This bill isn't just good government, it's also good business.

I commend Chairman MILLER and Ms. WOOLSEY for their hard work in support of this bill, and I urge my colleagues to join us and vote in favor of it.

Mr. MCKEON. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), who represents constituents that work in this sugar factory, and has been dealing with this problem now for 3 months. I am happy to yield him 4 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the ranking member and I thank the chairman of the committee, and my colleagues, Mr. BARROW and Ms. WOOLSEY, for their work on this. While I support many of the points of the ranking member, I believe that this bill is a step in the right direction and something that we are just going to have to push OSHA on.

The Imperial Sugar explosion, of course, was a very tragic accident, of which Mr. BARROW and I were involved in it. I actually was there the night that it happened and he and I went there for several days afterwards to look at the damage. I met with many of the families. It's a very sad thing. Sometimes in a situation like that it's hard to be objective in terms of what to support and what not to support, or what to change, especially since we don't know the exact cause of the accident; if any of the existing standards, for example, were violated, if a new standard would have prevented it, or if this is going to boil down to housekeeping, in which there would already be a violation and something a new standard or an old standard cannot address because the employer did not do what the employer is supposed to do, which would be to keep the workplace clean.

I share the goal of comprehensive worker safety, but sometimes the history of legislating it shows that if we move too quickly, then you might not get the goal that you want to do. Throughout its history, OSHA standards set in process has been governed by the Administrative Procedures Act. This generally requires a Federal agency to develop and draft proposed regulations, issue proposed rules and regulations in a transparent process that allows for comment and input from the stakeholders and incorporate any appropriate stakeholders' comments in the publication of the final rule.

The bill was improved greatly with the Woolsey substitute. That substitute moved more of the capital and equipment-intensive mandates to the final rule rather than the interim rule, including engineering, administration, workplace practices. It also moved the reference to the NFPA, the National Fire Protection Act, from the interim to the final rule, and making the language more flexible. Those were very good improvements. Lastly, it required that the 18-month final rule be made under the normal rule making process.

Now I understand that the chairman may offer further improvements during the floor debate tonight that may include making engineering controls required under the interim standard effective 6 months after the issuance of the interim rather than 30 days under the base bill in clarifying that the standard must be promulgated in accordance with normal OSHA rulemaking procedure including that that provides for the review of small businesses.

I think that that might a good step because the more input you get from the business community, the labor community, and the users, I think the better. That's why I offered an amendment that would have said that we should consider if there will be any job loss because of these rules or because of the interim rules. I was very disappointed that the Rules Committee did not allow my amendment to be considered on the floor because I think it would have been very helpful and something that certainly would have given bipartisan support to it.

□ 1715

One thing I also want to point out, OSHA can actually make rules themselves. The Assistant Secretary, Mr. Foulke, has stated, ''We have not ruled out the possibility of doing rulemaking, and that is an option for us still. But we are just trying to collect the data through the National Emphasis Program where we look at sites and determine do our standards actually cover what we need to cover? Or are there some holes in the coverage that we may need to address, and would a comprehensive standard address that.''

So we need to remember that if this bill gets bogged down somewhere along the line, that OSHA itself probably will come out with some sort of rule modification which could be helpful.

We have talked about the grain standard being a good standard.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Georgia's time has expired.

Mr. MCKEON. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. KINGSTON. The leadership of the committee has said that the grain standard works fairly well. But I want to point out that this took 7 years, so maybe the reason the grain standard is working so well is that it took a long time and lots of input to pass. I would hope that we could take the lessons of the grain standard and not have to wait anywhere near 7 years, but say, hey, that will has already been invented. Let's apply what we found on the grain standard to this. I am hoping that the chairman's amendment addresses some of those things, but I am also confident that the Senate is going to do it as well.

Let me close by saying I believe under these circumstances that the committee has done a good job. I think there has been some solid input from the minority, and the majority has been listening. I do plan to support the bill, but I do think we have a lot more that we could do to improve it.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 5522, the Worker Protection Against Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Act of 2008. This bill would require the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, to issue rules regulating combustible industrial dusts, like sugar dust, that can build up to hazardous levels and explode.

Opponents of this bill claim that OSHA has enough existing standard and education materials to protect workers. However, I would strongly argue that the absence of clear OSHA standards puts thousands of American workers and innocent bystanders at risk from workplace hazards. Unfortunately, I have an example to back up my statement.

On December 19, 2007 there was a chemical explosion at the T2 Laboratories in Jacksonville, Florida. According to the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, CSB, this explosion was one of the worse chemical accidents in their

10-year history. Unfortunately, this isn't an isolated incident. A year earlier, there was another explosion in Daytona Beach at the Bethune Point Wastewater Plant. These two incidents demonstrate a critical need for stronger OSHA regulations.

In 2002, following a series of fatal explosions and a large number of deaths and injuries caused by runaway chemical reactions, the CSB issued a report concluding that reactive incidents are ''a significant chemical safety problem'' and that OSHA's Process Safety Management Standard, PSM standard, has ''significant gaps in coverage of reactive hazards.'' The study identified 167 serious reactive chemical accidents resulting in 108 fatalities in the U.S. over a 20 year period. The CSB therefore recommended that OSHA amend the PSM standard to better control reactive chemical hazards.

Reactive hazards rulemaking had been on OSHA's agenda during the Clinton administration as a result of a number of fatalities and a labor union petition, but the Bush administration removed it from the regulatory agenda.

OSHA's mission is to ensure employee safety and health and as OSHA is watching the progress of H.R. 5522, I ask that they review the 2002 recommendations by the Chemical Safety Board and revise the Process Safety Management standards to prevent further workplace accidents.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Chairman, I rise in strong support of this bill to improve worker protections.

The Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act would force the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue rules regulating combustible industrial dusts, like sugar dust, that can build up to hazardous levels and explode.

While OSHA already has the authority to issue such a rule without Congress passing new legislation, the agency has failed to act despite the fact that the dangers of combustible dust have been well known for years.

In 2006, following a series of fatal combustible dust explosions, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board conducted a major study of combustible dust hazards.

It identified 281 combustible dust incidents between 1980 and 2005 that killed 119 workers, injured 718 others, and extensively damaged industrial facilities.

Time and time again we have seen this administration fail to take necessary actions to protect workers, and without action by Congress, it appears OSHA has no plans to act on combustible dust regulation.

As recently as February of this year, we saw the tragedy that can be caused by combustible dust explosions. The combustible dust explosion at the Imperial Sugar Company in Port Wentworth, Georgia, was a senseless tragedy that, like similar incidents, could have been prevented with OSHA regulation and oversight.

The bill has three main components. First, it directs OSHA to issue interim rules on combustible dust within 90 days. Second, it directs OSHA to issue final rules within 18 months. The rules would be based on effective voluntary standards devised by the National Fire Protection Association, a nonprofit organization, and in addition to items required in the interim rules, would include requirements for building design and explosion protection. Lastly, it directs OSHA to revise the Hazard Communication Standard to include combustible dusts.

Madam Chairman, I urge my colleague to join me in supporting this resolution to make sure OSHA takes necessary actions to protect workers.

Mr. BACA. Madam Chairman, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 5522, the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act of 2008.

H.R. 5522 would direct OSHA to improve engineering controls, and worker training.

OSHA would be directed to issue a final standard to include requirements for building design and explosion protection within 18 months; and to include combustible dusts in the Hazardous Communication Standard.

This bill reduces workplace hazards; Workers have a right to work in a safe environment with trustworthy safety standards;

Workers should not have to fear dust explosions or resultant fires;

In February, 6 people died and 42 were injured when sugar dust exploded in a silo at Imperial Sugar Company's largest refinery in Savannah, Georgia.

Families should not have to worry that their loved one will not return home due to a dust explosion.

OSHA must immediately protect workers in these plants.

I urge your support of H.R. 5522.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5522, requiring the Secretary of Labor to issue interim and final occupational safety and health standards regarding worker exposure to combustible dust, and for other purposes. I would like to thank my distinguished colleague from California, Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, Representative GEORGE MILLER for his leadership on this important issue.

The Worker Protection Against Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Act requires the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, to issue rules regulating combustible industrial dusts, like sugar dust, that can build up to hazardous levels and explode. There are numerous occasions in recent history where combustible dust levels have resulted in explosions, killing and injuring numerous workers. On February 7, 2008, the Imperial Sugar refinery in Port Wentworth, Georgia, exploded, killing 13 workers and seriously injuring more than 60 others in a combustible dust explosion. The tragedy at Imperial Sugar shows that the threat of dust explosions is very real at industrial worksites across America and needs to be addressed immediately.

In 2003, there were a total of 3 catastrophic dust explosions that resulted in the death of 14 workers. These explosions prompted the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, CSB, to issue a report in November 2006, identifying 281 conbustible dust incidents between 1980 and 2005 that resulted in the death of 119 workers and injured 718. The Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board concluded their report finding, ''combustible dust explosions are a serious hazard in American industry.'' Since 2001, in case after case and industry after industry,

Since 2001, in case after case and industry after industry, OSHA has chosen to emphasize voluntary compliance over setting strong rules and enforcing them. Effective voluntary guidelines to control combustible dust hazards and prevent dust explosions already exist. But in order to truly protect workers, OSHA needs an enforceable standard in order to ensure industry compliance and to protect workers. Without an OSHA standard, many employers are unaware of the hazards of combustible dusts, while others have chosen not to adopt voluntary standards.

This important act directs OSHA to issue an interim final Combustible Dust standard within 90 days. The standard would include measures to minimize hazards associated with combustible dust through improved housekeeping, engineering controls, worker training and a written combustible dust safety program. This legislation also directs OSHA to issue a final standard within 18 months and fulfill all administrative rulemaking requirements including full public hearings, feasibility analysis and small business review. Lastly, H.R. 5522 directs OSHA to include combustible dusts in the Hazard Communication Standard which requires workers to receive information and training about the hazards they face on their jobs daily.

In addition, I would like to have seen companies submit certifications showing that they are in compliance of these sets of standards. This recommendation would ensure that companies follow the criteria outlined within this bill by certifying compliance. Also, the Secretary of Labor should do continuous inspections during the initial months of enactment, to ensure companies are in compliance.

Madam Chairman, this important legislation requiring the Secretary of Labor to issue interim and final occupational safety and health standards regarding worker exposure to combustible dust, and for other purposes, is necessary in order to protect Americans across the Nation. This important Act will help to prevent further accidents from occurring within the workplace. For these reasons, I strongly support H.R. 5522 and urge all members to do the same.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered read.

The text of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 5522

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) An emergency exists concerning worker exposure to combustible dust explosions and fires.

(2) 13 workers were killed and more than 60 seriously injured in a catastrophic combustible dust explosion at Imperial Sugar in Port Wentworth, Georgia on February 7, 2008.

(3) Following 3 catastrophic dust explosions that killed 14 workers in 2003, the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB)

issued a report in November 2006, which identified 281 combustible dust incidents between 1980 and 2005 that killed 119 workers and injured 718. The CSB concluded that ''combustible dust explosions are a serious hazard in American industry''.

(4) A quarter of the explosions occurred at food industry facilities, including sugar plants. Seventy additional combustible dust explosions have occurred since 2005.

(5) Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) often do not adequately address the hazards of combustible dusts, and the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) inadequately addresses dust explosion hazards and fails to ensure that safe work practices and guidance documents are included in MSDSs.

(6) The CSB recommended that OSHA issue a standard designed to prevent combustible dust fires and explosions in general industry, based on current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) dust explosion standards.

(7) The CSB also recommended that OSHA revise the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) (1910.1200) to clarify that combustible dusts are covered and that Material Safety Data Sheets contain information about the hazards and physical properties of combustible dusts.

(8) OSHA has not initiated rulemaking in response to the CSB's recommendation.

(9) OSHA issued a grain handling facilities standard (29 C.F.R. 1910.272), in 1987 that has proven highly effective in reducing the risk of combustible grain dust explosions, according to an OSHA evaluation.

(10) No Occupational Safety and Health Administration standard comprehensively addresses combustible dust explosion hazards in general industry.

(11) Voluntary National Fire Protection Association standards exist which, when implemented, effectively reduce the likelihood and impact of combustible dust explosions.

SEC. 3. ISSUANCE OF STANDARD ON COMBUSTIBLE DUST.

(a) INTERIM STANDARD.—

(1) APPLICATION AND RULEMAKING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall promulgate an interim final standard regulating combustible dusts. The interim final standard shall, at a minimum, apply to manufacturing, processing, blending, conveying, repackaging, and handling of combustible particulate solids and their dusts, including organic dusts (such as sugar, candy, paper, soap, and dried blood), plastics, sulfur, wood, rubber, furniture, textiles, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, fibers, dyes, coal, metals (such as aluminum, chromium, iron, magnesium, and zinc), fossil fuels, and others determined by the Secretary, but shall not apply to processes already covered by OSHA's standard on grain facilities (29 C.F.R. 1910.272).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The interim final standard required under this subsection shall include the following:

(A) Requirements for hazard assessment to identify, evaluate, and control combustible dust hazards.

(B) Requirements for a written program that includes provisions for hazardous dust inspection, testing, hot work, ignition control, and housekeeping, including the frequency and method or methods used to minimize accumulations of combustible dust on ledges, floors, equipment, and other exposed surfaces.

(C) Requirements for engineering, administrative controls, and operating procedures, such as means to control fugitive dust emissions and ignition sources, the safe use and maintenance of dust producing and dust collection systems and filters, minimizing horizontal surfaces where dust can accumulate, and sealing of areas inaccessible to housekeeping.

(D) Requirements for housekeeping to prevent accumulation of combustible dust in places of employment in such depths that it can present explosion, deflagration, or other fire hazards, including safe methods of dust removal.

(E) Requirements for employee participation in hazard assessment, development of and compliance with the written program, and other elements of hazard management.

(F) Requirements to provide written safety and health information and annual training to employees, including housekeeping procedures, hot work procedures, preventive maintenance procedures, common ignition sources, and lockout, tag-out procedures.

(3) PROCEDURE.—The requirements in this subsection shall take effect without regard to the procedural requirements applicable to regulations promulgated under section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 655(b)) or the procedural requirements of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE OF INTERIM STANDARD.—The interim final standard shall take effect 30 days after issuance. The interim final standard shall have the legal effect of an occupational safety and health standard, and shall apply until a final standard becomes effective under section 6 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (29 U.S.C. 655).

(b) FINAL STANDARD.—

(1) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall, pursuant to section 6 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (29 U.S.C. 655), promulgate a final standard regulating combustible dust explosions.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The final standard required under this subsection shall include the following:

(A) The scope described in subsection (a)(1).

(B) The worker protection provisions in subsection (a)(2).

(C) Requirements for managing change of dust producing materials, technology, equipment, staffing, and procedures.

(D) Requirements for building design such as explosion venting, ducting, and sprinklers.

(E) Requirements for explosion protection, including separation and segregation of the hazard.

(F) Relevant and appropriate provisions of National Fire Protection Association combustible dust standards, including the ''Standard for the Prevention of Fire and Dust Explosions from the Manufacturing, Processing, and Handling of Combustible Particulate Solids'' (NFPA 654), ''Standard for Combustible Metals'' (NFPA 484), and ''Standard for the Prevention of Fires and Dust Explosions in Agricultural and Food Processing Facilities'' (NFPA 61).

SEC. 4. REVISION OF THE HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARD.

(a) REVISION REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall revise the hazard communication standard in section 1910.1200 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, by amending the definition of ''physical hazard'' in subsection (c) of such section to include ''a combustible dust'' as an additional example of such a hazard.

(b) EFFECT OF MODIFICATIONS.—The modification under this section shall be in force until superseded in whole or in part by regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Labor under section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 655(b)) and shall be enforced in the same manner and to the same extent as any rule or regulation promulgated under section 6(b).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The modification to the hazard communication standard required shall take effect within 30 days after the publication of the revised rule.

The CHAIRMAN. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in House Report 110–613. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent of the amendment, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. GEORGE MILLER OF CALIFORNIA

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 110–613.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California:

Page 2, beginning on line 4, strike ''Combustible Dust'' and all that follows through ''Act'' on line 5, and insert ''Worker Protection Against Combustible Dust Explosions and Fires Act''.

Page 5, line 22, insert ''controls (which requirements shall be effective 6 months after the date on which the interim standard is issued)'' after ''engineering''.

Page 7, line 4, strike ''The'' and insert ''Except as specified in paragraph (2)(C) with regards to engineering controls, the''.

Page 8, beginning on line 8, strike '', including'' and all that follows through line 15 and insert a period.

Page 8, after line 15, insert the following:

(3) PROCEDURE.—The final standard required by this subsection shall be promulgated in accordance with the procedural requirements for rulemaking under section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 655(b)) and under title 5, United States Code, including the requirements relating to small businesses in chapter 6 of such title.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1157, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I yield myself 4 minutes.

This manager's amendment is offered because during the drafting and the refining of this bill we have had numerous extensive conversations with OSHA, with its technical staff and with affected industry associations about problematic issues. Our goal is to save workers lives, but also make these OSHA standards workable for businesses who need to implement them. To that end, the manager's amendment makes four adjustments to the bill:

One, several industry associations were concerned that the short 1-month effective date on the interim standards was too short to make some of the capital improvements that may be needed for engineering controls. The manager's amendment therefore provides for engineering controls required by

the interim standards shall be effective 6 months after the issuance of the standard, rather than 30 days.

Because emphasizing specific National Fire Protection Association standards was seen as putting more emphasis on some than on others that were not mentioned, the manager's amendment maintains the provisions that OSHA shall include appropriate and relevant National Fire Protection Association standards in its final standards, but eliminates reference to specific National Fire Protection Association standards.

Then, because we want to make perfectly clear that OSHA is expected to conduct a full review of small business impacts of this standard, the manager's amendment clarifies that the final standard shall be conducted in accordance with the usual rulemaking procedural requirements, including those that provide for a small business review.

Finally, it changes the title to ''The Worker Protection Against Combustible Dust Explosions and Fires Act.''

I would encourage all of my colleagues to support the manager's amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the bill, although I do not expect to oppose it.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Chairman, although the changes in this amendment are modest, they are a step in the right direction. Unfortunately, they simply do not go far enough.

Specifically, this amendment includes a cosmetic change to the requirement that OSHA include National Fire Protection Association standards among its new mandates. As Chairman MILLER knows, the NFPA standards are voluntary guidelines that offer a far more complex, stringent protocol that may be adopted in whole or in part by industry participants. These guidelines play an important role as voluntary practices that can enhance safety efforts, but they are entirely inappropriate as a replacement for effective OSHA rulemaking.

So while I appreciate that this amendment removes a direct mandate for a specific NFPA standard, I remain deeply concerned that the amendment retains the requirement that OSHA include relevant and appropriate NFPA standards in the final rule. I fear that this may be a distinction without a difference.

The amendment includes other modest improvements, including a more reasonable time frame for implementation of the engineering controls in the interim standard. It also clarifies that the final rule would be developed under more normal and inclusive procedures. Both of these steps improve the underlying bill, but because they fail to fully address concerns about the bill's abbreviated timeline, they are half measures at best.

However, I do appreciate the gentleman's efforts, and I will support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 110–613.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment made in order under the rule.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 2 offered by Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. INVESTIGATION ON COMBUSTIBLE DUST AND DETERMINATION OF ADDITIONAL ACTION.

(a) DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.—Upon completion of the Department of Labor's investigation of the accident that occurred at Imperial Sugar in Port Wentworth, Georgia on February 7, 2008, and based on the data gathered from the Combustible Dust National Emphasis Program, the Secretary of Labor shall determine—

(1) if the safety standards that are in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act do not adequately address the issue of combustible dust; and

(2) whether an occupational safety and health standard regarding combustible dust is necessary.

(b) RULEMAKING OR REPORT TO CONGRESS.—If the Secretary determines that an occupational safety and health standard regarding combustible dust is necessary, the Secretary shall promulgate a rule pursuant to section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (29 U.S.C. 655(b)) not later than 36 months after the completion of the investigation described in subsection (a). If the Secretary determines that such a standard is not necessary, the Secretary, not later than 6 months after making such a determination, shall transmit a report to Congress that specifically addresses the Secretary's reasons for determining that a combustible dust standard is unnecessary.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1157, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) and a Member opposed each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

While I share the majority's commitment to ensuring workplace safety, I believe the underlying bill fails to provide for the most effective means to ensure that safety.

Currently, there are several initiatives concerning dust under way at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA. Since October, the agency has implemented a combustible dust National Emphasis Program. This agency has sent high hazard alert letters to over 30,000 businesses emphasizing the need to prevent dust from accumulating.

Most importantly, OSHA is in the midst of the investigation of the February disaster at the Imperial Sugar refinery. The Imperial Sugar refinery in Georgia is located in a community adjacent to the Second Congressional District of South Carolina, which I have the honor to represent.

Instead of undermining the progress of existing combustible dust safety efforts, this substitute requires the Department of Labor to gather all necessary information about the Imperial refinery explosion specifically, as well as the broader dust hazard being examined through the National Emphasis Program. Once that information has been gathered and analyzed, the Secretary of Labor will be able to determine whether and what type of combustible dust standard is necessary.

Should the Secretary determine that existing safety requirements can effectively protect against the combustible dust hazard, the Secretary will be required to report to Congress as to why no new regulatory framework is necessary. But if the National Emphasis Program and the results of the Imperial refinery investigation show that additional guidance and regulation are needed, this substitute requires OSHA to complete a rigorous regulatory process that includes all relevant stakeholders within a fixed time frame.

Our amendment will allow for the regulation to be completed expeditiously and thoroughly without circumventing the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Administrative Procedures Act and other laws and regulations that ensure effective Federal regulations.

We have heard concerns from OSHA that the underlying bill will be difficult to comply with and difficult to enforce. This leaves workers at risk. I have trust in my constituent, Monty Felix of Sandy Run, South Carolina, who is the National President of the American Composites Manufacturers Association, to promote safety. We need the expertise of successful manufacturers.

Our goal today should be to move forward with the most effective strategy to ensure a safe workplace. I believe this substitute achieves that goal, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this substitute.

I yield at this time to the ranking member from California (Mr. MCKEON).

Mr. MCKEON. I thank the gentleman for yielding and I am pleased to lend my support to this amendment.

As Representative WILSON has made clear, this amendment will ensure OSHA takes the necessary steps to protect workers against the hazards of combustible dust. It demands an aggressive investigation into the Imperial Sugar refinery, it requires that OSHA utilize the findings of its National Emphasis Program on dust hazards, and it calls for a comprehensive, inclusive and effective standard to be established if it becomes clear that existing safeguards are not protecting workers.

The amendment fulfills our shared commitment to workplace safety, and it does so without undermining the credibility of the rulemaking process. I urge its adoption.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chairman, this amendment is an attempt to gut this legislation. This amendment would have OSHA not only wait for the outcome of the Imperial Sugar investigation, but also from findings from the combustible dust National Emphasis Program before deciding on whether or not to move forward. The National Emphasis Program could go on for years before there are findings. In fact, at the end of the day, OSHA could decide to do nothing.

To do nothing has turned out to be very expensive for the American workers in those workplaces where there is combustible dust. The track record is horrible with respect to OSHA preventing these dust explosions from taking place. That is the reason that prior to the most recent explosion that Mr. BARROW and I are trying to address, prior to that, the Chemical Safety Board made a recommendation to OSHA that they should promulgate these enforceable regulations, because there are no enforceable regulations with respect to dust currently in effect, except for what we did years ago in the grain industry.

