

Madam Speaker, H.R. 6627 authorizes construction of permanent structures to serve as Smithsonian research facilities in Edgewater, Maryland, and Gamboa, Panama. The new buildings will replace aging leased and temporary structure, and provide needed research space for the Smithsonian's research mission.

As part of a comprehensive facilities management plan, the Smithsonian has identified these two research centers as facilities in need of permanent, modern research buildings. The construction of the laboratories authorized by this bill will enable the Smithsonian to reduce its leased space inventory and consolidate its research operations. This will also allow the Smithsonian to close 80-year-old buildings that are costly to operate and not suitable for renovation.

Construction of new facilities in Gamboa will allow the Smithsonian to move out of general office space reconfigured for research and consolidate operations into a government-owned structure more appropriate and less costly for a modern research facility.

The Edgewater, Maryland, research facility will finally have permanent structures after working for many years out of temporary trailers. These trailers are expensive to maintain, and have a short, useful life.

Because the new buildings will be government-owned and cost less to operate and maintain, this legislation is expected to save money in the long term. The new facilities will be designed to meet the specific needs of the research centers.

Government ownership of the structures will save taxpayer dollars by investing in assets that will continue to serve the Smithsonian Institution over time. The dilapidated buildings and trailers currently used consume building maintenance resources and are a liability to the government rather than an asset. Replacement of the old buildings will allow us to shift dollars from maintaining aging structures to creating modern, useful facilities.

I am encouraged by the Smithsonian's responsible property management decisions in these two cases, and I ask my colleagues to please join me in supporting H.R. 6627.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6627, the "Smithsonian Facilities Authorization Act of 2008".

H.R. 6627 authorizes the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to design and construct laboratory space to accommodate the Mathias Laboratory at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center ("SERC") in Edgewater, Maryland. The bill also authorizes the Board of Regents to construct laboratory space to accommodate the terrestrial research program of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute ("STRI") in Gamboa, Panama.

The SERC is a global leader in the study of ecosystems in coastal zones. Founded on the site of an abandoned 1930s dairy farm in Edgewater, Maryland, the SERC facilities include farm buildings, the Mathias Laboratory, 10 temporary trailers, an administrative build-

ing, and a variety of lab support spaces. Nearly one-half of SERC's 146 employees and fellows conduct the majority of their work in trailers. A major part of SERC's mission is to conduct research and professional training of the next generation of environmental scientists.

The Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution requested authority to design and construct laboratory space to accommodate the Mathias Laboratory at SERC. The Board requested authority to upgrade and replace the facility to eliminate unsafe trailers and address substandard, inefficient labs. The facility and its support spaces need to be replaced. The bill authorizes a total of \$41 million for fiscal years 2009 through 2011 to design and construct the Mathias Laboratory.

The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute is located in Gamboa, Panama. STRI is the principal United States organization devoted to research in tropical biology. Both scientific advancement and human welfare depend on a continuing commitment to research in tropical biology for such things as finding untapped tropical resources to add to the important supply of food, pharmaceuticals, and fiber that we already get from the tropics, and to give us a better understanding of how to avoid further ecological catastrophes such as drought, starvation, and flooding caused by deforestation and overpopulation of tropical regions.

The STRI facility is a world-renowned research and education center dedicated to research and analysis of tropical ecosystems. The Board of Regents requested authority to replace current science building structure that is heavily infested with termites. The bill authorizes a total of \$14 million for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 to construct the laboratory.

Madam Speaker, over the past two years, the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution has worked to address numerous management shortfalls. I look forward to working with the Board of Regents and the new Secretary of the Smithsonian, Secretary G. Wayne Clough, as we continue to work together to improve the Smithsonian's management practices and carry out James Smithson's mandate of 1826: "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

I thank Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Ranking Member MICA, Subcommittee Chairwoman NORTON, Committee on House Administration Chairman BRADY and Ranking Member EHLERS, the Smithsonian Congressional Regents, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. JOHNSON of Texas, and Majority Leader HOYER for their support in authorizing construction funding of these two vital Smithsonian facilities.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6627, the "Smithsonian Institution Facilities Authorization Act of 2008".