□ 1730

Except for what we did years ago in the grain industry, and that dramatically reduced the number of incidents that took place. So to adopt the Wilson amendment is to adopt a position to do nothing, and to take an agency that has chosen time and again to do nothing in this field that any way provides for enforceable regulations of this most dangerous material when the workplace is not properly maintained and preventible actions are taken. That is just not acceptable. That is not acceptable in the name of the workers who died in the Port Wentworth plant. It is unacceptable to the workers who died earlier from the explosions.

OSHA has refused to act. They have not acted on a single standard in the entire last 8 years unless they were prodded by the Congress or the courts. So to now say that you are going to take the lives of American workers and you are going to give those lives again back to OSHA, where they have not seen any hazard, they have not seen any danger in spite of the explosions is just the height of irresponsibility by this Congress. And I would hope that the Congress would overwhelmingly reject this amendment that allows OSHA to continue the status quo that allows OSHA to continue its irresponsible position.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Chairman, I submit for the RECORD a letter dated April 29, 2008, from the OSHA Fairness Coalition, which is two dozen industry associations, relative to this issue.

OSHA FAIRNESS COALITION,
April 29, 2008.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

We write to express our strong opposition to the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act of 2008, H.R. 5522 which will be considered on the House floor this week. While we were saddened to see the accounts of the explosion at the Imperial Sugar plant near Savannah, Georgia we do not believe this bill, as it was approved by the Education and Labor Committee, is an appropriate response to that tragedy or the hazards of combustible dust and urge you to oppose this bill.

While H.R. 5522 was improved in committee, we are still troubled by its mandate that OSHA promulgate an interim final regulation (IFR) within 90 days without any of the normal rulemaking procedures associated with OSHA rulemaking. The IFR would therefore be issued without any opportunity for comments by those subject to it, nor would OSHA perform any analyses such as those for significant risk, economic and technological feasibility, and small business impact, among others. The bill would then require that within 18 months OSHA promulgate a final standard that would carry forward all of the requirements of the IFR and add others mandating engineering, administrative, and work practice controls. The final standard would also have to incorporate provisions from various voluntary consensus standards issued by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Further refinements from the Chairman that may be accepted on the floor do not alter the requirement for an IFR with none of the normal OSHA rulemaking protections.

We object to the short circuiting of the normal rulemaking process that this bill would impose. Normal OSHA rulemaking allows the agency to produce the most feasible, narrowly tailored regulation, which in turn maximizes the chances for implementation and compliance. Abandoning these procedures is a prescription for an ineffective regulation which will not produce safer workplaces. Indeed, even the Chemical Safety Board report referenced in this bill recommends that OSHA conduct a full rulemaking, and makes no mention of an IFR.

Additionally, instructing OSHA to incorporate provisions from voluntary consensus standards issued by the NFPA may sound like a good way to expedite rulemaking on this issue, but doing so is inappropriate. The process for producing these consensus standards is not at all like the process which OSHA undertakes to produce a regulation. There is no opportunity for the general public to examine and comment on these consensus standards. Nor are these standards subject to any of the critical reviews regarding quality of data, feasibility, and impact that OSHA regulations must undergo. The consensus process, which produces these standards, leaves significant terms and requirements intentionally vague and ambiguous so that different groups and interests will endorse these standards. But this also makes these standards unsuitable for becoming a mandatory OSHA regulation. Furthermore, none of the NFPA standards are fully available to the public without charge. While the NFPA has put them on their website for reading access, to print them, and therefore have them available for use, requires paying NFPA a fee. We object to giving NFPA such a windfall revenue stream.

The hazard of combustible dust is an issue which is already covered by numerous OSHA regulations, in addition to a wide array of private sector information. OSHA has responded in the wake of the Imperial Sugar explosion in various ways that will help employers become more knowledgeable about this hazard including reissuing a Safety and Health Information Bulletin, and reissuing a National Emphasis Program and targeting companies that may have combustible dust hazards in a way that will combine greater information with greater inspection and enforcement activity. The investigation of the tragedy at the Imperial Sugar plant has yet to determine that a lack of regulatory guidance contributed to the explosion and there is no evidence that a new OSHA standard would have prevented that tragedy, particularly if that regulation is produced in the manner specified in H.R. 5522. Providing employers with useful, practical information on how to avoid a hazard will always be more effective in preventing such disasters than issuing a new regulation which will only serve as a means for enforcement after the fact.

H.R. 5522 would produce a flawed regulation by discarding normal OSHA rulemaking procedures and because of this, we urge you to oppose the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act of 2008, H.R. 5522.

Sincerely,

American Bakers Association.
American Composites Manufacturers Association.
American Forest & Paper Association.
American Foundry Society.
Associated Builders and Contractors.
Associated General Contractors.
Building Owners and Managers Association International.
Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc.
Mason Contractors Association.
National Association of Home Builders.
National Association of Manufacturers.
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors.
National Automobile Dealers Association.
National Federation of Independent Business.
National Marine Manufacturers Association.
National Mining Association.
National Paint and Coatings Association.
National Roofing Contractors Association.
Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors National Association.
Printing Industries of America.
Retail Industry Leaders Association.
Textile Rental Services Association of America.
The Industrial Minerals Association—North America.

The National Industrial Sand Association.
The National Oilseed Processors Association.
The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc.
U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Additionally, I would like to bring the attention of our Members to the first and last paragraphs of that letter:

This coalition writes to express their strong opposition to the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act of 2008, H.R. 5522, which will be considered on the House floor this week. While we were saddened to see the accounts of the explosion at the Imperial Sugar plant near Savannah, Georgia, we do not believe this bill, as was approved by the Education and Labor Committee, is an appropriate response to that tragedy or the hazards of combustible dust, and urge you to oppose the bill.

It concludes with the statement:

H.R. 5522 would produce a flawed regulation by discarding normal OSHA rulemaking procedures. And, because of this, we urge you to oppose the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act of 2008, which is H.R. 5522.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW).

Mr. BARROW. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I understand the appeal that the amendment has. I can appreciate its superficial appeal and what I think it is getting at. But the notion that we have to finish everything before we do anything is a formula to do nothing.

With the National Emphasis Program and everything that is going on right now at OSHA, it is perfectly obvious that the current folks who have got OSHA under their control can cram more activity into less action than anybody I know or any agency I know.

The time for us to take into consideration and to follow all leads and to learn as much as we can will always be with us, but the time to act is now. This is the time to take the actions and begin the process of fixing what's broke with the regulatory system at OSHA.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman. I think the gentleman has the right to close on his amendment.

Could the Chair advise me of the time I have remaining.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from California has 12½ minutes remaining.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just note that a significant number of the signatories to the letter that was referred to by my colleague on the other side of the aisle really have little or nothing to do with these standards or are impacted by them. And this is the same coalition that continues to call for no action with respect to actions by OSHA, and it is that approach to the protection of American workers and to the safety of those workers that has led to the tragedy that we witnessed at the Imperial Sugar facility. And, clearly, these are accidents that we know are preventable, that we know we can dramatically reduce because we have the experience from the grain dust standards.

This legislation is designed to be workable. It was worked, as I pointed out, with numerous conversations with the technical staff of OSHA, with the affected industries and the trade associations that are involved with this.

I would note that the National Fire Protection Association, when we tell OSHA that they should select the ones that are relevant to the standards and the ones that are meaningful to this effort, we are talking about standards in which a consensus has been arrived at within the industries. These are consensus regulations that are put out there, but they are not required. And we think that in our discussions again with the OSHA staff and with the associations this is a good place to start because of the consensus. There may have to be additions and subtractions, and that is within the discretion of OSHA during the process that is anticipated under this legislation.

So I would hope that we would reject this amendment by Mr. WILSON and that we would pass the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Chairman, indeed, I would like to commend Chairman MILLER and Congressman BARROW. I know that the intent is very positive to address a terrible tragedy that occurred in February at Port Wentworth with the Imperial refinery explosion.

I do want to point out that it has been stated that we do not have sufficient regulations relative to combustible dust, but that there are 17 standards addressing combustible dust which do apply, and would submit these for the RECORD.

APPENDIX A. STANDARDS ADDRESSING COMBUSTIBLE DUST

1910.272 Grain Handling.
1910.94 Ventilation Standard.
1910.22 Housekeeping.
1910.176 Housekeeping violations in storage areas.
1910.269 Housekeeping violations at coal-handling operations.
1910.132 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
1910.119 Process Safety Management.
1910.307(b) Electrical Violations
1910.178 Powered Industrial Trucks.
1910.252 Welding, cutting, and brazing.
1910.145 Warning Sign.
1910.1200 Hazard communication violations.
Subpart E—Means of Egress 1910.33–37
1910–156–157 Fire protection violations.
F1910.263 Bakery equipment violations.
1910. 265 Sawmill violations.
1928 Agriculture. The only provisions discussed in this NEP which may be cited in connection with agricultural operations are the hazard communication standard (see 29 CFR 1928.21) and the general duty clause. Industries in SIC 0723, Crop Preparation Services for Market, Except Cotton Ginning, listed in Appendix D, are engaged in agricultural operations.

Additionally, it has been stated that combustible dust maybe doesn't apply to some of the associations that are referenced in the letter that I previously handed in. I would like to point out that in fact it may appear that way, but just a few minutes ago I just met with members of the National Association of Home Builders. I am still a dues-paying member of the Greater Columbia Home Builders Association. And as we were discussing this bill with members who were visiting in my office, they expressed concern that they felt like that this could be negative toward the home building industry. So, indeed, it doesn't appear sometimes that things apply, but they do even where you wouldn't expect it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I would just say that the problem with home building is not explosions, it is implosions.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. I would like to introduce appendix D, which are industries which may have combustible dust. And, indeed, Chairman MILLER and myself are learning that there is a broad array of industries, dozens of them, that could be impacted by combustible dust and I believe that we are actually helping by bringing this to the attention of the American people.

APPENDIX D—INDUSTRIES THAT MAY HAVE COMBUSTIBLE DUSTS

SICS	Industry	NAICS
0723	Crop Preparation Services for Market, Except Cotton Ginning.	115114, 115111
2052	Fresh cookies. crackers, pretzels, and similar "dry" bakery products.	311821
2062	Refining purchased raw cane sugar and sugar syrup.	311312
2087	Flavoring extracts, syrups, powders, and related products, not elsewhere classified.	311930
2099	Prepared foods and miscellaneous food specialties, not elsewhere classified..	311212
2221	Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Manmade Fiber and Silk.	313210
2262	Finishers of Broadwoven Fabrics of Manmade Fiber and Silk.	313311
2299	Textile Goods, Not Elsewhere Classified	31311
2421	Sawmills and Planning Mills, General	321113
2431	Millwork	321911
2434	Wood Kitchen Cabinets	33711
2439	Structural Wood Members, Not Elsewhere Classified.	321213, 321214
2452	Prefabricated Wood Buildings and Components.	321992
2493	Reconstituted Wood Products	321219
2499	Wood Products, Not Elsewhere Classified.	321920, 321219
2511	Wood Household Furniture, Except Upholstered.	337122
2591	Drapery Hardware and Window Blinds and Shades.	337920
2819	Industrial Inorganic Chemicals, Not Elsewhere Classified.	325188, 325998, 331311
2821	Plastic Materials, Synthetic Resins, and Nonvulcanizable Elastomers.	325211
2823	Cellulosic Manmade Fibers	325221
2834	Pharmaceutical Preparations	325412
2841	Soap and Other Detergents, Except Specialty Cleaners.	325611
2851	Paints, Varnishes, Lacquers, Enamels, and Allied Products.	32551
2861	Gum and Wood Chemicals	325191
2899	Chemicals and Chemical Preparations, Not Elsewhere Classified.	325510, 325998
3011	Tires And Inner Tubes	326211
3061	Molded, Extruded, and Lathe-Cut Mechanical Rubber Goods.	326291
3069	Fabricated Rubber Products, Not Elsewhere Classified.	326299
3081	Unsupported Plastics Film and Sheet	326113
3082	Unsupported Plastics Profile Shapes	326121
3086	Plastics Foam Products	326140, 326150
3087	Custom Compounding of Purchased Plastics Resins.	325991
3089	Plastics Products, Not Elsewhere Classified.	326199

APPENDIX D—INDUSTRIES THAT MAY HAVE COMBUSTIBLE DUSTS—Continued

SICS	Industry	NAICS
3291	Abrasive Products	327910
3313	Alumina and Aluminum Production and Processing.	331312
3334	Primary Production of Aluminum	331312
3341	Secondary Smelting and Refining of Nonferrous Metals.	331314
3354	Aluminum Extruded Products	331316
3363	Aluminum Die-Castings	331521
3365	Aluminum Foundries	331524
3369	Nonferrous Foundries, Except Aluminum and Copper.	331528
3398	Metal Heat Treating	332811
3441	Metal Cans	332431
3469	Metal Stampings, Not Elsewhere Classified.	332116
3471	Electroplating, Plating, Polishing, Anodizing, and Coloring.	332813
3479	Coating, Engraving, and Allied Services, Not Elsewhere Classified.	332812
3496	Miscellaneous Fabricated Wire Products	332618
3499	Fabricated Metal Products, Not Elsewhere Classified.	332999
3548	Lighting Equipment, Not Elsewhere Classified.	335129
3644	Noncurrent-Carrying Wiring Devices	335932
3714	Motor Vehicle Parts and Accessories	336322
3761	Guided Missiles and Space Vehicles	336414
3799	Transportation Equipment, Not Elsewhere Classified.	333924
3995	Burial Caskets	339995
3999	Manufacturing Industries, Not Elsewhere Classified.	321999, 325998, 326199
4221	Farm product warehousing and storage	493130
4911	Electric Services Establishments engaged in the generation, transmission, and/or distribution of electric energy for sale.	221112
4952	Sanitary treatment facilities	221320
4953	Refuse Systems	562920
5093	Scrap and waste materials	423930
5162	Plastics materials and basic forms and shapes.	424610

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I would hope that people would vote against the Wilson amendment. The people who are truly impacted by combustible dust are the workers who have been killed in the past and the workers that will be killed and injured in the future if we do not have an enforceable standard. I appreciate you have 17 regulations and all these things that OSHA is yakking about now, after years of doing nothing. The fact of the matter is, according to the Chemical Safety Board, they are not enforceable standards with respect to dust.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Chairman, I do urge my colleagues to support the amendment. The amendment is really, I believe, quite simple. It provides for a sequence of investigation, development of regulations, and promoting safety in the workplace.

I urge a positive vote on the amendment this evening.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 110–613 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. GEORGE MILLER OF CALIFORNIA

The CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 412, noes 0, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 230]

AYES—412

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Bordallo
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Christensen
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Faleomavaega
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Norton
Nunes
Oberstar
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Pearce
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—24

Andrews
Barton (TX)
Blunt
Boehner
Boustany
Cole (OK)
Davis, Tom
Doggett
Duncan
Forbes
Fortuño
Goodlatte
Higgins
Hill
Hoyer
Issa
Jones (OH)
Lee
Obey
Payne
Pence
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Wynn

□ 1806

Mr. SESSIONS changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 178, noes 237, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 231]

AYES—178

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Bean
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Conaway
Costa
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Deal (GA)
Dent
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Ehlers
Emerson
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Latham
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Pearce
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOES—237

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bordallo
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castor
Chandler
Christensen
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Faleomavaega
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Kingston
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Norton
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Johnson (IL)

NOT VOTING—20

Andrews
Barton (TX)
Blunt
Boehner
Boustany
Cole (OK)
Davis, Tom
Doggett
Duncan
Forbes
Fortuño
Goodlatte
Higgins
Hill
Issa
Jones (OH)
Payne
Pence
Rush
Wynn

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN (during the vote). There are less than 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1815

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California changed her vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BALDWIN) having assumed the chair, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5522) to require the Secretary of Labor to issue interim and final occupational safety and health standards regarding worker exposure to combustible dust, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 1157, she reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT OFFERED BY MR. WALBERG

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I offer a motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. WALBERG. Yes, I am, in its present form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Walberg moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 5522, to the Committee on Education and Labor with instructions to report the bill back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end of the bill insert the following:

SEC. 5. EXEMPTION FOR GRAIN PENDING DETERMINATION OF IMPACT ON PRICES.

Neither the interim nor final standards required under this Act shall apply to any organic dust which is a food grain until the Secretary makes a determination that the application of such standard or standards will not increase the domestic price of such food grain.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALBERG. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This motion to recommit is simple and straightforward. It maintains our

commitment to safety. And it does nothing—I repeat nothing—to prevent OSHA from developing a combustible dust safety standard.

This motion is simply a way for us to tell our constituents, the hardworking families who are struggling with the rising cost of living and an uncertain economy, that we're sensitive to their concerns; that we recognize that rising food costs, in particular, are a difficult burden to bear for many families; and that we know that in these difficult times, the very last thing we should be doing is driving up the cost of food for our children and our families.

The motion I have offered makes clear that the new mandates included in this bill will not be imposed on food grain production until we have determined that it will not cause an increase in prices at the grocery store.

During today's debate, we heard numerous objections to this bill, including its impact on the grain and feed industry that is so integral to food production and distribution in this country. I know that Members on both sides of the aisle have heard directly from the grain industry on this measure, and many of us have wondered how we can enhance worker safety without unnecessarily driving up food costs.

The answer, Madam Speaker, is to pass this motion to recommit.

By voting ''yes'' on this motion, OSHA will still be required to begin immediate development of a combustible dust standard. By voting ''yes'' on this motion, there will be no delay in implementation of these new rules for facilities that do not handle food grains. And lest anyone be concerned about the workers at facilities producing the grains we eat, if we pass this measure, these workers will continue to be protected as well under the same standard that has already produced a 60 percent reduction in grain facility explosions.

Feed, corn, and flour mills are already covered by existing OSHA grain-handling regulations. As a member of both the House Education and Labor Committee and Agriculture Committee, I understand that the food manufacturing industry is affected by combustible dust as much as any other industry.

Reregulating and duplicating existing Federal regulations on American family farmers and small rural businesses could seriously impact commodity prices and drive up the cost of everything from a loaf of bread to a gallon of gasoline.

I find it ironic that at the same time the leaders within the majority party are advocating for up to $300 million in additional spending for international food aid in the supplemental, these same folks are simultaneously considering legislation that could further drive up the price of food here at home.

My motion to recommit ensures we conduct a thorough economic analysis on the impact of H.R. 5522 on food prices. This MTR will ensure we do not unnecessarily cause irreparable harm to family farms, agricultural producers and American consumers by driving up the price of food because of another unintended consequence in the majority's continued rush to regulate first and ask questions later.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes.''

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker and Members of the House, this is a very serious piece of legislation and a very important piece of legislation. The idea that we would delay this until some time that the Secretary of Labor could make some certification about its impact on food costs is really unacceptable.

Let's look at the record of the Secretary of Labor. Since January 1980 until 2006, there were 281 explosions in these kinds of facilities due to dust. Seven hundred eighteen people were injured and 119 died in those explosions. One hundred nineteen bread-winners were killed in those explosions. That's the result of a study from the Chemical Safety Board of whose members are all appointed by President George W. Bush, an independent agency that may be the gold standard in terms of independent review of accidents.

They then recommended that OSHA adopt dust standards. OSHA did nothing. Did nothing. No enforceable standards were adopted by that point. No enforceable standards at all. And then in February 2008, the Imperial Sugar plant exploded.

In the meantime, 67 explosions took place since the Chemical Safety Board recommended the standard. Five hundred seventy-five injuries and 14 deaths took place before OSHA did anything. And the Chemical Safety Board recommendations continue to say there are no enforceable standards with respect to dust. Not only does it devastate the lives of these individuals and their families and the community, it devastates the facility, a facility here that is key to the commerce of that area. So talk about an impact on price in a tight market when these facilities start pumping up.

The feed and grain people, they're under their own standards. And what is their analysis of that standard? That it drove technologies, it drove better design, and better productivity in their markets. That's their findings. They're not implicated in these standards. What happened there? Eight people were killed in the explosion, 20 were put into medically induced comas for a number of weeks, 5 of those died, and 3 are still in the hospital.

Since the Chemical Safety Board made its recommendation, there have been 67 explosions, and OSHA never found the urgency to protect these workers. Now to come along and to be so cynical as to suggest that if we could just keep killing the workers, the price of food will stay down.

You know, it's funny. I read the papers, read the business journal, read The Wall Street Journal, and they're talking about how the price of food has driven the profits of the grain companies; but when they talk about why it's gone up, it says, ''The crisis stems from a combination of heightened demand for food from fast-growing developing countries like China and India, low grain stockpiles caused by bad weather, rising fuel prices and the increasing amount of land used to grow crops for ethanol'' and others.

Some people say it's because Zimbabwe has quit producing food under the corrupt regime of Mr. Mugabe, so Africa has a double problem. I see the Governor of Texas, Mr. Rick Perry, thinks we ought to cut back on ethanol production. He doesn't think we ought to keep killing American workers. Nowhere in this paper, The Wall Street Journal mind you, nowhere in this paper, when you read about food prices, do you see any mention that we ought to continue to subsidize food prices by blowing up processing plants and killing and injuring workers. Nowhere do you see that except, perhaps, in this amendment.

□ 1830

We ought not to accept this amendment. These workers and this critical industry are entitled to this protection. And the facts on the ground are: The last time we put in a standard was for the feed and grain industry, and it has turned out to be wildly successful. Why is it wildly successful? Because injuries went down 40 percent, fatalities went down 60 percent, explosions went down 60 percent.

Don't you think we know enough now to think that these other workers in this industry are entitled to this protection? But OSHA has done nothing. OSHA has done nothing. And if OSHA is not going to act, we must. In this administration, OSHA has only acted when prodded by the courts or the Congress, never on their own. Never on their own have they suggested that they were going to go out and do this. Even after the recommendation of a presidentially appointed commission to look at these kinds of accidents, appointed by this President, they've chosen to do nothing. And it's important; it's important to these workers, it's important to the Congress.

John Barrow and I have put together legislation that works for the industry. We've consulted with the industry. We've sat down with the industry. We've sat down with OSHA. And we ought to oppose this motion to recommit in the name of the workers, in the name of their families, in the name of our Nation, we owe it to protect these workers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 187, noes 225, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 232]

AYES—187

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Kagen
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Pearce
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOES—225

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Kingston
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—19

Andrews
Barton (TX)
Blunt
Boehner
Boustany
Cole (OK)
Davis, Tom
Doggett
Forbes
Goodlatte
Hill
Issa
Payne
Pence
Rush
Shuster
Slaughter
Tierney
Wynn

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members have 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1848

Mr. KAGEN changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 232, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 247, noes 165, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 233]

AYES—247

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castle
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dingell
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Kingston
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Regula
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz

Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weller
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOES—165

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Chabot
Coble
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Deal (GA)
Dent
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
Lamborn
Latham
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCrery
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Pearce
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—19

Andrews
Barton (TX)
Blunt
Boehner
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Cole (OK)
Davis, Tom
Dicks
Doggett
Forbes
Goodlatte
Hill
Hunter
Issa
Payne
Pence
Rush
Wynn

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members have 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1856

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5715. An act to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 5522, COMBUSTIBLE DUST EXPLOSION AND FIRE PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 5522, the Clerk be authorized to correct the table of contents, section numbers, punctuation, citations, and cross-references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be appropriate to reflect the actions of the House.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2419, FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 2419, pursuant to clause 7(c) of rule XXI.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Ryan of Wisconsin moves that the managers on the part of the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2419 be instructed, within the scope of the conference, to use the most recent baseline estimates supplied by the Congressional Budget Office when evaluating the costs of the provisions of the report.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1201

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 1201.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2448

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2448.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2419, FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2007

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, under rule XXII, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 2419.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Kind moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2419 (an Act to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012) be instructed to—

(1) insist on the amendment contained in section 2401(d) of the House bill (relating to funding for the environmental quality incentive program);

(2) insist on the amendments contained in section 2104 of the House bill (relating to the grassland reserve program) and reject the amendment contained in section 2401(2) of the Senate amendment (relating to funding for the grassland reserve program);

(3) insist on the amendments contained in section 2102 of the House bill (relating to the wetland reserve program); and

(4) insist on the amendments contained in section 2608 of the Senate bill (relating to crop insurance ineligibility relating to crop production on native sod).