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the act to replace these two facilities, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6627.

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.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 1335, de novo;

S. 2339, de novo;

H.R. 1594, de novo.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

#### CELEBRATING THE 120-YEAR PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND STATE VET- ERANS HOMES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 1335.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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. 1335.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 0, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 602]

YEAS—411

Abercrombie	Bonner	Carter
Ackerman	Bono Mack	Castle
Aderholt	Boozman	Castor
Akin	Boren	Cazayoux
Alexander	Boswell	Chabot
Allen	Boucher	Chandler
Altmire	Boustany	Childers
Andrews	Boyd (FL)	Clarke
Arcuri	Boyda (KS)	Clay
Bachmann	Brady (PA)	Cleaver
Bachus	Braleley (IA)	Clyburn
Baird	Broun (GA)	Coble
Baldwin	Brown (SC)	Cohen
Barrett (SC)	Brown, Corrine	Cole (OK)
Barrow	Brown-Waite,	Conaway
Bartlett (MD)	Ginny	Cooper
Barton (TX)	Buchanan	Costa
Bean	Burgess	Costello
Becerra	Burton (IN)	Courtney
Berkley	Butterfield	Cramer
Berman	Buyer	Crenshaw
Berry	Calvert	Crowley
Biggert	Camp (MI)	Cuellar
Billbray	Campbell (CA)	Culberson
Bilirakis	Cantor	Cummings
Bishop (GA)	Capito	Davis (AL)
Bishop (NY)	Capps	Davis (CA)
Bishop (UT)	Capuano	Davis (IL)
Blackburn	Cardoza	Davis (KY)
Blumenauer	Carnahan	Davis, David
Blunt	Carney	Davis, Lincoln
Boehner	Carson	Davis, Tom