□ 1900

NEED-BASED EDUCATIONAL AID ACT OF 2008

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1777) to amend the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 to make permanent the favorable treatment of need-based educational aid under the antitrust laws, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1777

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT.

Subsection (d) of section 568 of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (15 U.S.C. 1 note) is repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LOEBSACK). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

First, I want to thank the Chair of the Judiciary Committee for allowing this important piece of legislation to move forward. I particularly want to thank the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. LAMAR SMITH, for the opportunity to work with him on this significant legislation and for

his outstanding work on this issue throughout the year.

The Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2008, as its name suggests, is aimed at making college more affordable and accessible to qualified students, something that this Congress has repeatedly shown its commitment to. With overwhelming bipartisan majorities, we have passed such legislation as the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, and just last week, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act. We have also increased transparency in the higher educational financial aid system by passing the Student Loan Sunshine Act.

H.R. 1777 will further that commitment to enhance educational opportunities. These successes are rooted in clear recognition on both sides of the aisle that access to higher education is vital to our national economy and central to America's promise.

However, the Need-Based Educational Act differs from those bills I just enumerated in two important aspects. First, this bill addresses institutional aid only. That is, aid provided to students from a college or university's own funds, not Federal dollars. Second, this bill is about increasing access to grants, as opposed to loans. Given the current cost of higher education, the financial sacrifices families make to send their children to college, and the amount students owe when they graduate, grants, as opposed to loans, play a vital and unique role in maintaining access to higher education.

This act will permanently extend the current antitrust exemption for colleges and universities that admit all students on a need-blind basis, without regard to a student's ability to pay, and provide institutional aid that is strictly need-based. This safe harbor from the antitrust laws allows two or more of these schools to agree on a common aid application in a common system of analysis of financial need, and to exchange information on commonly admitted students. It does not permit discussion or comparison of institutional awards for individual students. The current exemption expires on September 30 of this year.

Why is this bill necessary? Beginning in the 1950s, a substantial number of our most prestigious private colleges and universities agreed to award institutional financial aid to students solely on the basis of demonstrated financial need. The schools recognized that, without such an agreement, and without a uniform analysis of ''need,'' the schools would spend all of their money competing with each other to offer the largest aid package to a small select group of elite students. As a practical matter, the schools would be unable to fill the available spots in each incoming class because the select top students, who may or may not need such aid, were few in number. In addition, though, there would be many highly meritorious students who would be forced to forego their admission because of limited economic circumstances and insufficient financial aid.

The schools' decision was made in service of a social goal that the antitrust laws do not address, namely, making financial aid available to the broadest pool of students solely on the basis of demonstrated financial need. Congress responded quickly, passing the first temporary antitrust exemption in 1992, and we have reauthorized the exemption three times, each time improving and extending the exemption over the previous iteration.

The current exemption allows the schools to agree on this system of need-blind admissions and need-based aid, and allows a one-time exchange of student financial information through a third party. However, any further information-sharing is prohibited.

Since the last extension, both the GAO and the Antitrust Modernization Commission have examined the exemption and have found it consistent with antitrust principles. The schools themselves have lauded the exemption for increasing access to need-based aid and for bringing greater transparency to financial aid allocations. However, without this safe harbor, the schools fear that their collaboration on financial aid policies would subject them to prosecution.

Many studies show that our Nation's poorest students benefit the most from attendance at a prestigious school and, conversely, stand to lose the most from lack of access. Fortunately, these schools were empowered to continue and expand upon this truly American ideal that no individual should be denied a real chance to succeed because he or she was born poor.

I urge my colleagues to join myself and Mr. SMITH in passing the Need-Based Educational Aid Act.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I am glad we are considering this timely legislation tonight, H.R. 1777, the Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2008. I also want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) for his tireless efforts in promoting this legislation, and also for his leadership, because if it were not for his leadership, we would not be here tonight considering this important bill. It was good working with him and I appreciate the success that he has had in getting us to this point. This issue has long been of interest to me personally as well. I also sponsored the bill that extended the exemption in 1997 and 2001.

Beginning in the mid-1950s, a number of private colleges and universities agreed to award financial aid solely on the basis of demonstrated need. These schools also agreed to use common criteria to assess each student's financial need and to give the same financial aid award to students admitted to more than one member of that group of schools. In the 1950s to the late 1980s, the practice continued.

In 1989, the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice brought suit against nine of the colleges. After extensive litigation, the parties entered into a consent decree in 1991 that all but ended the practice. In 1992, Congress passed the first exemption to the antitrust laws for these colleges as part of the Higher Education Amendments. That temporary exemption codified the settlement and allowed colleges to provide aid on the basis of need only, to use common criteria to determine need, to use a common financial aid application form, and to allow the exchange of the student's financial information through a third party.

In 1994, Congress extended this exemption as section 568 of the Improving America's Schools Act. Congress has extended the exemption twice since 1994, in 1997 and 2001. Twenty-seven schools currently are members of the so-called Presidents' Group which utilizes this antitrust exemption. Several other colleges, including Yale and Harvard, participate as advisory members of the group. This exemption expires on September 30, 2008.

Common treatment of these types of issues makes sense and, to my knowledge, there are no complaints about the existing exemption. In fact, a recent GAO study of the exemption found that there had been no abuse of the exemption and stated that there had not been an increase in the cost of tuition as a result of the exemption. The Antitrust Modernization Commission studied this exemption and found that it provides ''limited immunity for limited conduct.'' That is, it is narrowly tailored to meet its goals of promoting access to need-based financial aid.

This bill would make the exemption passed in 1992, 1994, 1997, and 2001 permanent. It would not make any change to the substance of the exemption itself. The need-based financial aid system serves worthy goals that the antitrust laws do not adequately address, namely, making financial aid available to the broadest number of students solely on the basis of demonstrated need. No student who is otherwise qualified should be denied the opportunity to go to one of the colleges involved because of the limited financial means of his or her family. This bill helps protect need-based aid and need-blind admissions.

Mr. Speaker, the last time the House considered a permanent extension of this antitrust exemption, it passed by a vote of 414–0. The bill is supported by the American Association of Community Colleges, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the American Council on Education, the Association of American Universities, the National Association for Independent Colleges and Universities, the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, and the Presidents' Group. I urge my colleagues to support this bill as well.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank Mr. DELAHUNT for his work on this legislation and for getting us to the point where it is being considered tonight.

With that, I will yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, before yielding my time back, I want to suggest that the eloquence of the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee will result in a more significant margin this year than that 410–0. Again, I sincerely appreciate his fine work.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I support the bill cosponsored by Representative BILL DELAHUNT and Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH. H.R. 1777, the ''Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2007,'' removes the current sunset attached to an exemption in the antitrust laws that permits schools to agree to award financial aid on a need-blind basis and to use common principles of needs analysis in making their determinations.

The exemption also allows for agreement on the use of a common aid application form and for the exchange of student financial information through a third party.

In 1992, Congress passed a similar temporary exemption, which was first extended in 1994, then again extended in 1997, and once again extended in 2001. The exemption passed in 2001 expires later this year. During the years of its operation, we have been able to witness and evaluate the exemption, and we have found that it seems to be working.

The need-based financial aid system makes financial aid available to the broadest number of students solely on the basis of demonstrated need. The schools have been concerned that without this exemption, they would be required to compete—through financial aid awards—for the very top students, which could result in a system in which the very top students receive an excess of the available aid while the rest of the applicant pool receives less or none at all. Ultimately, such a system could undermine the principles of need-based aid and need-blind admissions.

Because the exemption has thus far appeared warranted, I support H.R. 1777 and hope that it will continue to protect need-based aid and need-blind admissions, and preserve the opportunity for all students to attend one of the Nation's most prestigious schools.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1777, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2419, FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2007

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to instruct at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Flake of Arizona moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2419 (an Act to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012) be instructed to agree to the provisions contained in section 1703(b)(2) of the Senate amendment (relating to a $40,000 limitation on direct payments).

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. I thank the Chair.

This motion to instruct conferees is simple. It would simply urge farm bill conferees to accept the Senate provision on the payment limits for annual direct payments, which is the same as current law. Again, we are simply asking to accept current law, rather than increase payments limitations. Let me explain.

Under current law, farmers and eligible landowners can receive $40,000 per person in direct payments per year, not including a loophole that currently exists that enables that amount to be doubled. The House-passed farm bill seeks to raise this limit to $60,000 per person, while the Senate passed bill keeps the limit at the $40,000 level as in current law. In essence, this motion to instruct conferees would simply say, retain current law. Don't increase the limit on how much a farmer or landowner can receive in direct payments.

Direct payments are one of the three primary subsidy programs available for commodity crops, along with countercyclical payments and marketing loan payments. Direct payments are paid to farmers and eligible landowners that have had so-called base acreage that was historically farmed for program crops like wheat or cotton or corn. Direct payments go to farmers and landowners whether the whether they farm or not on the property and are independent of crop prices. Simply put, these checks are in the mail to eligible recipients, no matter what the price of commodities.

While these payments were originally intended to transition farmers away from subsidies, it is unfortunate that they have come to take a permanent place in the entitlement spending landscape and that Congress is on the verge of upping the limits on how much recipients can receive.

These payments cost taxpayers more than $5 billion a year, under the last farm bill, that is, and while the bill under consideration might cut them by a minuscule amount, taxpayers will still foot a staggering bill.

These handouts are often distributed to landowners who don't farm. I have even heard anecdotes about rice farmers who later subdivide the land for mini-mansions even, and realtors will advertise that direct payments will come to the new landowners. Lucky them. Get a house on land that was previously a rice farm. You are going to be getting direct payments. How is that? How can we countenance a situation like that continuing?

According to a recent analysis by the Environmental Working Group, with the present loopholes that are available to recipients, ''a total of 1,234 recipients collected direct payment subsidies worth $120,000 or more, costing taxpayers $226 million total. One hundred forty-nine recipients got more than $250,000 in direct payments. The top 10 percent of direct payment subsidy recipients in 2007 collected about 60 percent of this government money.'' These are the payments on which the House-passed bill would increase the limit by 50 percent.

We have a strong agricultural economy at present. Unlike the countercyclical and marketing loan programs, which, if you have a good agricultural economy, don't get paid out, this program keeps paying out no matter what. These are independent of crop prices.

It is unfathomable that U.S. farmers that are enjoying historically low debt-to-asset ratios and consistently high cash receipts and robust farm export values, under this scenario the conferees would need to increase the limit on direct payments beyond the current $40,000 limits. It is unfortunate. It looks like the 2007 farm bill will be a missed opportunity to reform the wasteful farm subsidy programs, like the one I have spoken about.

As approved by the House, the best that can be achieved in terms of reform is a reduction in the income cap for payment eligibility programs from $2.5 million to $1 million or $2 million for married folks. Even though the administration has sought a $200,000 income cap, both the House and the Senate it seems, and it seems the conferees, appear content to continue to allow millionaires to receive farm payments. While acting as if real reform had been made on the income cap, the House-passed farm bill actually relaxes the limits on how much a recipient can receive in farm payments.

We simply cannot go in this direction. We have been told again and again and again by both sides of the aisle that we won't have a farm bill that has the generous subsidy payments that we have had before, that there has to be reform. This is not reform.

Some people may try to sell it and say we are getting rid of a loophole there, so we will have to increase this, and then we will phase it out at some other time. That is probably what we will hear. When you hear that, hold on to your wallet.

You have to remember that this program that we are talking about, this direct payment program was instituted in the nineties as a way to transition farmers away from subsidies. Yet here it is still, a decade later, and we are talking about increasing it. So if anybody tells you we are increasing it so we can actually phase it out easier or somehow lessen payments that will go out, don't believe it. Don't believe it.

Let's vote for this motion to instruct.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The conference committee is close to wrapping up work on the bill and we will have significant reform in the final package that comes out of the conference committee. I can assure people of that. Apparently the issue that is before us today is one small part of that whole package. Frankly, the discussion has not really focused that much on this part of the payment limit issue. It has been more on the AGI issue.

But just so folks understand what happened here, we in our bill that passed the House made the most significant reform in this area that has been made in a long time, and that is to get rid of the triple entity rule and to require direct attribution. If you had told people 2 years ago that you were going to accomplish that, they would have thought you were crazy. So we did that in our bill. We are going to do that in the conference report.

The reality of how this all works, with the limits, the internal limits that we have in the House-passed bill, $60,000 on direct payments, $65,000 on countercyclical, it keeps the direct payment level for folks that had a triple entity at the same amount that it is under the previous system. So I will agree that we did in certain cases keep the direct payment limits the same as what they were in the past before we eliminated triple entity. And there are other factors in here, like limitations on countercyclical payments and so forth. So there is a lot of disagreement about how this should be done and so forth.

There are a lot of statistics put out about who is getting what and what percentage they are of farmers. I would just like people to know that according to USDA, we have 2.1 million farmers in the country. But people would be surprised to find out what it takes to qualify as a farmer under USDA rules. It says that all you have to do is have $1,000 of income from farming. Well, it doesn't even say that. It just says you have to be able to have had $1,000 of income. So you don't even have to sell $1,000. If you could have sold $1,000, you would qualify as a farmer.

So all of these statistics are based off of 2.1 million farmers, when the reality is the true commercial farmers that produce 90 percent of the food in this country amount to 350,000. So you have a lot of folks in this system that really aren't farmers. You have got a lot of people that are hobby farmers, that farm on the weekend, and they are all being counted and they are all being used in these statistics that people like Mr. FLAKE and others use.

That is fine. But what we have tried to do in the Agriculture Committee is focus on the real farmers, the people that farm every day, that are commercial farmers that produce 85 to 90 percent of the food in this country, and to provide them a safety net where they can get a loan from the bank in the spring and they can survive the bad years and keep farming. And that is not an easy thing. It is a very risky business, and it costs a lot of money to be in this business on a commercial scale.

So we have, unfortunately in my opinion, and others will disagree with this, we got this system put on us in 1996 under a thing called Freedom to Farm, which I opposed as a member of the Agriculture Committee. The idea was we were going to have direct payments that were not tied to any production and that were based on past history because prices were good and the WTO wanted us to do this, and this was ideology run amuck.

I said at the time that this is not going to work, this is a bad idea, that these prices are going to go down and we are going to have to rescue farmers, and that is exactly what happened.

We spent $30 billion 2 years in a row to bail out farmers. That is more than the entire cost of these direct payments over 5 years. We spent that every year for 2 or 3 years to bail farmers out in 1998, 1999 and 2000. So we get to the 2002 bill and people figured out, well, we have to put the safety net back. And they kept the direct payments. So now we went back to the old system, but we kept the direct payments.

Well, if I had to do it, I would do it different. But that is the system we have, and that is the system that people want, especially in the South, because it is in their financial structure and it is how they organize everything. If I had my way, we would take those direct payments, we would raise the loan rates, we would raise the countercyclical target prices, we would have a stronger safety net. But the consensus is that we do some of each. So these direct payments serve as a base for farmers to go get a loan at the bank.

For those folks that are concerned about food prices going up, the folks that have been pushing payment limits, what the effect of that will be is to raise food prices. So if that is what you want to do, you know, that is probably not going to be real popular. But whenever you get the government mucking around and deciding how big a farm should be, which is what you are doing, you are going to make the farms more inefficient and you are going to drive up the cost of farming. That is what you are going to do. And it is going to increase the cost of goods to consumers.

So we have considered this. The committee had looked at it. We are looking at the limitation on direct payments, and there will be some changes in that area. But we have had this debate on the floor of the House. They have had it in the Senate. We appreciate Mr. FLAKE's input, but we think that what we are doing here now in the conference committee will be a better outcome that will provide a better situation for our farmers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to Mr. NEUGEBAUER from Texas, a member of my committee.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the chairman.

My friend from Arizona and I agree many times on many issues, but this is one on which I must disagree.

There has been a lot of discussion about reform in the farm bill. I think before I go down and list some of the reform that is being considered in this current farm bill, I think we have to step back and look at what has transpired with the 2002 farm bill.

The 2002 farm bill actually cost $25 billion less than what it was originally projected to cost. Let me repeat that. This is a Federal program that actually came in $25 billion less than what it was budgeted. I would ask my friend from Arizona; name me another mandatory program in the last 5 years that has come in under what was originally projected.

Additionally, the Congressional Budget Office projection for what farm policy will cost has imposed for the baseline going forward a $60 billion reduction over what was originally planned in 2002. The reason that that reduction is in place and the reason that this bill came in $25 billion less than what it was projected is because it was working the way it was supposed to.

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And it was designed when commodity prices were low for there to be a safety net so that we could preserve that farm infrastructure. When the commodity prices are high, then the safety net was not available because there was no need for that safety bill. So when you look at the reform, $60 billion sounds like a lot of reform to me. Now I don't know about out in Arizona, but $60 billion in Texas is a lot of money.

Additionally, one of the things, and I think the chairman alluded to this, is that both in the House and the Senate bill, the three-entity rule has been eliminated bringing some transparency; in other words, being able to boil it down, who is actually farming, and making sure that the farm safety net is actually available to those people that are involved, actively engaged in farming.

The other thing that is going on here is that with the elimination of that three-entity rule, it is estimated that some 50 percent reduction will be affected, some of the operations that are

currently under this bill. So that is a fairly good reduction when you look at 50 percent for some of those operations.

Compared to the House and the Senate version, quite honestly, a $10,000 reduction has been on the table over the original House version. As the chairman mentioned, these discussions are still under way and we don't know what that final number is going to be.

The other thing, and the chairman also alluded to this, because there has been a lot of discussion about are these payments going to millionaire farmers. And so one of the things that we have taken is steps to materially reduce the adjusted gross income figure, some 70 percent reduction.

Now I think the point that the chairman was trying to make, and it is a very important point, 30, 40, years ago farmers across America could farm a small piece of land and make a good living. Today, in a global economy where they are competing with producers all over the world, what they are faced with is, how do they get to a size that makes sense with today's cost of production and with today's cost of tractors and all the equipment necessary. And the days of a small farm being able to support a family are gone. So today, many farmers in my district, for example, are farming 3,000 and 4,000 and 5,000 acres, and this is still a family farm. This is not a company that has a lot of employees; this is a family farm. And so when you look at those numbers, it takes a lot of money, it takes a lot of capital and investment for them to produce this many acres.

Farmers are taking a big risk today. Yes, the commodity prices are up, and that is a good thing for farmers and producers. The bad news for them, though, is that their costs are up as well. Looking across fuel and fertilizer and all of those, in just the last few years production costs for commodities is up almost 25 percent.

One of the things that, as we look at this farm bill, I think we have to step back and look at it and I think sometimes I get kind of amused. As we talk about this farm bill, only about 12 percent, Mr. Speaker, 12 percent of this farm bill actually has anything to do with production of agriculture. A good portion of this farm bill has to do with food stamps and nutrition programs and conservation programs. While those may be worthy, I am not here to debate those, when we look at the production of the agriculture part, the part that actually allows American agriculture to produce food and fiber for Americans, we are talking about 12 percent of this bill having anything to do with that.

So when you step back, why is that important to America? Why should America be concerned about having a good, strong agricultural industry in this country? Well, I will tell you why, Mr. Speaker. Right now, we are watching with amazement as we look at people, Americans across America having to pay $3.50 a gallon for gasoline. We have seen tremendous increases. This country today is energy dependent. That means that we wake up every morning looking for some other country to furnish the energy that it takes to run our country's economy. It is, quite honestly, a security risk to our country as well as an economic security risk to our country. And so how did we get in that situation is because we let America's infrastructure for producing energy fall to the wayside. We did not make it a priority.

My greatest fear here today is that, as we move forward, if we begin to undermine American agriculture, who will then feed and clothe Americans in the future? Do the American people want to wake up every morning and wonder where we are going to get our next meal? What country is going to feed us?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Texas has expired.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Because we let American agriculture infrastructure fall to the wayside. Our producers are competing on an unlevel playing field. I wish the playing field was level. If the playing field was level, we wouldn't need any of these programs, because American producers can compete with anybody in the world on a level playing field.

Unfortunately, the WTO discussions that we have been involved in have not yielded much fruit. Many countries that our producers are competing with all across the world are competing against other countries that provide subsidies at a much greater level than we are providing under this underlying bill.

So while I appreciate the gentleman from Arizona's concern about being fiscally responsible, I understand that he would like to see some reforms. I am here tonight to tell him that there are a lot of reforms in this bill. But at the same time, it is important to have a balanced bill to make sure that we have a strong agricultural economy in this country from this point forward so that when Americans wake up every morning, they are not going to worry about who is going to feed or clothe them.

Mr. FLAKE. Before yielding to the gentleman from Wisconsin, let me simply say that we are not talking about the food stamp program here. We are not talking about nutrition programs or conservation programs. We are talking about direct payments. This is a different program. This is simply an effort to say, let's not increase the amount of money going to direct payments at a time when commodity prices are so high and when the farm community is doing so well. It just not make sense to reform by increasing the subsidy.

I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding me this time, and I commend him for this motion to instruct.

Mr. Speaker, let me be clear: We need a farm bill, and we need one as soon as possible. It is planting season back home in the upper Midwest and the district I represent in western Wisconsin, and our farmers need some predictability. They need to know what the rules are that they are going to be operating under and producing under in the coming fiscal year and in the coming 5 years.

But we also need a good farm bill, not a bad farm bill, one that is responsible to the American taxpayer and one that does well by the American farmer. And those of us who have been talking about much overdue and needed reforms under the commodity title, these subsidy payments to a handful of commodity producers in this country, have been saying, let's give farmers help when they need it but let's not when they don't.

And the market conditions today are something we have never seen before. They are talking about $10 corn by this summer. Soybean, wheat, rice at an all-time high in the marketplace. Yet instead of trying to tighten up these subsidy programs and rein them in for some possible savings so we can address the other priorities in the farm bill, what is being proposed, to our understanding, and we haven't been privy to the conference negotiations that have been going on, is actually expanding direct payments from the current maximum level of $40,000 up to $60,000, and allowing dual entities operating on the same farm to qualify for the same amount of these direct payments.

And to be clear, the direct payments bear no relationship to commodity prices, no relationship to production. They are something that go out automatically regardless of the marketplace. And, quite frankly, it is the least justifiable aspect of this farm bill today in light of the record commodity prices that exist.

But we also need a farm bill that this President is comfortable in signing, and the administration has been clear from the beginning that they feel there is more room for reform under these commodity programs. We are not talking about the two other subsidy programs, the loan deficiency program or the countercyclical program, although there too they are ramping up the target price and the loan rates under those programs. We are only talking about the direct payments right now, that which goes out automatically to only five principal commodity crops at the expense of everything else that we are trying to accomplish in this farm bill, having a strong conservation title in light of the increased pressure that crop production is placing on sensitive and highly erodible land. And we are seeing that now with a lot of CRP acreage being taken out of CRP and put back into production.

And what does that mean to the average person? That is going to affect quality water supplies throughout the Nation, it's going to affect habitat, wildlife populations, all of which depend on good land stewardship of these lands and knowing what land is highly erodible and what isn't. And that was the whole basis behind CRP to begin with, and yet that now is in jeopardy because of increased commodity prices.

I don't begrudge, and I don't think anyone here begrudges family farmers getting a decent price finally in the marketplace. But where I am from in Wisconsin and talking to my producers, for years they kept saying: We don't like these subsidy programs, either. We wish we didn't have to rely on it. And if we could only get a decent price in the marketplace, we wouldn't have to. Well, guess what. That day has come. And now is an opportunity, never better in the history of the Congress, to start reforming these commodities subsidy programs right now so that at the end of the day we are not painting this big bull's eye on the back of our farmers with more subsidy payments that are going to be challenged through the WTO and possibly taken away through the WTO challenges, just as Brazil has done with the cotton challenge that they successfully prevailed on. And this is only the beginning.

Instead, we could redirect funding for what are called green box payments, conservation payments that also go to family farmers to help them be good land stewards but do not distort the marketplace and they do not distort trade policy, and it doesn't get us into trouble by these outside challenges that we may be facing in the future.

So that is why I think this gentleman's motion to instruct is important. We understand it is in the 11th hour. I appreciate the hard work that the chairman and everyone involved in the conference has been doing. Putting together a farm bill is probably one of the toughest things to do in this place given the parochial interests, given the different ideas and opinions that go into deliberations. But we have an opportunity right now of maintaining an important safety net for family farmers in case things do go south in the commodity market, but at the same time starting to reform these subsidy programs so we are more responsible to the taxpayer but also helping our farmers modernize so they can be more competitive both domestically and abroad. Otherwise, again, we are setting them up for future challenges by loading up these subsidy programs to the extent that they have been occurring.

I would be happy to yield to my friend from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. I will yield the gentleman an additional 5 minutes, if he would like, as long as he wants.

Mr. KIND. I probably won't need that much time. But, again, hard negotiations. We are getting into the final details of it. There is still an opportunity of producing a bill that the President feels comfortable with in signing, and that way the farmers know what they are operating under.

But, again, these direct payments are probably the least justifiable program going forward today in light of what the marketplace is producing. And the futures market right now is looking astounding when it comes to these commodity crops, and that is going to be good for farm income and debt-to-asset ratio. For family farms, it has never been better. And that again speaks to what we think is a reasonable and justifiable goal of trying to reform these commodity programs so we can deal with the other priorities and still maintain an important safety net to the family farmer.

Again, I thank my friend from Arizona for offering the motion.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, before I recognize the gentleman from Arkansas, I would just like folks to know that these prices that everybody talks about, if you are a real farmer out there and goes to your elevator, you cannot get a contract at these prices. And if you really want to do something here on this floor that will do some good, it would be to keep this Wall Street hedge fund money out of the commodity market, which has run these prices up and created a bubble.

People need to remember that these direct payments came about because of high prices, quote, back in 1996. We heard the same speeches. That is how we got these direct payments in the first place. And what happened? It collapsed. And I will tell you one thing that I know about farming, is that whenever you have good prices, farmers are very good at creating low prices, and they will do it again. And that is why we need a safety net.

I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas such time as he may consume.

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I too want to recognize Chairman PETERSON and Speaker PELOSI for the hard work and the dedication that they have exhibited as they have pursued this farm bill and the great job that they have done and continue to do to get us a farm bill.

As I listened to these discussions, and I have heard them year after year, we go through this when we do the appropriations, we always have those that consider that they are more knowledgeable than the people that are actually in the business and have to make these businesses work and make them profitable. They know more about how to make this happen than the people that really do make it happen.

One thing that we know, the only reason for a farm bill and a farm bill is to guarantee adequate production and processing capacity so that our people have a reasonably priced food and fiber supply.

In a global marketplace, and we are certainly in a global marketplace in agriculture today, every country that has food security has a stronger farm bill than we do.

□ 1945

They have a better safety net than we do in this country.

We absolutely know, just like the chairman said, these prices come up and they go down. Right now the price that you can see on the Chicago Board of Trade is in some cases 25 percent higher than a farmer can actually receive. And even then the prices that are available to them aren't too bad.

But as the gentleman from Texas recognized, production costs, when some of these numbers were put in this bill or in the other bills that we have had, diesel fuel was 30 cents a gallon. It is $4 a gallon today, or over $4. You can say that about all of the production costs that a farmer has to face. The cost of machinery has gone up a great deal in the last couple of years. All of these things are necessary to have efficient production of food and fiber in this country. The same thing can be said about a farm bill. Without a farm bill as a safety net, this system cannot continue to function. And I offer as evidence that it has functioned successfully for a long time, that the American people feed themselves for a lot less of their disposable income than people in any other country in the world.

Now you can't pick up a newspaper today or hear a broadcast news story for very long that doesn't talk about the high price of food. If you really want to see some catastrophic prices, just keep doing what these guys have tried to do over and over, year after year and continue to chip away at this safety net.

Like the chairman said, I believe, or maybe it was the gentleman from Texas, they want the government to decide how big your farm can be. They don't even want you to be able to decide that I will farm part of it, my son will farm part of it. They want to use every tool that there is to try to mix that up and make it less efficient.

In the South, in rice and cotton country, 2,000 acres is no longer a viable economic unit. You cannot be prepared to put in a crop on 2,000 acres with a million dollars worth of machinery and another nearly million dollars worth of fuel and fertilizer and seed and chemicals. And there are those who don't think you ought to use fertilizer, and there are those who don't think you ought to use chemicals. But if you do those things, just be ready to produce whatever you are going to eat and your family is going to eat in your own backyard because we are not going to have the efficient production machine that we have in this country today that farm bills have made possible.

And these people may have huge dollars invested, but they don't make huge profits. This is a very dangerous thing. We all know the damage that

high fuel costs and high energy costs are bringing to our economy today. That is going to be an insignificant event when we lose the ability to be the most efficient producers of food and fiber that has ever existed in the history of the world.

The American farmer doesn't have to take a second place to anybody in their ability to feed our people. They do it. It is the hardest work in the world. All they ask is a fair chance. All they ask is enough safety net so that they can get a loan from the bank and continue to do what they love to do and what they are really, really good at.

We should be doing more to allow these wonderful entrepreneurs to do what they have to do to be successful and to produce food that is inexpensive enough for us to buy it. There is no shortage of food in the United States of America today. But what these proposals will do is create a shortage that you can't fix. It will create a situation that you cannot take care of in any kind of a short time frame. You just get one crop a year.

So I would ask this Congress, and I would ask the gentlemen, I know they have good intentions, unfortunately they have got bad ideas. This is something that we should not gamble with. We have got a system that we know works. I think it is inadequate, but at least give us this so that our producers can have the ability to continue to be successful.

I once again thank the chairman for all of his hard work.

Mr. FLAKE. Sometimes I think we are just talking completely in a vacuum here, that inside the Beltway here in Washington, that we see it somehow differently than the rest of the country. To hear the debate on the other side, you would think it was just one crazy guy from Arizona and another crazy guy from Wisconsin who think that we are out of bounds here. That is hardly the case, and I will read some of what the rest of the country is saying later.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I have great respect for the gentleman from Minnesota, chairman of the Agriculture Committee, and my friend from Arkansas and their depth of knowledge when it comes to farm policy in this country. They have invested their careers in trying to understand these programs and how they work.

But I have as much respect and admiration for my family farmers back home in Wisconsin, too. The gentleman from Arkansas is exactly right; these are hardworking individuals playing by the rules in a market that is set out for them. But when I have producers in my district in western Wisconsin coming up to me and saying, Ron, why are we still receiving these direct payments when the market prices are so good right now?

I say, You know, you're right. We should be looking at this anew.

The gentleman from Minnesota pointed out that the first time direct payments were introduced in a farm bill was back in 1996 as a transitional program to get away from these direct subsidy payments to the farmers.

Now we are into the third farm bill, and instead of at least holding them constant, as the gentleman's motion would have us do, we are talking about increasing the reliance on these direct payments over the next 5 to 10 years.

In my conversations with farm experts from Australia and New Zealand, they said they heard the same arguments down there when they weaned their producers off direct government subsidies for agricultural production, that this would spell disaster for the entire farming community in Australia and New Zealand. And now you would be hard-pressed to go down to either one of those countries and find one farmer who wants to go back to the government-subsidized system that they were operating under all these years. They say that with a change of those subsidy programs, it has made them more efficient and more competitive, especially in the global marketplace.

And whether we like it not, that day has arrived for our producers. The world is at our doorstep, and I don't think we are doing them any more favors by propping them up with these artificial subsidy programs with the strong market prices they are receiving, and at the same time telling them that you can go out and compete with everyone else around the globe.

There is a better way of doing this while still maintaining a safety net, and I think that is what the gentleman is trying to get at with this motion.

Mr. FLAKE. I appreciate the words of the gentleman from Wisconsin. I too have traveled to Australia and New Zealand, and I talked to the farmers there. They heard the same horror stories there. They worried about the same thing when they got rid of subsidies in New Zealand.

As the gentleman from Wisconsin mentioned, you would be hard-pressed to find anybody who wants to go back to that system because, just as the gentleman from Arkansas just mentioned, they don't like the government telling them what they can and can't farm.

A main element of this program we are talking about right now is that if you are to receive these direct payments, you can't farm specialty crops. You have to farm corn or wheat or rice. You can't do specialty crops. So for all of the talk about we don't want government telling us what we can and can't plant, that is a central element of this program that you accept those restrictions. There is something wrong with that argument when we say we don't want government to tell us; but yes, you can tell us as long as we can collect these direct payments.

The gentleman from Arkansas said that prices are up high now, but they will go down. Yes, they will; but these direct payments will remain the same. That is the problem here. These aren't a safety net, these are just a direct subsidy in many cases whether you farm or not. That's the problem with this.

And we aren't saying get rid of it. I would like to, frankly, if it were up to me. But we're not saying that. All we are saying is keep it the same. Don't increase it. Yet we are hearing the argument that somehow all of the family farms are going to go away unless we increase a direct payment that bears no relationship to crop prices at all. There is something wrong with that argument. So we are competing here in a vacuum.

Mr. KIND. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. FLAKE. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. KIND. One of the things that I have noticed back home in Wisconsin with the direct payments and the overall subsidy programs that exist for these commodity crops is that it is leading to greater consolidation. We know these subsidies have been primarily skewed to the larger entities, and they are using them to gobble up smaller family farms around them. And they are also driving up land values by artificially inflating these land values with the subsidy guarantees that attach to them, and it is making it virtually impossible for newer or beginning farmers to have the capital in order to invest in order to enter this very honorable work and profession.

So that is the unintended consequences that these subsidy programs have brought in, putting the squeeze on smaller family farmers throughout America.

I think it would be reasonable as well, although we can't address it in this motion, to have some reasonable means testing attaching to these direct subsidy programs. It is tough to justify to the American taxpayer that if someone is earning $900,000 in adjusted gross income, that is profit, that is after you back out the expenses and all of the deductions of doing business, that you would still qualify for subsidy payments.

I understand in the course of negotiations there has been some movement, and hopefully that is a good thing; but nevertheless, that is a pretty hefty adjusted gross annual income for anyone. And then to say they still qualify for American-taxpayer subsidies at the end of the day, that is pretty tough to explain back home.

Mr. FLAKE. I thank the gentleman.

I mentioned that it is often said on the other side that it is just a couple of guys who don't know what they are talking about, and the rest of the country feels differently. Let me tell you what some people around the country are saying about this farm bill.

The Minneapolis Star-Tribune wrote: ''The Senate passed a $286 billion farm

bill that makes only minor changes to the bloated agricultural subsidy system that rewards rich farmers for being farmers.''

The Burlington, Vermont, Free Press: ''The farm bill making its way through Congress is a good example of what's wrong with the way major legislation gets passed in Washington.''

The Boston Globe: ''That kind of calculation is just the sort of special-interest politicking that is making voters nationwide question what was gained by giving the Democrats power.''

The East Brunswick, New Jersey, Home News Tribune: ''The farm bill is the sort of confounding public policy document that too often wins approval in Washington; it's stuffed full of pork and misdirected at the same time.''

This is not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue. The Republicans passed, I thought, what was a far too generous, bloated farm bill back in 2002, and I believe the gentleman from Arkansas and I had a debate at that time.

□ 2000

So this isn't a partisan debate at all. This is a debate about what taxpayers should be required to pay.

The Orlando Florida Sentinel: ''The system those lawmakers would perpetuate dumps billions of dollars a year in taxpayer subsidies on the farmers of a few crops, whether they need it or not. The largest commercial farms reap the bulk of the subsidies, while most growers get little or nothing.''

The Charleston South Carolina Post Courier: ''So far the impulse to reform has been overwhelmed by the efforts of those representing the beneficiaries of farm program largesse.''

The Winston-Salem, North Carolina Journal: ''The legislation that was designed to put American family farms back on their feet has now become the massive giveaway program to mega corporations that manage family farms. The farm bill is hopelessly bloated and outdated.''

The Pittsburgh Pennsylvania Tribune-Review: ''The U.S. Senate has once again failed to slow the nonstop pigout in multi-billion dollar family farm subsidies.''

The Bismarck, North Dakota Tribune said: ''The provision that would get wide agreement would require that government payments be attributed to an actual, named person, rather than to shadow entities that might even belong to people who do no farming themselves.'' We call that reform.

The Lewiston, Maine Sun Journal wrote: ''The prospect of starving constituents is unpalatable. What's worse, though, is using them as chattel to negotiate subsidies for wealthy farmers.''

As the gentleman from Wisconsin said, we're hardly talking about payments to those who are just getting by. In some cases, payments are going to those with adjusted gross incomes nearing $1 million. Yet we're saying, well, there are large expenses that farmers have. Yes. That's adjusted gross income after expenses are already backed out.

So we're not a couple of guys here who are seeing things differently. I think we're seeing it as the rest of the country does. I think that this place is in a bubble sometimes when we discuss continuing a program to subsidize people who, in many cases, aren't farming, and having subsidies tied not to crop prices at all, not a safety net, mind you, but payments that go and go and go, regardless of whether or not crop prices are high or low.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. I have no more speakers, so if they're ready to wrap up, I am, I guess.

Mr. FLAKE. May I inquire as to who has the final word.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRALEY of Iowa). The gentleman from Arizona has the right to close.

Mr. FLAKE. I will go ahead and reserve until the gentleman has closed.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. I will just say very briefly that, as I said earlier, we get kind of off on tangents here on talking about small farmers and so forth. But the effect of a lot of these different proposals on reform, the effect of them are going to be to raise food prices for people in this country and around the world, and if that's what you want to do, you know, you can talk to your voters about that.

But 23 percent of the farms in this country have more than $50,000 of sales. But they do 90 percent of the business. They produce 90 percent of the food and they get 81 percent of the payments. So we already have changed things.

But the point is $50,000, I think my good friend from Arkansas will agree, in our part of the world is not a real farm. You can't make a living on $50,000 of gross income on a farm. It's just not realistic.

So when you get up to a realistic commercial size farm, they produce just about all the food in this country. Now there's some small farms that are developing that are doing pretty well, and I've been supporting that and we're supporting that for the first time in this farm bill; and that is people producing organic, people producing local foods, getting out of the commercial system.

So there is a place for small farmers in these niche markets, and they're growing, and that's a good thing. But you go to those niche markets and you're finding you're paying a lot more money for that type of food. And a lot of people want that and that's great.

If we get involved in this and screw up this system, the gentleman from Arkansas is correct, we're going to endanger the national security of this country. If we ever get in a position in this country with this food that we're at with oil, we've got significant problems.

And this isn't a perfect system. When it was established, I voted against it. If I had my way, as I said earlier, I would not do it this way. But this is the consensus of people in the business of agriculture, the system that we have, that works so they can get financing and they can stay in business.

And you hear about the WTO. One of the biggest objections to what I want to do, the direction I'd like to go with farm policy, is that we can't do that because the WTO would object. And we've got the World Bank out there getting these developing countries to adopt these free market ideas like some people have done in this country, and the effect of that has been to not help the people. It's made them more food insecure.

So we're never going to settle this debate. As my friend from Arkansas said, we've argued about this for how long.

We are going to produce a farm bill here pretty quick. It's going to have a lot of reform in it. It's going to have a lot of new initiatives that we haven't done before in organic, in energy. There's a lot of money in there for conservation. We're going to have $10 billion of new spending above the baseline. After we took a $58 billion hit in the commodity title, we added $10 billion not in the commodity title. We added it into nutrition. So we're adding $10 billion of spending, and 10.261 of that, more than we've added to the bill, is going to nutrition to help people to cope with these high food prices.

So we're doing, we think, the right things, putting in the right kind of initiatives in this farm bill. It's not going to satisfy everybody, but it's moving in what we think is the right direction for the country.

I would encourage my colleagues to oppose this motion to instruct and continue to support the work of the Agriculture Committee.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLAKE. I've enjoyed this back-and-forth. Let me just say that it's implied again that we don't know what we're talking about somehow, that somehow we're divorced from the farming community and we don't know what they go through.

Let me just say, if you look at the end of my right index finger, it's gone. I left it in an alfalfa field at age 5.

I don't know all the ins and outs. I've been away from farming on a real basis for a while. But it's not a complete alien world to me, and certainly not to my family and relatives.

But let's get back to what we're talking about with this motion to instruct. We're talking about not a safety net at all. We're talking about direct payments, in many cases to farmers who don't farm at all, that is not tied to crop prices, whether they're high or low. This is a relic of reform attempts in the 1990s when we were trying to wean farmers away from subsidies that didn't happen. But these subsidies still remain, despite the fact that the other subsidy programs came back.

And all we're saying here is that, let's keep the limit at current law, at

$40,000 per person, not increase it to $60,000 per person. Yet we're being accused of trying to completely dismantle the family farm by not increasing the subsidies that are being paid out right now. We're simply saying they should remain where they are in current law.

So despite all the talk about stable food prices for citizens of the United States, or whatever else, remember, this motion to instruct has nothing to do with that. This simply has to do with a program that gives direct payments to people who, in many cases, do not farm at all, that has no tie to crop prices, whether they're high or whether they're low.

Let me simply say also that the administration said this week, this plan would result, talking about the current iteration of the farm bill, this plan would result in the continuation of farm subsidy payments to individuals with extremely high incomes.

The administration also said, this is not reform, and does not move Congress closer to a farm bill that the President would sign.

I certainly hope that the President sticks with that commitment. We need a farm bill that honors our commitment to have some fiscal responsibility here. Upping the limit of direct payments, increasing it by 50 percent, is not fiscally responsible.

So I would encourage my colleagues to join us in voting for this motion to instruct. Discount the debate that doesn't have anything to do with this debate on whether or not the conferees should accept the current subsidies or increase them.

With that, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for his words and for all those who have participated. I would encourage a vote in favor of the motion to instruct.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. FLAKE. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The postponed vote on the motion to suspend the rules with regard to House Concurrent Resolution 308 will be taken tomorrow.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

SYRIA AND NORTH KOREA CONSPIRE TO BUILD NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, North Korea and Syria were working together with Pakistan rogue scientist Abdul Khan to build a nuclear reactor in Syria, capable of producing plutonium for two nuclear weapons within a year of when it was destroyed by Israeli jets in September of 2007.

Israel, by the way, has not confirmed or denied the air strikes. But Israel acted in self-defense and self-interest because of the fact that Israel is so close to Syria.

Mr. Speaker, here is a map of the area. We have Syria and, of course, we have Israel and Iraq and then, of course, Iran on the other side. And here is the location in Eastern Syria where the nuclear facility was being built, with the aid of the North Koreans. From that location, in Alkibar facility, it is only 450 miles to Tel Aviv, where the majority of the Israelis live.

□ 2015

This whole area, of course, is in somewhat of a turmoil because of the fact you have Syria and the rogue dictator in Iran working together with the North Koreans to facilitate the development of nuclear weapons for all three countries.

The CIA has reported recently that North Korea is building Syria a reactor similar to the one that they have in North Korea. And North Korea then helped the Syrians cover up the results of the bombing after the reactor was destroyed.

Here are four photographs that the CIA has released and declassified just this week. Over on the top corner here is a photograph of North Korea's nuclear reactor that is capable of producing plutonium. You will see right next to it Syria's nuclear reactor as it was being built. It was built with the same floor plan, the same design as the North Korean facility that is in North Korea. This photograph was taken of Syria's reactor shortly before it was blown up.

Here is an aerial photograph of Syria's reactor, and you can see, Mr. Speaker, it's camouflaged to the extent that it looks just like a boxed building just in the eastern part of Syria with nothing anywhere close to it. And after Israeli jets came in and bombed the facility, this photograph on the bottom corner shows the results of the Syrian reactor after it was bombed by the Israeli jets.

And what is interesting, after the Israeli jets came in and bombed this facility, the North Koreans and the Syrians started working together very quickly to destroy what was left of this facility and bury it in the desert and then put in its place another facility, a building that looks just like this one but obviously, based on intelligence, is just a shell and not really used for any purpose whatsoever.

The purpose, of course, to build the second building was to let the world know that they didn't have anything in this area, but of course, we know that they buried all of their equipment and all of their nuclear devices or equipment, I should say, in the desert underneath the bombing that was done by the Israeli pilots.

So it's important for us to be aware of the contact and the working of North Korea with Syria. It is not a recent development. North Korea started working with Syria to build this facility in 2001, and they have continued to work with them until they started actually building this facility that would be capable of producing plutonium and at least to be able to build two nuclear weapons within a year.

North Korea is a nuclear threat and appears to help any nation with evil intentions, and the whole world needs to know about it. The countries of Iran, North Korea, and now Syria need to be known to all the world that they are nations with hearts that are fatally built on mischief and with malice aforethought. They build nuclear facilities with no redeemable, peaceful intentions. The normal, peaceful countries of our planet, especially those in the Middle East, cannot allow these three nations to have nuclear nonsense continue. They are on a path of destruction for at least somebody else, other than themselves, if their intentions are not stopped.

As for the nameless Israeli bomber pilots who flew these missions to destroy this nuclear facility capable of later being able to build nuclear weapons, they are thanked for their job well done, and the world needs to be aware that North Korea, Syria, and Iran seem to continue to work together to thwart world peace by building facilities that are capable of destruction for other countries, especially their neighbors.

And that's just the way it is.

BRING OUR TROOPS HOME AND HELP IRAQ HEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today I joined Representatives MAXINE WATERS, BARBARA LEE, and ALCEE HASTINGS in hosting a remarkable photo exhibit reception focusing on the appalling refugee situation resulting from the occupation of Iraq.

Renowned photographer, Gabriela Bulisova, traveled to Syria to document the plight of the millions of

Iraqis who have been forced from their homes and from their homelands. The photos show the tragic human side of the international refugee crisis, and in the faces of the children, you see confusion and fear. How do you explain to a child why he must leave his home, her friends, his school? How do you explain where her father is, or why his neighborhood is riddled with concrete and burned-out hulls of cars?

Nearly 5 million Iraqis have become refugees because of the occupation and civil war ravaging their nation. International relief organizations believe that 2 million of those 5 million refugees have fled their own nations and have sought safe haven in surrounding countries including Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

The photos in the exhibit were taken in Damascus. They are a glimpse into the lives of the all-too-often nameless and faceless. How can we even think about what it means to have 5 million people without a permanent home? It would be the same as if the entire population of the State of Kentucky or Colorado or Minnesota was suddenly evacuated from its State. No homes, no jobs. A detachment from everything we take for granted: income, schooling, access to financial savings, being close to one's family doctor. Some people even lose the very land upon which their homes are built.

The United States State Department made a commitment to assist in the voluntary resettlement, but despite a promise to take in 7,000 refugees in fiscal year 2007, only 1,600 were admitted into our country. In the last 6 months, State has only permitted an average of 400 people a month. At this pace, we're going to miss the target by a huge amount again.