Deal (GA)	Kildee	Pickering	Wamp	Weldon (FL)	Wittman (VA)	Brown-Waite,	Gilchrest	McCollum (MN)
DeFazio	Kilpatrick	Platts	Wasserman	Weller	Wolf	Ginny	Gillibrand	McCotter
DeGette	Kind	Pomeroy	Schultz	Westmoreland	Woolsey	Buchanan	Gingrey	McDermott
Delahunt	King (IA)	Porter	Waters	Wexler	Wu	Burgess	Gohmert	McGovern
DeLauro	King (NY)	Price (GA)	Watson	Whitfield (KY)	Yarmuth	Burton (IN)	Gonzalez	McHenry
Dent	Kingston	Price (NC)	Watt	Wilson (NM)	Young (AK)	Butterfield	Goode	McHugh
Diaz-Balart, L.	Kirk	Pryce (OH)	Weiner	Wilson (OH)	Young (FL)	Buyer	Goodlatte	McIntyre
Diaz-Balart, M.	Klein (FL)	Putnam	Welch (VT)	Wilson (SC)		Calvert	Gordon	McKeon
Dicks	Kline (MN)	Radanovich				Camp (MI)	Granger	McMorris
Dingell	Knollenberg	Rahall				Campbell (CA)	Graves	Rodgers
Doggett	Kucinich	Ramstad	Baca	Hoekstra	Moran (VA)	Cannon	Green, Al	McNerney
Donnelly	Kuhl (NY)	Rangel	Brady (TX)	Hulshof	Pitts	Cantor	Green, Gene	McNulty
Doolittle	LaHood	Regula	Cannon	Hunter	Poe	Capito	Gutierrez	Meek (FL)
Doyle	Lamborn	Rehberg	Conyers	Jackson-Lee	Reynolds	Capps	Hall (NY)	Meeks (NY)
Drake	Langevin	Reichert	Cubin	(TX)	Stark	Capuano	Hall (TX)	Melancon
Duncan	Larsen (WA)	Renzi	Dreier	Lampson	Udall (CO)	Cardoza	Hare	Mica
Edwards (MD)	Larson (CT)	Reyes	Grijalva	McCarthy (NY)	Waxman	Carnahan	Harman	Michaud
Edwards (TX)	Latham	Richardson	Hastings (FL)	McCrery		Carney	Hastings (WA)	Miller (FL)
Ehlers	LaTourette	Rodriguez				Carson	Hayes	Miller (MI)
Ellison	Latta	Rogers (AL)				Carter	Heller	Miller (NC)
Ellsworth	Lee	Rogers (KY)				Castle	Hensarling	Miller, Gary
Emanuel	Levin	Rogers (MI)				Castor	Herger	Miller, George
Emerson	Lewis (CA)	Rohrabacher				Cazayoux	Herseth Sandlin	Mitchell
Engel	Lewis (GA)	Ros-Lehtinen				Chabot	Higgins	Mollohan
English (PA)	Lewis (KY)	Roskam				Chandler	Hill	Moore (KS)
Eshoo	Linder	Ross				Childers	Hinchee	Moore (WI)
Etheridge	Lipinski	Rothman				Clarke	Hinojosa	Moran (KS)
Everett	LoBiondo	Roybal-Allard				Clay	Hirono	Moran (VA)
Fallin	Loeb sack	Royce				Cleaver	Hobson	Murphy (CT)
Farr	Lofgren, Zoe	Ruppersberger				Clyburn	Hodes	Murphy, Patrick
Fattah	Lowey	Rush				Coble	Holden	Murphy, Tim
Feeney	Lucas	Ryan (OH)				Cohen	Holt	Murtha
Ferguson	Lungren, Daniel	Ryan (WI)				Cole (OK)	Honda	Musgrave
Filner	E.	Salazar				Conaway	Hoolley	Myrick
Flake	Lynch	Sali				Conyers	Hoyer	Nadler
Forbes	Mack	Sánchez, Linda				Cooper	Hunter	Napolitano
Fortenberry	Mahoney (FL)	T.				Costa	Inglis (SC)	Neal (MA)
Fossella	Maloney (NY)	Sanchez, Loretta				Costello	Inslee	Neugebauer
Foster	Manzullo	Sarbanes				Courtney	Israel	Nunes
Fox	Marchant	Saxton				Cramer	Issa	Oberstar
Frank (MA)	Markey	Scalise				Crenshaw	Jackson (IL)	Obey
Franks (AZ)	Marshall	Schakowsky				Crowley	Jefferson	Olver
Frelinghuysen	Matheson	Schiff				Cuellar	Johnson (GA)	Ortiz
Gallely	Matsui	Schmidt				Culberson	Johnson (IL)	Pallone
Garrett (NJ)	McCarthy (CA)	Schwartz				Cummings	Johnson, E. B.	Pascarell
Gerlach	McCaul (TX)	Scott (GA)				Davis (AL)	Johnson, Sam	Pastor
Giffords	McCollum (MN)	Scott (VA)				Davis (CA)	Jones (NC)	Paul
Gilchrest	McCotter	Sensenbrenner				Davis (IL)	Jordan	Payne
Gillibrand	McDermott	Serrano				Davis (KY)	Kagen	Pearce
Gingrey	McGovern	Sessions				Davis, David	Kanjorski	Pence
Gohmert	McHenry	Sestak				Davis, Lincoln	Kaptur	Perlmutter
Gonzalez	McHugh	Shadegg				Davis, Tom	Keller	Peterson (MN)
Goode	McIntyre	Shays				Deal (GA)	Kennedy	Peterson (PA)
Goodlatte	McKeon	Shea-Porter				DeFazio	Kildee	Petri
Gordon	McMorris	Sherman				DeGette	Kilpatrick	Pickering