We owe the Iraqi people more, Mr. Speaker. Certainly more than broken promises and despair. We cannot solely rely on the good graces of Iraq's neighbors or the assistance of the United Nations. This is a problem that we started, and it is our moral obligation to help resolve it.

The U.S., the United States of America, must end the occupation of Iraq and focus on the real needs of the Iraqi people. If we took even a fraction of what we are paying to occupy a nation in the middle of a civil war and put it towards the refugee crisis, we could change millions of lives and offer real hope for their future.

Next week or the week after, the House may consider the Iraq spending bill. Instead of extending the administration's occupation of Iraq, let's reaffirm our commitment to the Iraqi people through humanitarian assistance. Let's bring our troops and military contractors home, and let's help Iraq begin to heal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WELLER of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SUNSET MEMORIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is April 30, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Mr. Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,882 days since the tragedy called Roe v. Wade was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Mr. Speaker, died and screamed as they did so, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, no one could hear them.

And all of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th Amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution, it says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth.

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Mr. Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard this Sunset Memorial tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 12,882 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is April 30, 2008, 12,882 days since Roe versus Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children, this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FLAKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICA NEEDS TO DEVELOP ITS OWN NATURAL RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, it's great to be down on the House floor. It has been a limited schedule this week, so we haven't had a chance to really take time to focus on the number one pressing issue in America today, which is the high price of gasoline and energy in this country. We get a chance to do that tonight.

I am going to initially yield to some of my colleagues who have graciously come down to help, and the first one I would like to yield to is Mr. SALI from Idaho.

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, if you're afraid of the future, said Ronald Reagan, then get out of the way, stand aside; the people of this country are ready to move again.

As with so many things, President Reagan was right. We cannot avoid real problems, gloss over pressing needs or, out of fear of something unforeseen, sit immobile until we are overtaken by inevitable results of our previous inaction.

Americans are paying on average $3.62 a gallon, and by early summer, we're going to be at $4 a gallon. By the end of this year, it's projected oil will be at $180 per barrel, an approximate doubling in the space of 1 year. Why are we paying so much? Very fundamentally, it's a supply and demand issue. We need oil, but the supply is limited. This is frustrating in its own right, but it's truly maddening when you consider the supply of crude is not really limited and that we have additional resources available to us, but they have been locked up by Congress.

The current majority claims they have the answers in a new clean energy agenda which purports to offer reduced reliance on foreign oil. But they seek to do it through increased alternative forms of energy, much of which is not even available today, instead of drilling for and pumping American crude.

Before the vote was taken on the majority's latest energy bill on December 18, 2007, Speaker PELOSI said, You are present at a moment of change, of real change. Perhaps she was correct, only the change she envisions is radically different than what most Americans want.

To lower the price at the pump and to break our addiction to foreign energy, we must increase production of American crude, not stifle it. Today, our country currently imports 61 percent of its crude oil and 15 percent of its natural gas. It's not only expensive but foolish for us to depend on such politically unstable regions like the Middle East for our energy.

If this Congress were serious about reducing America's reliance on foreign oil, one would also think it would invest in new energy supplies that it can produce in the U.S., such as coal-to-liquids using clean coal technology; and it would engage in immediate development of domestic oil sources by obtaining oil from ANWR, drawing oil from our Outer Continental Shelf, our oil shale, and even oil sands.

Additionally, we have large supplies of natural gas, and instead of using it for domestic purposes, we're selling about two-thirds of it abroad. Natural gas is a steal when compared to crude oil. According to one recent news story, natural gas prices are currently much lower than crude oil when the two are compared on a BTU equivalency basis. Currently, crude oil is nearly $120 a barrel compared to natural gas at about $11 per thousand cubic feet. Since natural gas is used at about one-sixth of the cost of crude oil, that's a bargain.

We need to actively develop American natural gas resources, and we can because the supply is there. We need to lift the moratorium Congress has imposed on drilling our offshore natural gas reserves and tap into this incredible resource.

These are supplies that we have right now on the lands of our own Nation. We don't have to go abroad and be held economic hostage to foreign oil cartels.

Natural gas is one piece of the puzzle. But let's be candid. We still need oil, a lot of it. And as we increase oil supply, we must also increase refining capacity to process it, yet it has been three decades since we built a new oil refinery. Lack of refinery capacity is another reason why gas prices are so high.

And we further tied our hands by shying away from clean, secure, safe nuclear energy. Since the 1970s, nuclear technology has been developed that will enable us to produce nuclear energy without the potential dangers of previous years.

In his news conference yesterday, President Bush said, Many of the same people in Congress who complain about high energy costs support legislation that would make energy even more expensive for our consumers and small businesses. He went on to say, Congress is considering bills to raise taxes on domestic energy production, impose new and costly mandates on producers and demand dramatic emission cuts that would shut down coal plants and increase reliance on expensive natural gas. That would drive up prices even further. The cost of these actions would be passed on to consumers in the form of even higher prices at the pump and even bigger electric bills.

□ 2030

Now, of course the President was referring to our friends on the other side of the aisle. And the fact that he's right does sadden me because this is not a partisan problem, it's an American problem that demands a true bipartisan solution. Yet, the Speaker's energy bill that came out at the end of last year will invest less than $300 million over 3 years in such clean energy sources as hydropower, marine and hydrokinetic energy, wind energy, solar, and clean coal technology.

In contrast, consider the cost of what the Speaker chose to invest in through her energy bill. The bill contained $375 million for a Green Jobs program for 3 years; $600 million to assist developing countries with their renewable energy development, and additional funding, as needed, to assist India and China with the same. That's right, we are sending American tax dollars overseas to the two very countries we are competing with for energy supplies. Is that the kind of real change that Americans want?

Tragically, with the policy changes wrest by this Congress, Americans across this country have only continued to see higher and higher gas prices as new record-high gas prices are reached almost daily. As President Reagan correctly reminded us, Americans are not afraid of the future, we welcome it. In facing the future, however, America needs sound energy policy that develops domestic energy sources from every source available, including crude oil, natural gas, clean coal, hydropower, and every alternative source of energy. To put it another way, we need all the energy we can get from all the sources we can possibly afford. We need a real energy policy, not a futuristic wish list. Madam Speaker, we're waiting. Please don't make us wait any longer.

With that, I yield back.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I want to thank my colleague, and I appreciate it.

A couple of things I want to highlight. When he talks about supply, we have a 250 years worth supply of coal in this country, 250 years that we can have access to. And according to the Federal Government, there is enough oil in deep waters many miles off our coast and on Federal land to power more than 60 million cars for 60 years. So your point about supply is important and a critical portion of this debate, and really what separates Republicans from the Democrats as we fight about these energy costs.

We believe that when you bring more supply to the public that's demanding it, prices will go low. Speaker PELOSI promised, on April 24, 2006, ''Democrats have a commonsense plan to help bring down the skyrocketing gas prices.'' Well, they have a plan, but the plan was just the opposite of what she envisioned. Here's a barrel of crude oil, $58.31 when she became Speaker of the House; the price today, $115.92. That, as I stated on this floor numerous times, that is bitter change, that's negative change. Change is not always good. This is bad change. This is change that was promised by the current leadership in the House.

Now, how does that translate into the fuel for the soccer moms in the country? Well, when the Democrat majority came in, the price of gasoline at the pump was $2.33. Today, it stands at, on average, $3.65, a huge increase. Again, negative change based upon what was promised by the then Democrats in the minority. What they said, what happened when they got into the majority, they promised change. This isn't the change that we bargained for.

And just because I like to bring in the aspect that energy is the item that affects every aspect of our lives, as I said last week, in the Coast Guard Authorization bill, for every dollar increase in diesel fuel, it costs our Coast Guard $24 million. For every dollar increase in a barrel of crude oil, it costs our United States Air Force $60 million. For the sake of the taxpayers we ought to be demanding more supply.

And BILL, you know the coal-to-liquid opportunities that are up in your neck of the woods, and how the Air Force is pleading with us for energy security, for the ability for them to project their cost, and really for national security. Isn't it crazy that our military is dependent upon foreign sources of energy to run our war machines? Not only is it crazy, it's scary. And I would make the argument that it's negligent on our part to keep our military financially reliant on imported energy and really militarily at risk, where we could, in essence, be blackmailed with the threat of controlling those supplies when we need to move our war machines.

Add to this, I always like to add this on this chart, $3.65 is the price. Guess what happens when we moved to climate change? Chairman DINGELL of the Commerce Committee is the only intellectually honest person who started talking about climate change, and he said, ''for us to address climate change, it will require an additional 50 cents per gallon of gas.'' So now if we've got, on average, $3.65 and we add 50 cents for climate change, that means right now, before we get to the summer driving season, people will be paying $4.15 for a gallon of gasoline. That is bitter change. That is change that the public did not agree to when Speaker PELOSI made her promise in 2006.

And this highlights what you were talking about. Here's a comic. And you know when issues start getting into the media and the folks start making fun of public policy in America that you've really got a point that's resonating. ''We demand you energy companies do something about these high prices.'' Isn't that what we're hearing our friends from the other side of the aisle? Okay, energy companies, do something. Can we drill in ANWR? Forget it. How about offshore? Are you crazy? Clean coal? Out of the question. Nuclear power? You're joking, right? Well, don't just sit there, do something.

And what do we hear from the other side of this building? What we hear is, which is laughable, let's add more taxes to the energy companies. Now, where in the history of this country, when you've added more taxes do you get lower prices? I would challenge anybody on the other side of the aisle to show me any time in history where we added more taxes and we lowered the price of a good. You know what? They can't do it. It's ludicrous.

And then they also say, I know what, we're going to force the people who are selling us the oil, we're going to force them to drill and produce more oil when we won't even do that ourselves. How crazy is that?

So as my colleague, Mr. SALI, pointed out, we have options, we have solutions. We mentioned many of them. One is, take our natural resources in coal, over 250 years of coal resources. Now, I would rather have the good midwestern Illinois coal-basing coal that you have to go underground, not stuff you can get off the surface like in some of the western States, but here is a picture of a western State. Grab that, build a refinery, refine that coal into a fuel, stick it in a pipeline, send it to our Air Force bases, or send it to our airports. How many recent budget airlines have just gone bankrupt? At my count, there's four. Think of all the job losses. Think of all the health care now that's no longer accessible to those families. Why did they go bankrupt? High jet fuel costs.

One solution would be this; and the great thing about this is, American jobs in the coal mines, American jobs to build a refinery, American jobs to operate the refinery. These are good-paying jobs with good benefits. American jobs to build a pipeline. And of course, these are American jobs to fly the airplanes and operate the airfields or protect us.

So with that, I would like to yield to my colleague from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID DAVIS).

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Thank you, Mr. SHIMKUS, for your leadership tonight, and thank you for your interest in this issue.

It's interesting, looking at your charts tonight, I notice some of your charts actually have numbers that have to change. If you look at those, that's almost like I see when I go back home to east Tennessee every weekend, I see on the pumps at the gas stations, they have to change, also. And it's changing because we see the gas prices continuing day after day——

Mr. SHIMKUS. If my colleague would yield, they're not going down. Ever since I started this, the numbers are always going up.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. And you're exactly right. I think when Speaker PELOSI took over, oil, I think, was $58 a barrel according to your chart. Now it's $115 a barrel. And I can bet by tomorrow if we use that same chart, that $115 will be gone and you'll have to change that chart again.

I do thank you for your leadership in this issue. You know, we've been busy in this Congress. So far in the 110th Congress we've named 78 post offices, Federal buildings or roads. We've also passed legislation honoring LSU for their NCAA Football Championship, and the Red Sox for their World Series sweep over Colorado, and even commemorated the Detroit Tigers for winning the American League pennant.

Granted, post offices need names and championship teams need to be honored, but when I go back to the First District of Tennessee, people don't ask if I'm working on these types of things. They ask, DAVID, how am I going to fill up my pick-up truck if the gas prices don't come down?

What we haven't done is pass a sensible energy policy that will break our dependence on foreign oil. And I don't know about you, and I think you will agree with me, it scares me that we're dependent on foreign nations for our energy needs, dependent on people that hate us and hate our freedoms and, quite frankly, hate our religion. It is a dangerous precedent that we set when we become more and more and more dependent every day. It's time to get our priorities straight and help the citizens, families and small businesses in each of our districts across America. There is no excuse for this when families in my district are struggling to fill up their vehicles just to go to work.

I can remember a time 10 or 12 years ago, before I came to Washington, when there was a lot of talk about one party would steal milk from babies, or have senior adults eating dog food. Well, I can tell you, this worries me when I have families in east Tennessee that are to the point that they have to decide, do they buy food that's going up, or do they buy energy to go to work? This worries me.

There is no excuse for small businesses in my district to be forced into bankruptcy because they can't operate under high energy prices that they're facing. There is no excuse when families in my district have to choose between driving to work each day or putting food on their table or sending their kids off to college. There is no excuse.

Energy is the foundation and lifeblood of the American economy, creating the conditions that help us support good-paying jobs in the United States and allowing our industrial base to compete with the rest of the world.

Gasoline prices have increased more than $1.23 per gallon since the majority party took control of this House last year, increasing from a nationwide average of $2.33 per gallon on the very first day of the 110th Congress to now $3.55 per gallon. And again, that will probably change by tomorrow, and it's changing every day.

What we need is no more excuses. We need an energy policy that allows us to use American energy. We need to drill for oil in ANWR and off the Intercontinental Shelf. We need to use our abundant coal supplies through the use of clean coal technology.

One of the first things I did when I was elected to Congress is went to the Pentagon and spoke with the Secretary of the Air Force. And one of their top priorities is to use American coal, American energy, and take that coal and turn it into a fuel that we can actually fly our jets with. That's not too much to ask. And we think, boy that sounds a little out there, a little futuristic. Well, let me tell you how futuristic it is. The Germans ran their war machines in World War II by changing lumps of coal into gas. In World War II. This is not futuristic, some pie-in-the-sky issue, this is something that was done in World War II, it can be done now.

□ 2045

And we need to create safe nuclear power plants and we need to build refineries. And we need to expand our green energy initiatives like switchgrass. The University of Tennessee has a wonderful program looking at that possibility. Wind power, solar power, hydroelectric power. I think we have to look at green energy, but I think we've got our heads in the sand if we feel like we can run the American economy off green energy.

I think we have to have an energy plan. And an energy plan, an energy policy, combines all of these things together. It's a supply-and-demand issue. It's that simple. If you have a lot of something and a few people want it, the price will come down. This is basic economics that you learn in high school. If you have a small amount of a product and a lot of people want it, the price will go up. We have a limited supply. And it's not just Americans now that want the supply. China wants the supply. India wants the supply. We live in a global marketplace.

There are people in this Congress that believe you can tax and regulate yourself into prosperity. It never has happened. It won't happen today, and it will not happen in the future. If there's anybody that serves in this House that believes that you can put a tax on a business and that tax won't be passed on to the consumer, they haven't taken economics. They will pass that cost directly on to the pump.

Now we see that gas prices have gone from $2.33 a gallon, when the majority party took over, to $3.65, according to your chart today. Can you imagine if we put more taxes on top of that, what that's going to do? That's going to put a higher burden on the American consumer, on the American family.

There are families back in East Tennessee that sit around their kitchen table trying to decide how they're going to put a budget together, and it's putting a real dampening spirit on them when they have to try to spend $50 or $60 to fill up their vehicle.

Mr. Speaker, some people here in Washington believe the best way to reduce our gasoline price is just to tax the oil companies that are providing our energy supply. You can't tax and regulate yourself out of an energy crisis. You can't tax Joe's or John's or Chris's pickup truck full of gasoline. It just doesn't make any sense.

The American middle class deserves better. They deserve an energy policy that is dependent on American energy, not foreign energy. That's why 2 weeks ago, I signed onto a piece of legislation that's carried from my good friend from Texas, MAC THORNBERRY, called the ''No More Excuses Energy Act.'' ''No More Excuses.''

We've talked about energy for years, before I ever came here. As I was running for office in the last election, I heard the majority party say if you'll just let us take power, we're going to lower your energy costs. Well, I certainly don't see it in your charts today, Mr. SHIMKUS. I can tell you we need no more excuses. We need to use American energy. It's the only way to lower the cost at the pump and to give some relief to the American taxpaying citizen.

Thank you for your leadership.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Thank you.

And I have a few comments. Immediately after you mentioned Mac Thornberry's bill, I also signed onto the No More Excuses Energy Act.

The school bus folks were in town today, and what I have really gotten an appreciation of over the past year is, as I said earlier, how energy costs affect everything.

Look at the cost to the local school district, who is paying for the school buses to pick up the kids. The prices of diesel fuel are double. It's not planned in the budget. How are they going to meet these costs? Many will have to go back to the voters of the local control school that we have, and they're going to have to raise taxes to pay for it. There's no benefit to that for the kids. I mean they're still driving the same buses. That is a lost opportunity for money to go in a different direction to help educate kids but now has to go to fund the transportation system to get kids to school.

So I appreciate those comments.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Just to follow that same logic, think of the local volunteer fire department or the local ambulance service taking money from health care or the local police department taking money from corrections. You can see this through all branches of the economy. It really is affecting people in a very negative way.

Mr. SHIMKUS. And it's silly that we're not going after our own resources and our own supply when Russia is attempting to grab vast chunks of the Arctic to claim its vast potential of oil and gas and mineral wealth to fuel their country's economy. And actually, as we know, and I've got a friend from Michigan who knows this, they use energy to extort and impose their will on the free governments of the former captive nations, and they use it as an extortion tool. And they're going after resources and we don't. It's crazy.

Russia and China have overtaken the United States in dominating the global energy industry. China's building 40 nuclear plants. China opened a new domestic energy reserve in 2004. China is increasing offshore energy production. In fact, China is in league with Cuba to go after Outer Continental Shelf oil 50 miles off Miami, 50 miles. We can't go there, but we're allowing the Communist Chinese access to the gas and oil reserves on the Outer Continental Shelf. And there's much, much more.

It is ludicrous that we are the only industrialized nation in the world that does not go after and use our own resources. How crazy is that? It's time we stopped. And I hope the public is getting significantly angry enough that they are going to demand that this House does something to open up reserves.

Now I'm joined by my good friend and colleague KEVIN BRADY from Texas.

Welcome.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Thank you for your leadership on this issue. You come from a State, Illinois, that has a diverse blend of energy sources, and you've got a leadership role on the Energy and Commerce Committee. You know this issue. And you're right, ''no'' is not an energy policy.

I think this new Democrat Congress is completely disconnected from the real world. I say that because recently I held some roundtables at Mama Jack's Restaurant in Kountze, Texas, which, by the way, has great food and a great small business owner who's living the American Dream. And then I went to a new Chevron station earlier this week in Shenandoah, Texas, across from the Woodlands, where our family lives, and just talked to motorists about this issue.

What I found at Mama Jack's Restaurant were two small business people who basically say they work for free now. One was a florist. Another one, I forget what small business he was in. They basically said the price of fuel has eaten up all their profits for the week.

I talked to the sheriff of Hardin County, who said, basically, they run through their annual budget in law enforcement about halfway through the year. Now their officers aren't able to make some of the discretionary, positive, proactive calls they'd like to make. They don't have the money to do it.

At the gas station, I talked to a painter who lives in Montgomery County, works all throughout the Houston area, who said, basically, that he used to make $500 a week, what his net was. Now his fuel eats up $250 of that.

I ran into a teacher, a guitar teacher, a young man who had a very fuel-efficient car. He actually sold his land in Willis and moved closer to where he works just because, as he said, ''We just can't take these fuel prices.''

Yet look at Congress. Look at this new Democrat Congress. Since they've been in office, not only has the price of energy just skyrocketed, but look at

what it's done. The first thing it did to address energy prices, it passed a bill through the House to allow individuals to sue OPEC. To sue OPEC. What is that going to accomplish?

Then the second thing is this Congress began promoting longer-lasting light bulbs. Those are fine, but I don't think it's going to help lower the price at the pump anywhere.

Then they decided, no, here's the problem: We're apparently producing too much energy here in America. So they went after the U.S. energy companies. And what happened was 3 years ago, a Republican Congress, concerned about the loss of jobs overseas, changed the Tax Code. We basically said, look, if you produce and invest in America, create jobs in America, manufacture in America, you will have a lower tax rate than if you do that overseas. It makes great sense. Well, this new Democrat Congress said, no, there's one industry that we won't stand for. So they singled out the U.S. energy industry and said, no, we're going to tax you like you're producing, investing, and creating jobs in foreign countries; so we're going to treat you and your workers like you're a foreign investor. So at a time when we need more U.S. energy, we basically told our American energy companies, we're going to punish you for exploring here and producing and manufacturing in America, and, by the way, we're going to outsource good American energy jobs to other countries. We'll just make it more attractive for them.

And then this Congress apparently squeezed in between hearings on steroids in baseball and appearances by Julia Roberts, and we managed somehow to pass a measure to insist on more fuel-efficient cars. That's good. That actually is a good thing. But then this Congress went right back to punishing U.S. energy producers. The latest scheme out there is that we won't sell any military planes made in America, by the way, by American workers unless OPEC agrees to sell us more oil. So, in other words, our message to OPEC was: We want to do less, but we insist that you do more. It makes no sense at all.

I agree with you, Mr. SHIMKUS. We need a balanced approach to our energy. We need to take more responsibility as America for our own energy needs. We need to conserve more. Every one of us can do more to stretch our energy. We do need new technology because everything we touch can be made more energy efficient. And, yes, renewables are important. In fact, the Republican Congress is the one who put in place many incentives on wind and solar and biomass and biofuels types of issues.

But what your point is that I agree with, and, I think, the American public agrees with, is we do have to increase supply. We are, I think, a country of Americans that want more American energy. And the way we do that is to unlock our resources.

I'm from Texas. I have watched this Government push our energy companies deeper and deeper into the gulf coast, into riskier and more expensive waters, and then we wonder why the price of oil is higher. We've locked off most of our reserves along the gulf coast. We've locked off our Arctic energy, which is a tremendous, vast resource. We refuse to help work on the U.S. Naval Shale Reserve, which is another resource. Mr. SHIMKUS, for many years I have heard you talk about the need to take coal and turn it into super clean liquid fuels that can help again fuel our country as we go forward.

The good news is America has remarkable resources if we will just take more responsibility for what we need because our economy is like a growing young boy. We continue to grow. But other countries do as well.

I will finish with this: I've watched Congress blame everyone in the world for high oil prices except themselves. I think Congress ought to look in the mirror when it comes to high energy prices at the pump, and here is why: The high world oil prices reflect the new reality of this Democrat Congress. And what we have said is stable governments like America are no longer going to take responsibility for energy; so we are actually pushing more of the world's reserves into unstable countries, just as you said: Russia, Venezuela, Iran, Nigeria, and others. As a result, we pay a premium price because the rest of the world now knows that America, a stable government, has said no, we are not going to be part of the solution, we want other countries to. And, unfortunately, our motorists, our small businesses, our law enforcement are paying the price. America needs to take more responsibility for our energy.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I thank my colleague.

There is something about the American character. We believe that America is strong because we have this value of rugged individualism, that we believe in self-reliance. And what galls Americans in this debate is that the Democrats are demanding increased oil production everywhere but in America. I mean the Democrats demand increased oil production everywhere around the world but America. And when they do that, they are creating jobs everywhere in the world except in America.

Here's the result of their ''no'' policy: When they came in, $2.33 per gallon of gas. On average today, $3.65. You add to that a 50 cent global warming tax, and we would be paying at the pump today $4.15. The barrel of crude oil, the feedstock, when this Democrat majority came in, $58.31. What is it today? It's $115.92.

There's a 250-year supply. And by far the least expensive fuel we have in coal reserves across this country, the largest coal reserves of any country in the world, is right here in the United States. And according to the Federal Government, there's enough oil in deep waters many miles off our coast, and on Federal land—that's not on the coast, that's just on Federal land—to power more than 60 million cars for 60 years.

□ 2100

Mr. SHIMKUS. Again, the Democrats have decided to demand other countries explore, develop, create jobs in energy, and continue to keep our reserves locked up, never to be used.

I am happy to welcome my colleague and friend from Michigan, Congressman MCCOTTER.

Mr. MCCOTTER. I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this issue and for yielding me some time.

We have heard a lot throughout the past years about making America more energy independent. Myself, being a natural contrarian, have heard recently members of my own party saying that the Speaker has yet to unveil her plan to lower gas prices. I think this is an error. I think the more disturbing news is we have seen the Democratic party's plan to lower gas prices, and it has failed miserably.

If we remember last year, we were told we were taking the steps toward American energy independence. We passed a ''Lethargy Bill,'' as I referred to it, that was going to solve all our problems. We were going to innovate our way out of this, we were going to conserve our way out of this. We were going to throw American taxpayers' money to India and Communist China and around the world to make the red bureaucrats green.

When the Speaker was recently on Larry King's show last week, apparently she was under the impression that their plan had worked. When asked what the price of gas was, she replied, $2.56. She was off by $1. Evidently the pattern of wishful thinking had already set in; that their wonderfully detailed plan that they had waited to unveil had already been hoisted upon an unsuspecting American electorate. And these are the results.

Now we hear the ''blame game'' beginning. Because having had their energy plan fail, they are now looking for scapegoats. When politicians come looking for scapegoats to explain their failure, I assure you of one thing, it's going to cost taxpayers money. It may cost you directly, it may cost you indirectly, but this will cost you money.

I will say why. First, their policy having failed for a fundamental reason, they can come up with no better thing to do than to try to affix blame. Their policy has failed because it's built on a 21st century energy fallacy. The fallacy is that environmental conservation and energy production are irreconcilable. The Republican party takes the opposite view. We believe that a plan of conservation and innovation and responsible production through the use of green technologies and others is entirely possible for our free people, and it can help increase the supply of domestic energy and help to alleviate the

cost of gas at the pump and the cost of energy throughout our economy, which is eating into family budgets even as we speak and do nothing in this 110th Congress.

Now what are they going to do instead? They are going to put taxes on energy companies. Windfall profits tax. I remember something Ronald Reagan said a long time ago. Corporations are not taxpayers, corporations are tax collectors.

So here's how this works. This is the new energy plan. The new energy plan is to divert attention from the fact this Congress has done nothing to increase the supply of oil or domestic energy to help Americans. They will then try to tax the energy companies. The energy companies will turn right around and put that cost into your pump. It will be passed right on. This is not my speculation, this is what economists tell you almost universally.

Then the politician comes to you, after Government has more of your money, and says, Thank me. I punished those bad people. And you say to them, Well, that is great, but what about me? Is there any more energy being produced? You have taxed it, there is less of it, the price continues to go up. You walk out of here with more of my money. I don't think the American people are going to be grateful for that.

Another short term gimmick that we are hearing is we must demand that OPEC produce more oil. This is sheer genius. Sheer genius. We are now hearing calls from the Democratic party to make America more energy dependent on foreign sources. They pump more, we buy more, they keep the money. There is no energy independence in this shortsighted call, there is just another attempt to deflect blame and responsibility away from this Chamber, where it belongs, the Chamber across the hall, where it belongs, and from a total failure of a 21st century fallacy to fix energy needs in America and make us more energy independent.

Now, as we know, these costs go throughout the economy. They are inflating the cost of living for all Americans. And yet there's talk, talk, talk, talk. But there are people who are not talking about energy. We are engaged in a fight for the global access to oil with the Communist Chinese as we speak. They are in every continent of our world and they are trying as hard as they can to gain direct access to these foreign sources.

At the very time the United States of America, as the distinguished gentleman from Texas points out, is trying to deter American companies from finding new sources of oil, at the very time we are told by some voices that we demand energy production everywhere but America, it is easy in our day and age to say to ourselves that there is no real direct cost to Government. We live in a credit card age. We don't live in the age my parents grew up in, my grandparents, and I was raised to respect you save your money, you plan your budget, you work responsibly, and hopefully the good Lord takes care of you. No.

But when you think that votes on an energy bill or votes on a regulation that is imposed or votes on litigation that is imposed or votes on taxation that seem indirectly removed from you, there's a cost to all this. When we talk about the cost of taxation, litigation, regulation and an aversion to production of American energy, you need not go to the CBO to have this scored.

Look at the gentleman from Illinois's chart. That is the cost of a government that is unaware of what is happening in America, what our future energy needs are, and who do not understand that the American people, when challenged, will meet that challenge, we will provide for environmental conservation, free market innovation, and the domestic production of energy to take America where it needs to be, which is energy independent. But then, again, we have always viewed America as the solution, and we always will.

I thank the gentleman for all the work that he has done on this, and I look forward to continuing this discussion with him in similar forums, for it is important that the American people understand something. According to the chart in front of us today, it is clear that in the 110th Congress Democrats don't care what they cost you.

I yield back.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I thank my colleague.

There's a great op ed today in the Washington Post by Robert Samuelson. I want to read the first paragraph: ''What to do about oil? First it went from $60 to $80 a barrel, then from $80 to $100 and now to $120. Perhaps we can persuade OPEC to raise production, as some Senators suggest; but this seems unlikely. The truth is that we are almost powerless to influence today's prices. We are because we didn't take sensible actions 10 or 20 years ago. If we persist, we will be even worse off in a decade or two. The first thing to do is start drilling.''

Now I am joined by my colleague from Georgia, Mr. WESTMORELAND. Welcome.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Thank you, Mr. SHIMKUS, and thank you for doing this. I am glad to hear all of the discussion today. As Mr. MCCOTTER was just talking about, the Democratic plan, I guess, or their policy, was H.R. 6, which was part of their monument pieces of legislation this was going to change the direction of this country. As we see by your chart, they definitely have changed the direction of gas prices in that they are skyrocketing up. We heard so much before they got in charge about the commonsense plan that they had. So H.R. 6 was their energy bill.

If you look at H.R. 6, and, Mr. SHIMKUS, I did a little word search and found that crude oil was mentioned five times in that bill, which was well over 300 pages. Gasoline was mentioned about 12 times. Domestic drilling was not mentioned. Drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf was not mentioned. But what was curious was that swimming pool was mentioned 47 times because there was a piece of swimming pool legislation that was added to the bill. So swimming pool was mentioned about seven times more or eight times more than gasoline. Then the other interesting thing is 350 times in that bill was lamp or light bulbs.

So I have a hard time explaining. I just spoke to a group of farmers Saturday morning at a breakfast and they were asking me about fuel prices. As you know, the price of diesel is up well over $4 a gallon. When I tried to explain to them the Democratic solution to our energy problems and our dependency on foreign oil, I don't think that they believed me. I read them the bill, I read them the things that were in the bill, and I am having a hard time convincing them that I am telling the truth.

So I am proud that you're here and that these other members are here so I can have somebody to go back and say, Look, I told you I am telling you the truth. This is their policy. It is a nonpolicy. Their commonsense plan that they had to reduce our dependency on foreign oil and to bring down the rising gas prices has done nothing but cause them to go up almost 50 percent.

So I thank you for doing this, and I hope that by me sitting here listening to some of my other colleagues, I can get some ideas about what to go home and tell the people of the Third Congressional District of Georgia.

What really is their plan? Did they really have one? As it turns, it seems if they had one, it has certainly backfired on them and, shamefully, the American people.

Thank you.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I thank my colleague for coming. In reality, and I taught high school for a couple of years, and when you don't make a decision, you have made a decision. Even though you don't have a policy, you in fact have a policy.

Our debate is that when the Democrats promised us, when Speaker PELOSI promised us, and I quote, ''Democrats have a commonsense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices''; and when Majority Leader STENY HOYER promised, ''Democrats believe that we can do more for the American people who are struggling to deal with his gas prices,'' well, they sure did more. They just burdened struggling citizens with higher gas prices. Democrat Whip JIM CLYBURN said, ''House Democrats will have a plan to help curb rising gas prices.''

When you don't have a plan, the plan that you have is a plan for failure. This is a planned failure, $58 to $115. Facts are hard things to dispute. Gasoline prices, $2.33, $3.65. That is Speaker PELOSI's plan to bring down skyrocketing gas prices. They are skyrocketing gas prices but they are not being brought down. They are continuing to go up.

So Monday we had truckers driving around Washington, D.C. protesting the high cost of diesel fuel. I have got independent truckers going bankrupt. In fact, I brought to the floor in the last couple of weeks a picture of a local strike of independent strikers protesting the high cost of diesel.

My friend, Congressman BRADY, highlights the fact that many small town, independent, self-employed people are not making any profit this year because the profit they had planned, it's all going into pay the high cost of gasoline. This is failure.

We would hope our colleagues on the other side would recognize this failure and come to the floor and help us fix this. But their solution is demanding on other countries more drilling when they won't demand drilling in our own country. And then they have this convoluted idea that if you tax people, that is going to lower prices. I challenge them anywhere historically to show me a time when you have raised taxes and prices have come down.

In fact, I have got the perfect colleague to come up here and talk, a CPA and accountant. He has probably seen a lot of small businesses, probably seen a lot of tax burden come onto businesses. I am not sure those tax burdens have ever lowered the cost of that company doing business. But I would like to welcome Congressman CONAWAY from Texas.

Mr. CONAWAY. I thank my colleague for hosting the hour tonight and for his work on the issue of trying to educate the American people as to what we are doing here.

□ 2115

I would say as kind of a spin-off of your comment earlier, I think our colleagues on the other side do have a plan, but they are not explaining the plan fully to the American public. Their plan is to promote anything but oil and gas and fossil fuels. And that is fine. We can have a legitimate philosophical debate and argument and disagreement as to whether or not we should continue to explore for and exploit fossil fuels. But in that conversation ought to be the cost of changing to a non-fossil fuel environment.

So I would argue that the policies that have been put in place over the last 15 months have been specifically garnered to reduce America's production of fossil fuels. They have been specifically put in place to raise those costs and make other alternatives more competitive in the market. But what they have not done a particularly good job of is explaining to the American public that these alternative sources have a cost.

If it were already cheaper to produce electricity any other way than the way we are currently doing it, we would be doing it that way. That is the American model. If it were already cheaper to power our automobiles and trucks and planes any other way, we would be doing that.

So as we look at these policies that are being put in place by our colleagues on the other side, they are specifically intended to raise costs on our businesses, raise costs on American businesses, raise costs to consumers. When you raise costs to businesses, those businesses compete in a global environment. They compete with companies around the world who may have a different cost structure than they do. And to the extent that our costs here are higher than other places in the world, particularly as it relates to energy, then our companies would be less competitive, and the less competitive our companies become, the fewer jobs available for Americans to take. So you can kind of get a sense of this death spiral that we put ourselves in by making ourselves less competitive.

The cold, hard facts are that energy costs over my lifetime and your lifetime will continue to increase. There is just no other way to get around it. That is going to happen. But those increases should not be as dramatic as the increases that my colleague has shown on the floor. We can manage and work towards slowing those increases down, making those increases much more manageable and easier to deal with if we had a rational, pro-production, pro-supply policy that we put in place.

If we make a decision that we want to go totally green, we want to go to a zero carbon footprint, that has immense costs that we have to agree on. If we collectively agree those are costs we want to bear, then let's go do that. But at this point, at this juncture in time, no one is talking about the costs of moving to the style of energy production that my colleagues on the other side want to do.

As an example, section 526 of the energy bill that was passed in December prevents any Federal agency from contracting for sources of energy if they can't prove that the lifecycle greenhouse gases are less than they otherwise would have been. Well, that has a cost to it, because that means our Federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, can't buy energy from Canada.

Now do you want to buy energy from Canada? We share a long border with those guys, it is a democracy and we go to war together. We don't go to war with each other. Or do you want to buy crude oil from countries who hate our guts, from regimes that would just as soon America would go away as look at us?

What section 526 does, well-intentioned but misguided in its impact, is it says you can't buy things, you can't buy unconventional sources of energy like gas-to-liquids, like oil shale, like tar sands, unless you can prove, quote-unquote, that the greenhouse gas cycle is less.

These are policies that our colleagues on the other side are putting on. They are policies intended to increase costs to the American consumer. They simply won't say that. But if you look at the impact those policies have, they are specifically set to reduce America's supply of energy. If you reduce our supply of energy in a growing demand circumstance, straight economics tells you that your costs are going to be higher.

So as we move toward what we would all agree is a laudable goal, and that is making America dependent on energy sources that are within American control, that are environmentally responsible, let's look at the cost of how we make those moves. If we want to make them dramatically and unprepared, then, fine, those are dramatically higher costs than would otherwise have needed to be the deal.

So the basic points are costs will go up over the rest of our lifetime. We ought to do to what we can to manage those costs, prevent the spikes we see and the dramatic impact there, because businesses and consumers have a difficult time dealing with spikes. They can deal with a gradual increase over time, because that is just the way normal things work, but spikes hurt us in trying to plan for and be competitive in the world markets.

Let's come clean as to what all of these costs are for carbon tax or global warming or climate change, whatever it is. Our colleague from Michigan has said it ought to be 50 cents a gallon for gasoline. I don't know if that is the right number, but at least he put a dollar value on the ideas of how we move toward less dependence on sources of oil, in this instance fossil fuels.

But the phrase ''energy independence'' is a misnomer. We will never have a world where we aren't dependent on energy. We have to have energy to turn the lights on in this building. What the phrase should be is that we are not dependent on energy from sources that we don't control, from sources in countries who hate our guts, from sources that when we give them money, they turn around and take that money and do bad things to American citizens. So we can have an energy policy that makes sense, is responsible to the environment, but doesn't raise costs dramatically and arbitrarily on the American consumer.

I appreciate my colleague giving me a chance to rant a bit tonight and participate in our conversation.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I thank my colleague.

Pro-production, pro-supply, and conservation I think are key items.

Mr. CONAWAY. Let me add one other thing that I left out. I had a conversation today with some folks from an energy electric company. We talk about energy, we ought to bifurcate the discussion. One is the electricity production, which is the bulk of the energy we use in this country, versus fuels that power cars and airplanes and trucks. They are looking at the impact that some of the proposals out there are with respect to increased costs in order to lower their CO_2 emissions.

They currently produce energy at almost 4 cents a kilowatt hour. Under

the proposals that they are examining, which are led by the Democrats, they believe their costs will go to 11.8 cents a kilowatt hour. That doesn't mean just in the vacuum. But take your electric bill that you pay this month, or the one you pay in July when it is really high because of air conditioning, and multiply it by 2½. That will be kind of a rule of thumb as to what some of the proposals out there are doing for energy costs.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I appreciate that. And I have tried to segue a little bit of the climate change debate. We mentioned it here with Chairman DINGELL. To be intellectually honest, a carbon tax would be a way to go. He says 50 cents a gallon. So if the average price today is $3.65, you add 50 cents a gallon, Americans will be paying $4.15 a gallon. Now, even in the cap and trade program, really cap and trade equates to 50 cents a gallon. And we just want folks to be intellectually honest and be clear, so the public has to understand.

An issue out today, politicians beware, the issue tied for last, climate change tied for last on a list of domestic priorities for President Bush and Congress in a 2008 survey from the Pew Research Center for the people in the press, lagging behind influence of lobbyists, moral breakdown, et cetera. Last. But California just passed a 20 to 30 percent increase on the electricity bills to deal with climate change. So if we want lower energy prices, we need more supply.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

EFFECTS OF TROOP DEPLOYMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I would like to ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, we appreciate the opportunity tonight in the 30-Something Working Group to talk about an item that is extremely important to America and particularly important to America's military families, and that is the effects of troop deployment on the children, families and communities of military personnel.

Speaker PELOSI has been so supportive of the notion that we need to make sure that we shape our policy, particularly around our Nation's veterans, in support of our military families. The extended troop deployments, the tour after tour of duty, I know that so many of us as Members have met with soldiers' families and met with individual troops who have said they are on their third and fourth tour of duty, that they are having extended deployments, that they are having a much shorter than they are supposed to time between deployments. Normally they are supposed to go through about 365 days between deployments. Those times have not been respected and they have been sent back much sooner.

Since October 2001, approximately 1.6 million U.S. troops have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Deployed family members are leaving behind parents, children and spouses to provide a selfless patriotic service to our country. However, families are also asked to make great sacrifices when dealing with the stress and anxiety of multiple deployments, limited and infrequent communications, and the separation of a family member.

In this Month of the Military Child, we thought it was only appropriate that we show our support for those that themselves provide so much support to our soldiers and discuss the consequences of these prolonged separations.

I would like to begin, Mr. Speaker, with a story of the Lopez family. The Lopez family is right here. They were profiled in the Sesame Workshop Talk, Listen, Connect Series. Ten-year-old Ernesto, who is the little boy right here, and 6-year-old Jennifer, live with their mother and baby brother on Fort Bragg in North Carolina, which is home of the Airborne and Special Operations Forces and one of the largest military bases in the world. Their dad, Staff Sergeant Ernesto Lopez, is in Iraq on his third tour of duty.

Look how little these children are. The daughter is 6 years old. If he is on his third tour of duty, and most of these tours of duty, Mr. Speaker, are, as you know, about a year each, that means that he has missed half of Jennifer's life already. Half. It is just unbelievable.

Jennifer keeps a special calendar in her room to mark the days until her dad comes home. Ernesto sleeps with a duplicate of the small ball that his father carries, a soft army ball with a molded helmet and a soldier's face, onto which Ernesto drew a heart that means ''we love each other,'' in his words. Even baby Elan, who was born 2 days before his father was deployed, has a soft-sided photo album filled with pictures of his dad that his mother hopes will ease his recognition when he returns.

Imagine. It is going to be incredibly difficult for this family to go through the restoration of bonding that military families inevitably go through. I can't imagine having just given birth and having to leave to go across the world and not know whether or if I would see my family again. That is what our men and women that are fighting for us in Iraq are going through every single day. And as Ernesto, Jennifer, Elan and Mrs. Lopez know so well, when a parent is deployed, the entire family is deployed.

The Lopez children are an example of the 1.2 million children under the age of 10 who have a parent or parents on active military duty or in the Reserves, which is more than at any other time since World War II.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, we are going to be discussing the burdens of deployment on the children, families and communities of the brave men and women that serve us in uniform. Families and communities of military personnel are making huge sacrifices every day for the protection of this country, and we must be prepared as a Nation to ensure the well-being of military families, welcome home our brave soldiers at the end of their tours, and provide for their safe reintegration into their communities.

At this time, I would like to recognize the gentleman who suggested that the 30-Something Working Group take up this subject during our weekly hour. He is a tremendous leader when it comes to the issues important to veterans and military families, Chairman BOB FILNER, the gentleman from California.

Mr. FILNER. I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership on many issues, especially in these special orders, and tonight a very important one, the effect of deployment on our families, our military families.

You know, this is a war that has gone on the second longest in our history. There are over 4,000 young men and women who have been killed. There have been at least 30,000 casualties that we account for of Americans, hundreds of thousands of Iraqis. That 30,000 official figure, by the way, compare that with the following statistic: Over 800,000 veterans have already returned from this war in Iraq.

□ 2130

Over 300,000 of them have filed claims for injuries, whether physical or psychological, while in battle, 300,000. Compare that with the official figure of 30,000. It is a factor of ten. Something is not being told to the American people here.

But then, think of all the families involved of those who have been killed, the best and brightest of our young men and women, the casualties that we admit, the hundreds of thousands of casualties when they come home. Not only do they have to deal with fatality or grave injury, they have to deal with income problems. A spouse may have to take care of her husband and lose two incomes.

What about the children? Over 1 million children of those deployed or were deployed or will be deployed, how do they take daddy coming home, or not coming home, dealing with violence that is a symptom of PTSD, posttraumatic stress disorder, dealing with an amputated father or mother, dealing with brain injuries?

This is something that we as a society have got to deal with. It is part of the cost of war, and the cost of war that we have been asked to take on doesn't cover this. We have to fight for every penny for veterans and their families.

The President says support our troops, support our troops, support our troops. But when they come home, who supports the troops, and who is looking after the families? And that is what we are dealing with tonight.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. FILNER, your leadership on the Veterans' Affairs Committee has just been second to none. Your commitment to our military families has been so incredibly important in trying to make sure that we can highlight their needs and the struggles and difficulties that they go through; and the policy that you are shaping in your committee to make sure that we can improve their lives.

Look at the statistics there. The statistics there show just exactly what the impact is on our military families. The dark green shows 2003 to 2005 what you had in infidelity, it was about 4 percent. Fast forward to 2007, and we are at 15 percent. You go to divorce. We are at 11 percent 2003 to 2005, and you are up to 20 percent in 2007. And then look at any other problem. And of course the military families have problems just like anybody else, but look at the explosion of problems that military families have had in terms of their marital problems. In 2003 to 2005, it was 12 percent and they are at 27 percent now. Granted, war is a stressful situation, Mr. Chairman. But, my gosh, we need to do more. And I know that your committee is committed to doing that.

Mr. FILNER. Let me focus, if I may, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, on the children. And children have to deal again with dad or mom away for extended periods. You mentioned the Lopez family. Or the problems may really begin when dad or mom come comes back, amputated legs, spinal cord injuries, posttraumatic stress disorder.

Now, this is something that our VA or DOD or administration ought to be worried about, and yet it was left to the private sector to figure out, what do we tell our children? How do we answer something at an age-appropriate level?

And I want to thank the Sesame Street Workshop who produces Sesame Street, the nonprofit educational organization, for its leadership. As you mentioned, there are hundreds and thousands of children of military families who are impacted every day by the deployment of one or both of their parents. They responded to this 2 years ago by making an outreach tool to help families and their young children cope with the challenges of deployment: A DVD featuring Elmo who struggles with military deployment of his father, and urges his viewers to share their emotions and fears directly with their parents. After watching this video together, families have found a new opportunity to talk with their children and communicate together as a family.

Here is the first DVD that Sesame Street did under a Talk, Listen, and Connect series, Helping Families During Military Deployment; and also in Spanish, Partides Militares Bienvenidos Cambios. And that was distributed with the help of the military and the help of the VA to hundreds of thousands of young people.

Just yesterday, Sesame Street launched a new DVD, a new series called Deployments, Homecoming, and Changes. And that addresses the level of anxiety children may experience after multiple deployments, as well as to help young children gain an age-appropriate understanding of a parent's combat-related health condition so the family can heal together. The DVD features again Elmo and Rosita, and intersperses the Muppets with real families like the Lopez family that you showed us earlier. They are meant for children, but spouses and friends and relatives facing a complicated transition of multiple deployments or the physical and psychological wounds.

I invite, by the way, all Members of the House of Representatives to meet Elmo and the Cookie Monster next Wednesday on May 7, at 4:00, at HC–5. Sesame Street will bring Elmo and the Cookie Monster. You can take pictures with him or her, I am not sure, and pick up a copy of this DVD. It will be distributed free to military families all over the Nation.

I hope every one of our colleagues picks up a copy, watches it, and helps distribute it in their own districts. This is an important tool that was produced for us by people who care about what is going on.

And I will tell you, we are now in the Month of the Military Child. We want to honor the children of military families. But we have now a tool to reach children. This is aimed at very young children below the age of five. And if they watch what is going on, again, I have seen some of the previews. One of the children of a parent with a prosthetic leg was shown bringing the leg to dad to try to make that situation sort of natural and a part of life and not something to be ashamed of or to fear. And so Sesame Street uses the power of video to connect with soldiers and their families and of course the children.

You can watch the video yourself. Go to sesameworkshop.org/tlc for Talk, Listen, and Connect; Hablen, Escuchen, Conecten, at sesameworkshop.org/tlc, and you can see that and watch it for yourself.

I would just like to say to my colleague from San Antonio, who is a psychologist and has dealt with children in his professional life and is a great aid on our veterans committee for issues of mental health and the issues we are talking about today, we thank you for your leadership, Mr. RODRIGUEZ.

Mr. Speaker, let me also thank Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for her steadfast support of America's children and her interest in the needs of veterans' families.

Every day the men and women of our armed forces sacrifice to protect and preserve our way of life, whether by putting themselves in harm's way, or by enduring time away from their loved ones at home.

I would like to recognize Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization behind Sesame Street, for its leadership in serving the most vulnerable population of the Armed Services—the thousands of young children in military families who are impacted every day by issues related to deployment.

Sesame Workshop has responded to the needs of the 700,000 children under the age of 5 who have a parent in the military. In August 2006, Sesame Workshop launched a critically needed outreach tool to help families and their young children cope with the challenges of deployment.

In this video, Elmo struggles with the military deployment of his father and urges his viewers to share their emotions and fears directly with their parents.

After watching this video together, families have found a new opportunity to talk with their children and communicate together as a family.

Just yesterday, Sesame Workshop launched its second phase of its Talk, Listen, Connect series of videos for military children.

This newest resource kit is titled, ''Deployments, Homecomings, Changes'' and it addresses the level of anxiety children may experience after multiple deployments as well as help young children gain an age-appropriate understanding of a parent's combat-related health condition so the family can heal together.

These new outreach materials are meant for spouses, friends, and relatives of military parents and children who are facing the complicated transitions of multiple deployments or who have returned home with combat-related health injuries, both physical and psychological.

Elmo is again filling an unmet need for developmentally appropriate resources for young children.

This project has garnered overwhelming support from the military community, with nearly 400,000 of the original kits requested from active duty, National Guard, and reserve families to help build a sense of stability and resiliency during times of separation and change.

April is the ''Month of the Military Child.'' Today, we are taking the time to honor the children in military families and acknowledging the personal sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome.

I applaud the critical work of organizations like Sesame Workshop whose project, Talk, Listen, Connect, has the sole purpose of helping make the lives of these children and their families a little easier during some of the most difficult of times.

I commend Sesame Workshop for its work to help empower children and adults alike, as well as help families overcome adversity together in order to bring hope for the future.

Sesame Workshop uses the power of video to connect with soldiers and their families during these difficult times. The video honestly addresses the sadness, confusion and anxiety

with sensitivity and clarity for the 700,000 preschool kids in this country whose parents serve lengthy and frequent deployments.

This video is available to watch on the internet. Just search for Sesame Workshop and TLC.

You can also order a kit on the web site—for your neighbor, your co-worker, or even your own child—that might be struggling with the extended deployment of a parent, or adapting to a parent that has returned home but is suffering from visible or invisible wounds.

As a Nation, we must do more than simply say we support our service members and their families. We must follow through with true deeds and bold action that will ultimately assist our military families as they make the transition into civilian life.

I urge you to learn more about Sesame Workshop and share these extraordinary resources with military families you know.

This video will begin to build a dialogue between children and parents, as well as this country and our Nation's military families. America cares for our military families and this Sesame Workshop film shares this message of support.

We need to make sure the fabric of our society is strong enough to ensure the well-being of the military family and I want to thank Sesame Workshop and the many organizations that contributed to this project.

Again, my thanks to Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for your leadership on this issue.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. And I want to personally take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership as chairman of the VA Committee. And I can honestly tell you that I spent 8 years on the committee prior to leaving for 2 years and then coming back, and it has been day and night with your leadership there. And I want to personally thank you.

Nothing was more frustrating than to serve on the VA Committee for 8 long years and not be able to make things happen. And, in fact, during that period of time is when we were charging our veterans even co-payments and fees and those kind of things. But in the last 1 year and 4 months we have been able, not only with the 2007 budget, the 2008 budget, and the supplemental, we have been able to put $13 billion to our veterans. And so I want to personally thank you for your leadership on the part of the legislation that we have passed.

Just today in your committee, Mr. Chairman—and Chairwoman, thank you for this opportunity—we are able to pass a series of bills, one of them that seemed to simple, but picks up the COLA that addresses the needs of the survivor spouse as well as children, survivors of veterans, as well as disability compensation. So I want to thank you for that.

Let me just give you a couple of statistics. More than 700,000 children have had parents deployed at some point during the conflict, 700,000 children; 19,000 children have had their parents wounded in action; some 2,220 children have lost their parents both in Afghanistan and Iraq. Not to mention the fact that we have lost more soldiers, some 6,000 per year, to suicides, which is uncalled for. And I am really glad that we have started to move on working on posttraumatic stress with our soldiers and adding some resources, and including legislation that allows an opportunity for the first time to reach out and work with the families of those individuals that suffer from posttraumatic stress disorders.

I know personally, just like those families know, that when somebody suffers from posttraumatic stress, just like when somebody suffers from alcoholism, the whole family gets impacted, the children, the spouses.

I just got a call a couple of weeks ago from a soldier that is getting deployed for the fourth time. And he was basically telling me, ''Mr. RODRIGUEZ, I have already lost my wife, we have gotten a divorce, and they are now taking away the opportunity for me to visit the children.''

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Can I ask you a question on that? Given your expertise and your professional background in psychology; obviously posttraumatic stress disorder is incredibly stressful on families, and I just want to bring up some statistics and maybe have you comment on them.

We have documentation that servicemembers who are given a diagnosis of PTSD were significantly more likely to perpetrate violence toward their partners, with more than 80 percent committing at least one act of violence in the previous year, and almost half at least one severe act. And that source, the third-party validator we have on that is the Journal of Marital and Family Therapy, and that was back in 2003 that they cited that.

The stress on families, beyond the deployment, which is obviously incredibly stressful. When they come back and they are suffering from PTSD, that has to have an incredibly horrific impact.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. It really does. And one of the things that we are now looking back, and we should even go back to the Vietnam era, a large number of those veterans that are homeless out there are suffering from posttraumatic stress from the Vietnam veteran era. So we cannot allow that to occur to this generation of soldiers coming in from Iraq and Afghanistan. So I am real pleased with the resources that we have come forward. Now, we have got to make sure that we have those programs and treatment that reach out not only to that veteran but to the entire family and community as a whole. We allowed for legislation because we don't have the sufficient workers out there to provide that treatment, to contract out with the community health centers, mental health centers, to reach out as quickly as possible to those specific soldiers.

We are anticipating, and we are trying to make it more flexible so that soldiers can go through that treatment, because we also know that part of that is we don't want them to go through the stigma, but it almost has to be required that every soldier in those kind of settings go through some degree of treatment to assure that we can come to grips with it as quickly as possible.

We know that the number of suicides that are occurring right now, some 6,000 annually, that is uncalled for. And it is disproportional on the side of veterans versus the general public in terms of those suicides.

I had a young lady in the military that committed suicide. And, believe me, when they commit suicide while in the military, they get treated very differently. The family does not get any compensation whatsoever. And we are having difficulty right now, as we had difficulty with the DOD, Department of Defense, when they ID'd some 22,000 soldiers with personality disorders. When that occurs, that means that it is a preexisting condition. We have to go back and assess. Maybe they do belong with that diagnosis, but we have got to make sure that they are not wrongly diagnosed and not given what they should be; otherwise, they won't be receiving their compensation.

So I want to personally thank you for allowing us to come here tonight and talk about our soldiers and their families and their children, because they are the ones who are also suffering, and those statistics are just alarming and we should not tolerate that.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. And in this Month of the Military Child, we want to make sure that we highlight the impact on our military members' families, because they are the ones that end up forgotten.

And I thank all of you for coming this evening, because you all have some unique experience and involvement, unique constituencies who are significantly impacted by our troops' deployment in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

And someone who in particular has a specific family member who has inspired him is Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, who actually was inspired to run for Congress by his son, Michael, who in response to the attacks from September 11 sought and received a commission in the United States Air Force. And Michael suggested that his dad serve his country, too, by running for Congress. And when they pulled together as a family, Congressman MCNERNEY decided that that was what he needed to do. And we were so pleased when your victory became clear on election night in 2006, and it is with a deep sense of duty and your family's support that I know you are serving here and serving admirably.

So, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

Mr. MCNERNEY. Thank you, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. And first I want to say thank you personally for everything you have done for this institution and for this Nation. The kind of

leadership you are showing tonight has been shown over and over throughout your 3½ years in the Congress, and I look forward to that kind of leadership in the future.

I want to say a few things about posttraumatic stress. The marital problems diagram that we saw earlier is a shocking example of the kind of thing that we are seeing throughout society as a result of this conflict. It turns out that about one in five of our soldiers that returns from Iraq is suffering from a serious form of posttraumatic stress. And that correlates very well with the numbers we are seeing in the graph: About 20 percent of divorce in the current year, 27 percent of other problems, 15 percent of infidelity. So we know that those numbers are about right. And this is exacerbated by having extended tours, by staying there longer than 12 months, and by going back repeatedly. And we know now that only about half of the servicemembers who are suffering from posttraumatic stress and veterans are receiving the right kind of treatment or are receiving any kind of treatment or have sought treatment.

□ 2145

We know that only about half of those that are looking for treatment are getting the kind of treatment they need. So only about 5 percent of the veterans really are getting the kind of treatment that they need on that.

We really do owe the veterans of the country that have served, that have volunteered in this day and age to serve our country, to go to a conflict region, knowing that their lives are in danger, that they could end up with post-traumatic stress, that it is going to be harmful on their families, nonetheless they volunteered to serve our country, to protect our freedom and fight for us back home. No matter how you feel about the war and any of those political issues, we should all agree that we owe our veterans for what they have done for our country.

You are finding throughout this Congress, the 110th Congress, that we have made a collective decision to do what we can for the veterans. We have increased the VA budget by $8 billion over the previous year. And that is significant. That is great, but we still need to do a lot more, and we are moving in that direction.

Today in the Veterans' Affairs Committee we had some bills on the GI bill for the 21st century which are an extension of the Montgomery GI bill, a terrific advancement to give our veterans the kind of education that they need to be productive members of our society.

That money is very, very well spent. I have heard oftentimes that for every dollar we invest in education for our veterans, we get paid back ten-fold. You can see that as a true indication of what happened after World War II. The veterans came back from World War II, and they were given a terrific GI bill, and they have contributed to our society in so many ways in terms of developing our infrastructure, in terms of raising our national stature. And we want to make sure that the veterans coming back from Iraq today have those same opportunities to contribute in other ways than just participating in the war.

With regard to the Iraq war, a specific type of injury is the hallmark or signature of this war, that is the traumatic brain injury. Before in earlier conflicts those kind of injuries, a serious form of traumatic brain injury resulted in death. Today they know how to treat that injury. I will give you sort of a graphic explanation. If that is going to be offensive, you better turn off the sound for a little while.

Basically in a serious form of traumatic brain injury, you get a bullet or shrapnel lodged in the brain, and what happens is your brain begins to swell from the injury. And so unless that swelling is dealt with very soon after the injury, the subject will die. So what they do in the field now is they open up a large section of your skull. They remove the skull itself and embed that into your GI territory to keep that skull viable so it can be reattached later on. In this situation the brain is allowed to swell, and they will have this proceed for about a month. During that time they need to put you in a cold surrounding. They put a cold jacket on you so you are shivering in your bed for about a month. They keep you on medication to keep the swelling down. When the swelling eventually goes down, they will reattach the skull and let you heal.

Another problem is when you have this sort of injury, you are very susceptible to reinjure that, to swell it after they have removed the shrapnel if they can or the bullet. You are very susceptible, so you have to be very careful a year or longer after this kind of injury.

We had a young man from my district, from the town of Manteca. It is a small town of about 60,000 people. He was a Navy corpsman and he was serving in Iraq and their convoy was attacked. He was servicing marines that were injured, and a piece of shrapnel was embedded into his brain. It went in through his eye and he lost his eye. He went through the treatment, and then they brought him back to Bethesda, Maryland. I visited him there a couple of times. This is a very long recovery. The young man is doing fine. He is back home now.

I can tell you the town of Manteca where he grew up and lived and went to church really came together for him. They had a dinner when he was still in Bethesda. About 300 people came out to the dinner to contribute and to show their support for this young man. It was a terrific outpouring of community and faith and love. It was a terrific thing to be representing this kind of town and this kind of a district where people come together in that sort of way for one of their own.

And then when he did come home, the church that he went to, they had a gathering. About a thousand people showed up, and he was there receiving accolades and welcome and love from the entire community. I can tell you, it is a terrible thing to see. Unfortunately, a lot of our young men and women who come back from Iraq don't have that strong of a community. We need to make sure that we provide them, through treatments and efforts to integrate them back into society, to educate them, that they get that sort of opportunity and that they receive the kind of reward that they should for the kind of service and sacrifice that they have made.

With that, I yield back to Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and thank you for your leadership.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. MCNERNEY, thank you. It is wonderful we have someone of your stature and your commitment, that is willing to come to the floor and talk about the importance of making sure that we take care of not just the troops but of the troops' family members because they are making a decision to serve the public as well. They make sacrifices, and we all wanted to come together tonight as House Democrats and talk about the sacrifices that those families make.

It is my distinct pleasure to yield to my colleague from Ohio, Congressman ZACK SPACE, whose father served in the Marines during the Korean War, and who also serves on the Veterans' Affairs Committee and has been a passionate advocate on behalf of issues important to veterans and their families.

Mr. SPACE. I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for taking the lead on this initiative.

In assessing the cost of war, all too often we resort to cold, hard numbers. And we return to things like the financial cost of this war, how much is it costing this Nation or how many lives have we lost. Those are important considerations, obviously; but in assessing the cost of this war, I think it is important that we as a body, as an institution, point out that there are other costs. For example, the loss of international goodwill, the cost of veterans' care is a part of the cost of war, and what we are talking about tonight, the strain and the effect that the war has had on families.

As I see it, there are a lot of different ways to measure that. The most immediate and obvious is the trauma of deployment. Many families in this country today are uneasy as we speak, praying and worrying about their loved ones who are in a strange and foreign land subjected to hostile conditions.

The financial strain on these families is enormous. The marital strain is significant. The cost to a child who doesn't even know their parent, it affects entire families.

I, too, have a loved one serving now in his second tour of duty in Iraq. Zack

Space is his name as well, my cousin. I had the pleasure of spending some time with his folks Sunday in Ohio for Greek Orthodox Easter. We gathered as a family very mindful of little Zack's absence, and prayed for him. To see the concern and worry in his mother's eyes is moving and very visceral.

A second way of evaluating the cost and strain that this war has had on families is to look at the loss that those families have occasioned. We have heard some testimony today from some very able folks talking about the realities of war and those who are returning from war, the suicide rates, homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction, even the breakdown of the traditional family unit. They are all affected by the rigors of war.

And many of these attributes are due to post-traumatic disorder or traumatic brain injury that my colleagues have talked about today, lifelong conditions that will forever plague these families.

I would like to talk if I could for a moment about a couple of folks back home and some others that have had a really profound effect on me and my impressions of this war. One of them is Army Corporal Keith Nepsa, who at the age of 22 years was killed in June of 2007 from wounds sustained when an IED detonated near his vehicle in Iraq. Keith was from New Philadelphia, Ohio, in Tuscarawas County, and I know his father. I went to his funeral and again saw the look in their eyes as they laid their son to rest. They will forever be plagued by this war. Their lives will never be the same.

Another young man from my region, Marine Gunnery Sergeant Joshua Heck who was grievously injured on the battlefield last year, and I went to visit him in Walter Reed not long after his return to the States, a return of a shattered man who had lost limbs, suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, and doomed to a life much different than that which he took with him to Iraq.

I had the pleasure of meeting his wife, Brooke, and his mother who were at his side at Walter Reed bearing much of this burden. As a side note, Joshua, in his hospital bed when I went to visit him, it was at a time when we were debating the course of action that this Congress should take on the war. I asked him what he thought we should do. Having been there, I felt he was qualified to make that assessment and I welcomed his input.

When I asked him that question his response was: Sir, that's not for me to say. You tell me to fight, I fight. I'm a soldier. You tell me to stop and I stop.

And despite his broken body, his love for this country remained as strong as ever. I found it very moving and touching.

Under the leadership of Chairman FILNER, our Veterans' Affairs Committee earlier this year held an Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on the care of the seriously injured after inpatient care. And at this hearing we received testimony from Sarah Wade, not of my district, but who came to testify on behalf of her husband, Sergeant Ted Wade, who had sustained traumatic brain injury.

□ 2200

And Sarah has been left with a completely different life than that which she had before her husband went off to war. He, and she, and their family, will forever be plagued by these injuries.

When young men and women are killed in this war, or come back grievously wounded, it's not just the soldier that suffers, it's their family. And it's not just the family that suffers, it's their community. Their communities grieve.

I'm blessed with a special district. Ohio's 18 district is one wonderful small town after another. The largest city I have in my district has about 25,000 people. And there are a lot of great things about living in a district like that. We're very community-oriented. There's a strong sense of personal responsibility. When good things happen to us, we celebrate together. When bad things happen, like the loss of a heroic soldier, like Corporal Nepsa, we grieve together as a community. Our community continues to grieve for him, as well as the 15 other young men who went to this war and will never come home.

This war has spread its tentacles in many different directions within our culture. As a Member of Congress, I'm sure I share this sentiment with all of those colleagues who are here with me today. We have a sacred obligation to make sure that we protect them while at war to the extent that we're able. But we also have an obligation to bring them home to their families and to their communities as soon as we are able.

I yield back.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you so much, Mr. SPACE and thank you for your commitment. You really have been representing your district proudly, and I know they're proud of you. And I am honored to serve with you. We truly appreciate your being here this evening.

It's now my pleasure to yield a few minutes to my 30 something colleague who is a little bit more familiar with the normal give and take that we have in the 30-Something group. This is a little more staid and low key for 30-Something, but we're trying to help you all keep up with the pace. And feel free, to my colleagues, to jump in. We usually have a little bit more dynamic style in the 30-Something instead of a one at a time type of approach.

So my colleague, Congressman ALTMIRE, from the great State of Pennsylvania, I have to tell a story before I yield to you. And you've heard me tell this before.

Literally, I'm on the whip team for our caucus, and it was my responsibility right after Mr. ALTMIRE's election to sidle over to him and talk to him about some legislation that we wanted him to vote with the caucus on. And literally, his first words to me were that he had to make sure what the impact was on veterans, and that he came here to make sure that the quality of life of our Nation's veterans was upheld and that that was paramount to him. So I thought that was really admirable and wonderful; and you have represented veterans in your community incredibly well.

And I yield to my colleague from Pennsylvania.

Mr. ALTMIRE. I appreciate the gentlewoman's kind remarks and yielding me the time. And I appreciate my colleagues who have been here allowing me the opportunity to speak because I do have to take the chair. And I want to thank the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY) for his patience while he waits for me to step up to the plate.

I really think it's important for us to consider the work that this Congress has done on these issues. And we've spent a lot of time tonight talking about the problem; and that's very important. But it's important that our colleagues and the American people understand what we've done about it. We're not just in a position where we're going to talk about what's wrong. And we know the issues.

There's 700,000 children in America where the head of the household has been deployed. 700,000 children that are missing a parent right now because they're deployed overseas. 19,000 children have had a parent wounded in action. 22,000 have lost a parent in Iraq or Afghanistan.

And we have 40 percent of active duty servicemen and women that are married. So, Mr. SPACE talked about the effect of the spouse, certainly in the tragic extreme, but even when they're deployed and all of the circumstances that arise.

And just today, the American Psychiatric Association released a study focused on the mental health effects of deployments on servicemembers and their family. And that study, again, by the American Psychiatric Association, said that over 30 percent of military family members admitted to being very stressed because of the deployment.

Five years into the war in Iraq, one out of five, 20 percent of those family members surveyed, did not realize that they had the ability to access mental health care treatment to help them with that stress.

And I know we've talked tonight, and it's well documented, the increase in spousal abuse that takes place upon the return from active duty service.

So what has this Congress done? And there are many examples we can give. The largest increase in the 77-year history of VA. We've talked many times.

I wanted to talk about one specific amendment that took place which I offered to the Defense Authorization Bill that dealt with family and medical

leave, and extending the current Family and Medical Leave Act to cover the family members of military, Guard and Reserve members who were deployed, because we obviously need to allow time to work with families in those post-deployment briefings that often take place during the work day. They can't get time off work when they're gathering with their peers from the region to learn what's happening overseas and what the updates are for what's available to them. They should be able to take that time for family medical leave.

Household expenses, getting their financial house in order, dealing with child care issues, all of these are things that are now covered under family medical leave because of the actions of this Congress. This has been signed into law.

Importantly, when the serviceman or woman is injured overseas, you can take Family and Medical Leave Act time to care for the injured serviceman or woman. That's incredibly important. That's going to fundamentally change people's lives, and that's something that this Congress did.

But most to the point of what we're talking about with this study from the American Psychiatric Association and other evidence that exists, we allow family members to take Family and Medical Leave Act time to re-assimilate, as a family, after the serviceman or woman returns from their deployment so they can get to know each other again, spend time with their spouse, spend time with their kids. That is incredibly important. That is a huge achievement of this Congress, and that's something that I'm very proud of, that this Congress has done. That's been signed into law, and it is going to have a major impact on the lives of our brave servicemen and women who are fighting for this country.

So I just wanted to tell that story before I took the chair. And again, I would thank Mr. BRALEY, and I would yield back to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you, Mr. ALTMIRE. And thank you for really making America's military, veterans as well as the troops currently serving, a high priority for yourself and your agenda and the issues that you champion on behalf of the people in the district that you represent in Pennsylvania.

I want to turn now to another Pennsylvanian who served in the United States Navy for 31 years and rose to the rank of three star Admiral. His battle group conducted combat operations in Afghanistan and precursor operations to the war in Iraq, and he is one of our caucus' foremost experts on the issues that are important to military families and that are important to us as we try to wrestle with this very difficult issue of how we're going to extricate ourselves from this war in Iraq. And our caucus has tremendous respect for your service. And it's my pleasure to yield to Congressman JOE SESTAK.

Mr. SESTAK. Thank you very much. I may be the one slowing us down tonight because I'm 50-something in a 30-something group.

This is wonderful. If I might speak, I'm really honored to be asked to say a few words on the last day of the Month of the Military Child.

In the Pentagon, across from the Secretary of Defense's office is the best painting in all of the Pentagon. It's of a young servicemember kneeling in church. And next to him is his young spouse and his young child. And under it is that wonderful saying from the book of Isaiah where God turns to Isaiah and says, Who shall I send? Who will go for us? And Isaiah replies, here am I. Send me.

But really, what that picture depicts is the family that actually is saying, here we are, send us.

I got to know, joining up in 1970 and on, a lot of those families. We don't have, in the military, a human resource department where you outsource problems or challenges. So you sit with them when they're in debt and help to balance their checkbook, or you sit there with them trying to make sure that they get the proper care in the hospital. You get to know the families very well.

And you get to know them in another way during long deployments. Back then, in those early 1970 days, you'd sit there as a young man came up after leaving port and receiving a letter, or getting a letter at sea from another ship as it passes from ship to ship, from his wife that says, Johnny's okay after the operation. But he didn't know about the operation. Maybe in the next port of call, 30 days later, the letter would come in that said, want you to know Johnny had a broken leg. It's okay. He'll have an operation next week.

Or go ahead 3½ decades or so, and how I could sit there and, with technology, record over the Internet and read each evening to my daughter, who was, during this, while gone from her for about a year, during the war and would be able to read to her a book so that she'd go up to the TV and just kiss it. Even today, 7 years later she goes up to the TV if I'm on and kisses it.

I bring those up because I think what people in the military learn is that when authority or responsibility passes, and you come home, that what's really left is the infinite tenderness and caring of a loving family.

And yet, we also recognize in the military, in words that were more reflective of its time, three, 3½ decades ago, that on the commissary bag, shopping bags of each of the military or the Navy complexes would be a saying, ''Navy wife, toughest job in the Navy.''

Or as 70 years ago, the wife of a Chief of Naval Operations said in a poem, a Navy wife remembers. When crying seems likely, just laugh it away.

I bring those up because what sets our military apart from our professions, as someone once said, is it has the dignity of danger. And the character that our men and women who serve in the military show and triumph which didn't begin in theories. It really begins in those places from whence we come and the people who made us who we are, not just our communities, but in particular our families.

And I bring that up because today as was brought out here, is every war is different. World War II, our veterans, on average, had about 182 days of combat. Horrific combat. Battles like Normandy or Guadalcanal. But there was some dwell time in between those battles, time for your physical nerves to adjust, which has a major impact upon your mental state, and time for your mental state to readjust.

In Iraq, however, our soldiers go outside the wire every day for 15 months, into a combat-like situation, and then they come home for 12 and go back again. And then come back to families where 19 percent of them face Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, 33 percent have a mental challenge from depression to anxiety.

So as our families say, here we are, send us, it's never been more vital than now to recognize that if this Nation still wants its families to say here we are, send us, we, more than ever before, I believe, owe it to our veterans to take care of them and their families in the ways that have been laid out much better than I could have by my colleagues. So thank you for speaking tonight.

It's a wonderful brotherhood and sisterhood I lived in for many years that finds the grandest sepulchre of all, a home in the hearts of brave men and women. But again, when all that passes out there, what's left is that family. And whatever we can do for them, from now and forever, is the most arduous responsibility I believe Congress, in this time of war can be charged with.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you so much, Mr. SESTAK, for your 31 years of military service and now your continued public service to our country and to the citizens of Pennsylvania and your district. We really truly appreciate your expertise and the heart that you put into this job in representing your community. So thank you so much for joining us.

□ 2215

It's my pleasure to turn to someone who I admire and respect and look up to. She is one of the few women that are in a leadership role in our Congress on the Armed Services Committee, and she is really a person who has broken through on the issues that are important to the military and the military families and provided a different perspective, as women often do.

And this was such a tremendous source of pride for me, Ms. Davis, that you chair the Subcommittee on Military Personnel, which is an incredibly important assignment of the House Armed Services Committee; and you represent the community of San Diego so admirably in this institution, and

you have been a champion on behalf of veterans and military families.

It is my pleasure to yield to you. Thank you so much for joining us.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Thank you, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

Mr. Speaker, I really am delighted to join my colleagues here and to hear the warm stories that they've told and how critical, how important the issue that we're speaking about this evening is because, you know, what is it about? It's really about our national security, and it is about the willingness of men and women to serve.

I found a quote from our first Commander in Chief, President Washington, and I think it's appropriate to what we've been talking about here today because he said that ''The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive veterans of early wars were treated and appreciated by our nation.''

And I would add to what President Washington said that the willingness with which our families are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive families of early wars were treated and appreciated by our Nation.

When I first came to Congress and I found this fabulous opportunity to serve on the Armed Services Committee, we were not at war. And I met with many of our families and our ombudspeople in the Navy and began to understand what they go through. And I remember so strongly that one of the spouses, one of the ombudsmen said to me, You know, people think of our husbands who deploy on ships, obviously, in the Navy. But, you know, all of us prepare and deploy, that families prepare for this. She was talking about a time when we are not at war.

So we can imagine how difficult it is for families who are preparing for that deployment, preparing for the kind of uncertainties that they know will be around the corner. And that's so difficult.

You have the picture of the family here and the children, and I look at the faces of the children; and I see such resilience in their eyes, and children are tremendously resilient. But the reality is that our children who go to school, and most of our children go to regular schools; they don't go to schools where there are only military families, and on some of our bases that's true, but I have learned on many of our bases that most of the families are in public schools out in the community.

Many of those children come to school with great fears of what is going to happen that day. They don't know if Mommy and Daddy are even going to come home, those who are a little more sophisticated about what they are going through. So we have to be very, very careful, be very, very supportive of those families.

We can even think about our own struggles at home, our own struggles with financial issues and just the general stuff that any couples go through and then magnify that for our families. Many of our families are very young, and we especially need to be supportive of them.

We've covered a lot of ground here this evening, so I don't want to have to go over some of that ground. But if we're going to deploy our men and women at the current pace that we're doing today, we really have to understand the consequences of our policy decisions and sufficiently address how they affect the brave men and women who are serving.

And there is one area that I think the public is learning more about now. And the other day, I had a few hours, and I decided that I didn't have anybody to go with at the time but I wanted to just go see the movie Stop-Loss. And I wanted to just sit in that theater by myself and feel the full impact of that movie because there is a policy involved there that we have undertaken. And I think when you go and you see the movie, and I would certainly encourage people to do that to understand the pain that our families go through, how unpredictable it is and how difficult it is.

We have been looking at this policy, of course, and we would like to stop it. But we know that in fact we need the men and women serving today. So as much as we want to stop that, we're not able to do that right away. Stop-loss, as we know, allows the military to extend a servicemember's time in uniform, and it has been used far too often, and there have been some attempts to change that. We also know, very significantly, predictability is so important to our men and women who serve, and the repeated deployments make that very, very difficult.

So I think we need to focus, and we are, on the dwell-time that families have. They need to readjust. I have had spouses tell me that now that they've been through so many deployments, they're beginning to teach other families about how to give their loved ones space because when you come home, the family wants to just be right there. Well, sometimes that doesn't work so well, and people need to learn that.

So I think that with many of the policies that we're working on today, and yes, we are learning more; we're learning more about PTSD, we're learning about how we can erase the stigma, and I think the military can actually lead the way for the country in that if we do it right.

So I just want to commend you for having this time today and let you know that we are working hard on this. I wish we could work a lot faster on these issues. But we are trying very hard and keeping in mind every day our wonderful men and women who are serving and their families. They are the ones who are sacrificing today, and we need to give them every support that we can.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you, Ms. DAVIS.

Mr. Speaker, I sense that our time is drawing to a close.

The whole point of doing this 30-Something hour focused on the impact of deployments on military families was to try to improve the quality of their life and decrease the impact, the negative impact.

I just want to show you an important statistic here is that less than 50 percent of military families felt that they had support available through all of the phases of their family members' deployment, and that is absolutely unconscionable. It is something that Chairman FILNER and the members of the Armed Services Committee, as well as the Veterans' Affairs Committee, have been working very hard at trying to improve, and that is what the Democratic Caucus, under Speaker PELOSI's leadership, has been absolutely committed to.

Mr. Speaker, I want to yield 30 seconds to Mr. SPACE, and then we will wrap up.

Mr. SPACE. I, once again, thank the gentlewoman from Florida.

Mr. Speaker, when we ask troops to go to war, we have a couple of obligations: We have to make sure that we only send them to war when we have to, that we give them the protection on the battlefield to keep them safe and allow them to accomplish their mission, care for them when they return, especially if they're wounded; but certainly, as our colleague from Pennsylvania, Admiral Sestak, attested to, abide by their familial concerns.

It is absolutely unacceptable that 50 percent of all family members of those who are deployed feel that they're not receiving the support they deserve. I thank the gentlewoman for bringing attention to it and beginning to address that problem.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, to bring us home, Mr. MCNERNEY.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Thank you, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

Mr. Speaker, we've heard a lot of different aspects of the stress of this war on our soldiers, from the families and the children, to the men and women serving.

One thing we haven't talked about is financial stress, and we know that veterans, especially guardsmen and women and reservists when they go overseas, they're particularly vulnerable to foreclosure; and just today in the Veteran's Affairs Committee, we did pass a significant Veterans Housing Authority bill that will be available to those young men and women coming up in the next month or two.

So we're working at all parts of this problem and finding ways to help the veterans through the crises that they're going to be facing upon return, and we welcome them back. This country loves our veterans, and we want to do everything we can for them

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, with that, in honor of the Month of the Military Child, we thank

Speaker PELOSI for her generous donation of this time to the 30–Something Working Group.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. PENCE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, May 1.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, May 7.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, May 7.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 2457. To provide for extensions of leases of certain land by Mashantucket Pequot (Western) Tribe.

S. 2739. To authorize certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service, and the Department of Energy, to implement further the Act approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, to amend the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, May 1, 2008, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6306. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Navy, Case Number 05-01, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

6307. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Navy, Case Number 07-05, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

6308. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 06-08 informing of an intent to sign the Integrated Soldier Capabilities Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and the United Kingdom, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6309. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 03-08 informing of an intent to sign the New, More Powerful, and Insensitive Melt-Cast Metallized Explosives Research Collaboration Project Agreement under the Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and the Republic of Singapore, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6310. A letter from the Secretary3, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6311. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6312. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of an Accountability Review Board to examine the facts and the circumstances of the loss of life at a U.S. mission abroad and to report and make recommendations, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 4834(d)(1); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6313. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-243), the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (Pub. L. 102-1), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, a report prepared by the Department of State for the February 15, 2007 — April 15, 2007 reporting period including matters relating to post-liberation Iraq under Section 7 of the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-338); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6314. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification of a proposed agreement for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of Japan (Transmittal No. DDTC 051-08); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6315. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification of a proposed agreement for the export of defense articles and services to the Governments of Russia, Kazakhstan, and Canada (Transmittal No. DDTC 044-08); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6316. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification of a proposed agreement for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of Portugal (Transmittal No. DDTC 048-08); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6317. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification of a proposed agreement for the export of technical data, defense articles and services to the Governments of Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, Italy, South Africa, and Malaysia (Transmittal No. DDTC 131-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6318. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed transfer of major defense equipment from the Government of Germany (Transmittal No. RSAT-02-08); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6319. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on the status of Data Mining Activities, pursuant to Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act, Section 804; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6320. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6321. A letter from the EEO Programs Director, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the third annual report pursuant to Section 203(a) of the No Fear Act, Pub. L. 107-174, for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6322. A letter from the Associate Deputy Director, Central Intelligence Agency, transmitting the Agency's annual report prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-174, for Fiscal Years 2007 and 2006; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6323. A letter from the Equal Employment Opportunity Director, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's annual report pursuant to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 for Fiscal Year 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6324. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2006 Annual Report pursuant to Section 203, Title II of the No Fear Act, Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6325. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's Fiscal Year 2007 Notification and Federal Employee Anti-Discrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) Act Annual Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6326. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office's comments on H.R. 5687, a bill to amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6327. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; State Boat Channel, Babylon, NY [USCG-2008-0151] received April 7,

2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6328. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Sacramento River, Rio Vista, CA, Drawbridge Maintenance [Docket No. USCG-2008-0174] received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6329. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Harlem River, New York City, NY [USCG-2008-0177] received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6330. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Intracoastal Waterway (ICW); Atlantic City, NJ, Air Show Event [USCG-2008-0184] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6331. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Bonfouca Bayou, Slidell, LA. [Docket No. USCG-2007-0070] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6332. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Liberty Bayou, Slidell, LA. [Docket No. USCG-2007-0078] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6333. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Tchefuncta River, Madisonville, LA. [Docket No. USCG-2007-0079] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6334. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 113, St. Petersburg Beach, FL [Docket No. USCG-2007-0096] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6335. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Potomac River, between Maryland and Virginia [USCG-2008-0115] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6336. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW), at Scotts Hill, NC [USCG-2008-0116] received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6337. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Waters Surrounding U.S. Forces Vessel SBX-1, HI [Docket No. USCG-2007-0195] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6338. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Cape Fear River, Wilmington, North Carolina [USCG-2008-0103] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6339. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anchorage Regulations; Yarmouth, Maine, Casco Bay [Docket No. USCG-2008-0076] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6340. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Landowner Defenses to Liability Under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990: Standards and Practices for Conducting All Appropriate Inquiries [Docket No. USCG-2006-25708] (RIN: 1625-AB09) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6341. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Areas: Cape Fear River, Wilmington, North Carolina [USCG-2008-0061] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6342. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area: Herbert C. Bonner Bridge, Oregon Inlet, NC [USCG-2008-0045] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6343. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Bass Wedding Fireworks Display, San Francisco Bay, CA. [Docket No. USCG-2008-0080] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6344. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Molokini Crater, Maui, HI [Docket No. USCG-2008-0083] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6345. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Fireworks Display, Pasquotank River, Elizabeth City, North Carolina [Docket No. USCG-2008-0147] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6346. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Adminsitrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Longwood Events Wedding Fireworks Display, Boston Harbor, Boston, Massachusetts [Docket No. USCG-2008-0173] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6347. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW), Sunset Beach, NC [CGD05-07-026] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6348. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Manbirtee Key, Port of Manatee, FL [Docket No. USCG-2007-0061, formerly COTP St. Petersburg 07-226] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6349. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Sector Anchorage Western Alaska Marine Inspection and Captain of the Port Zones; Technical Amendment [USCG-2008-0073] (RIN: 1625-ZA15) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6350. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — 2008 Rates for Pilotage on the Great Lakes [USCG-2007-0039] (RIN: 1625-AB23) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6351. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Sacramento River, Sacramento, CA [Docket No. USCG-2008-0062 formerly CGD11-08-002] received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6352. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Sacramento River, Sacramento, CA [Docket No. USCG-2008-0063 formerly CGD11-08-003] received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6353. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Sacramento River, Sacramento, CA [Docket No. USCG-2008-0066 formerly CGD11-08-004] received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6354. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW); Wrightsville Beach, NC [USCG-2008-0104] (RIN: 1625-AA-09) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6355. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Taunton River, Fall River and Somerset, MA [USCG-2008-0046] received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6356. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Rule: Special Local Regulations Concerning Fireworks Displays in Norwich and Middletown, Connecticut [USCG-2007-0011] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6357. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; Severn River, College Creek, Weems Creek and Carr Creek, Annapolis, MD [Docket No. USCG-2007-0076] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received April 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6358. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2008-18, waiving and certifying the statutory provisions regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Office; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations.

6359. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting a copy of proposed legislation, ''To amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) to modernize the financial disclosure process for Federal personnel, and for other purposes''; jointly to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, House Administration, and the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. SLAUGHTER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1167. Resolution providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules. (Rept. 110–614). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DICKS (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. INSLEE, and Mr. MCDERMOTT):

H.R. 5926. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BERMAN (for himself, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. MARSHALL):

H.R. 5927. A bill to combat international violence against women and girls; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. WU:

H.R. 5928. A bill to establish the Mark O. Hatfield Scholarship and Excellence in Tribal Governance Foundation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 5929. A bill to improve the Nation's nuclear forensics capability to help deter and respond to nuclear terrorism; to the Committee on Science and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BONO MACK (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 5930. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow charitable organizations to collect and disperse deductible contributions for certain individuals who are injured or killed in an effort to protect life or property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BORDALLO (for herself and Mr. ABERCROMBIE):

H.R. 5931. A bill to ensure appropriate implementation and oversight of the realignment of military installations and the relocation of military personnel on Guam, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JEFFERSON:

H.R. 5932. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2801 Manhattan Boulevard in Harvey, Louisiana, as the ''Harry Lee Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. JEFFERSON:

H.R. 5933. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5351 Laplaco Boulevard in Marrero, Louisiana, as the ''Lionel R. Collins, Sr. Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. PETRI:

H.R. 5934. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require that fuel surcharges collected by a motor carrier, broker, or freight forwarder be passed through to the person responsible for bearing the cost of fuel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. VISCLOSKY (for himself, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. ALTMIRE):

H.R. 5935. A bill to require certain Federal agencies to use iron and steel produced in the United States in carrying out projects for the construction, alteration, or repair of a public building or public work, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico (for herself and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 5936. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require States to provide hair prostheses under the Medicaid Program for individuals diagnosed with alopecia areata; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CAMPBELL of California (for himself, Mr. HENSARLING, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. SALI, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. PENCE, Mr. GINGREY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. HERGER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. GOODE, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Ms. FOXX, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. FORBES, and Mrs. MYRICK):

H.J. Res. 81. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to control spending; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 248: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 269: Mr. JONES of North Carolina.
H.R. 333: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 406: Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. MICA, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MANZULLO, and Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 446: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 549: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 552: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 579: Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. DONNELLY.
H.R. 594: Mr. DONNELLY and Mr. STARK.
H.R. 643: Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 715: Mr. ROTHMAN and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 741: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 758: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 769: Mrs. EMERSON.
H.R. 826: Mr. DUNCAN.
H.R. 946: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 1032: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1043: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 1064: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1072: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1102: Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
H.R. 1120: Mr. PITTS.
H.R. 1193: Mr. CARNEY and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1264: Mr. BOUSTANY and Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 1354: Mr. JEFFERSON.
H.R. 1363: Mr. PASTOR and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 1386: Mr. HARE.
H.R. 1439: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 1440: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1507: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 1521: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1524: Mr. REYES.
H.R. 1542: Mr. ORTIZ.
H.R. 1609: Mr. TANCREDO.
H.R. 1621: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 1641: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1644: Mr. CARSON and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 1645: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 1667: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 1742: Mr. SULLIVAN and Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 1781: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1783: Mr. CROWLEY and Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 1820: Mr. CARSON and Mr. WEINER.
H.R. 1843: Mr. HULSHOF.
H.R. 1845: Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 1924: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 1927: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 2034: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2092: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. BACA.
H.R. 2131: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2188: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 2267: Mr. KANJORSKI.
H.R. 2303: Mr. OBERSTAR.
H.R. 2343: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 2407: Mr. PICKERING.
H.R. 2458: Mr. PORTER.
H.R. 2470: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2506: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 2533: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 2578: Mr. WELCH of Vermont and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 2712: Mrs. CUBIN.
H.R. 2897: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2910: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2933: Mr. GOODE and Mr. PETRI.
H.R. 2943: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2946: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.
H.R. 3028: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 3036: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3063: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. WALSH of New York.
H.R. 3192: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 3232: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. BRADY of Texas.
H.R. 3257: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3334: Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, and Ms. HOOLEY.
H.R. 3480: Mr. BOREN.
H.R. 3543: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Ms. WATSON.
H.R. 3652: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 3654: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 3663: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 3682: Ms. LEE.
H.R. 3750: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. REYES, Mr. TERRY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. SOLIS.
H.R. 3769: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 3819: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 3905: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3934: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 4026: Mr. COHEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. CLARKE, and Mr. HARE.
H.R. 4061: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. STUPAK.
H.R. 4188: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.
H.R. 4236: Mr. KANJORSKI, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. HARE.
H.R. 4279: Mr. GALLEGLY and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 4344: Mrs. CUBIN.
H.R. 4497: Mr. CARTER.
H.R. 4544: Mr. ACKERMAN.
H.R. 4611: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 4900: Mr. LATTA, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. HULSHOF, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 4926: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 4990: Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 5128: Mr. OLVER.
H.R. 5130: Mr. WATT.
H.R. 5131: Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 5155: Mr. WELCH of Vermont.
H.R. 5315: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 5404: Ms. HOOLEY and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 5440: Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 5443: Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia.
H.R. 5448: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H.R. 5461: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 5464: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 5510: Mr. PAUL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 5519: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 5524: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 5534: Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 5546: Mr. KAGEN.
H.R. 5554: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota and Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 5573: Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 5580: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5595: Mr. SESTAK, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 5615: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 5629: Mr. WALSH of New York.
H.R. 5635: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 5648: Mrs. CUBIN.
H.R. 5656: Mr. GINGREY, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 5678: Mr. ELLISON and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 5684: Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. COSTA, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 5740: Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. SNYDER, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 5741: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 5748: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 5752: Mr. HOEKSTRA.
H.R. 5755: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 5770: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5784: Mr. CARTER and Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 5791: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. JEFFERSON.
H.R. 5801: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 5804: Mr. CARSON and Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 5818: Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. PASTOR.
H.R. 5824: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. COURTNEY, and Ms. CASTOR.
H.R. 5825: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 5845: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 5854: Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.
H.R. 5869: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5873: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5875: Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.
H.R. 5881: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 5886: Mr. LINDER.
H.R. 5892: Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 5894: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. WYNN, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 5899: Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. TANNER, Mr. ROSS, Mr. FARR, Mr. DONNELLY, and Mr. ELLSWORTH.
H.R. 5905: Mr. SALI.
H.R. 5906: Mr. CHABOT.
H.R. 5908: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. PITTS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 5911: Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. POE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. PITTS, Mr. GINGREY, and Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 5917: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.J. Res. 39: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H. Con. Res. 320: Mrs. TAUSCHER and Mr. MEEK of Florida.
H. Con. Res. 331: Mr. ALLEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ROSS, and Ms. ESHOO.
H. Con. Res. 332: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H. Con. Res. 333: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H. Con. Res. 334: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. TURNER, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. MCHUGH, and Mr. MARCHANT.
H. Con. Res. 337: Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mrs. MALONEY of New York.
H. Con. Res. 338: Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HERGER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. NUNES, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. WYNN.
H. Res. 111: Mr. HARE.
H. Res. 169: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H. Res. 258: Mr. YOUNG of Florida and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H. Res. 339: Mr. EDWARDS.
H. Res. 598: Mr. GOODE, Mr. HAYES, and Mr. WALBERG.
H. Res. 653: Mr. DELAHUNT.
H. Res. 758: Mr. UPTON.
H. Res. 937: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H. Res. 959: Mr. HOLDEN.
H. Res. 992: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H. Res. 1011: Ms. DELAURO.
H. Res. 1012: Mr. LATHAM.
H. Res. 1019: Mr. FARR.
H. Res. 1026: Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H. Res. 1028: Mr. STARK.
H. Res. 1046: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H. Res. 1054: Mr. GONZALEZ.
H. Res. 1056: Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. HINCHEY.
H. Res. 1072: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H. Res. 1078: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H. Res. 1080: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H. Res. 1086: Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. KAGEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HONDA, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. BACA, Mr. POE, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. DICKS, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. BEAN, Mr. HILL, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. BARROW, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MARCHANT.
H. Res. 1104: Mrs. CAPPS.
H. Res. 1109: Mr. FARR, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. DELAHUNT.
H. Res. 1110: Mr. MCHUGH and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H. Res. 1113: Mr. KNOLLENBERG and Mr. GOODE.
H. Res. 1114: Mr. GOODE.
H. Res. 1119: Ms. BORDALLO.
H. Res. 1122: Mr. MCHUGH and Mr. LAMBORN.
H. Res. 1127: Mr. BERMAN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. SIRES, Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WU, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Ms. BERKLEY.
H. Res. 1132: Mr. SOUDER.
H. Res. 1134: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BECERRA, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. MITCHELL, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. OBEY, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. REYES, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. SKELTON, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. WATT, Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia, and Mr. WU.
H. Res. 1139: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. TANNER, Mr. REYES, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. POE, and Mr. TAYLOR.
H. Res. 1140: Mr. CAPUANO and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H. Res. 1146: Mr. ARCURI.

H. Res. 1166: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 1201: Mr. SOUDER.

H.R. 2448: Mr. SALI.

H.R. 5534: Ms. FALLIN.