Granger	Rodgers	Shimkus				Delahunt	Kind	Platts
Graves	McNerney	Shuler				DeLauro	King (IA)	Pomeroy
Green, Al	McNulty	Shuster				Dent	King (NY)	Porter
Green, Gene	Meek (FL)	Simpson				Diaz-Balart, L.	Kingston	Price (GA)
Gutierrez	Meeks (NY)	Sires				Diaz-Balart, M.	Kirk	Price (NC)
Hall (NY)	Melancon	Skelton				Dicks	Klein (FL)	Pryce (OH)
Hall (TX)	Mica	Slaughter				Dingell	Kline (MN)	Putnam
Hare	Michaud	Smith (NE)				Doggett	Knollenberg	Radanovich
Harman	Miller (FL)	Smith (NJ)				Donnelly	Kucinich	Rahall
Hastings (WA)	Miller (MI)	Smith (TX)				Doolittle	Kuhl (NY)	Ramstad
Hayes	Miller (NC)	Smith (WA)				Doyle	LaHood	Rangel
Heller	Miller, Gary	Snyder				Drake	Lamborn	Regula
Hensarling	Miller, George	Solis				Duncan	Langevin	Rehberg
Herger	Mitchell	Souder				Edwards (MD)	Larsen (WA)	Reichert
Herseth Sandlin	Mollohan	Space				Edwards (TX)	Larson (CT)	Renzi
Higgins	Moore (KS)	Speier				Ehlers	Latham	Reyes
Hill	Moore (WI)	Spratt				Ellison	LaTourette	Richardson
Hinchee	Moran (KS)	Stearns				Ellsworth	Latta	Rodriguez
Hinojosa	Murphy (CT)	Stupak				Emanuel	Lee	Rogers (AL)
Hirono	Murphy, Patrick	Sullivan				Emerson	Levin	Rogers (KY)
Hobson	Murphy, Tim	Sutton				Engel	Lewis (CA)	Rogers (MI)
Hodes	Murtha	Tancredo				English (PA)	Lewis (GA)	Rohrabacher
Holden	Musgrave	Tanner				Eshoo	Lewis (KY)	Ros-Lehtinen
Holt	Myrick	Tauscher				Etheridge	Linder	Roskam
Honda	Nadler	Taylor				Everett	Lipinski	Ross
Hoolley	Napolitano	Terry				Fallin	LoBiondo	Rothman
Hoyer	Neal (MA)	Thompson (CA)				Farr	Loeb sack	Roybal-Allard
Inglis (SC)	Neugebauer	Thompson (MS)				Fattah	Lofgren, Zoe	Royce
Inslee	Nunes	Thornberry				Feeney	Lowey	Ruppersberger
Israel	Oberstar	Tiahrt				Ferguson	Lucas	Rush
Issa	Obey	Tiberi				Filner	Lungren, Daniel	Ryan (OH)
Jackson (IL)	Olver	Tierney				Flake	E.	Ryan (WI)
Jefferson	Ortiz	Towns				Forbes	Lynch	Salazar
Johnson (GA)	Pallone	Tsongas				Fortenberry	Mack	Sali
Johnson (IL)	Pascarell	Turner				Fossella	Mahoney (FL)	Sánchez, Linda
Johnson, E. B.	Pastor	Udall (NM)				Foster	Maloney (NY)	T.
Johnson, Sam	Paul	Upton				Fox	Manzullo	Sanchez, Loretta
Jones (NC)	Payne	Van Hollen				Frank (MA)	Marchant	Sarbanes
Jordan	Pearce	Velázquez				Franks (AZ)	Markey	Saxton
Kagen	Pence	Visclosky				Frelinghuysen	Marshall	Scalise
Kanjorski	Perlmutter	Walberg				Gallely	Matheson	Schakowsky
Kaptur	Peterson (MN)	Walden (OR)				Garrett (NJ)	Matsui	Schiff
Keller	Peterson (PA)	Walsh (NY)				Gerlach	McCarthy (CA)	Schmidt
Kennedy	Petri	Walz (MN)				Giffords	McCaul (TX)	Schwartz

## NOT VOTING—22

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE  
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1754

Mr. BAIRD changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I was inadvertently detained today and regret missing the vote on House Resolution 1335. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted “yea”.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLEMENT  
C. VAN WAGONER DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the Senate bill, S. 2339.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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 pass the Senate bill, S. 2339.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 0, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 603]

YEAS—412

Abercrombie	Bartlett (MD)	Boehner
Ackerman	Barton (TX)	Bonner
Aderholt	Bean	Bono Mack
Akin	Becerra	Boozman
Alexander	Berkley	Boren
Allen	Berman	Boswell
Altmire	Berry	Boucher
Andrews	Biggart	Boustany
Arcuri	Bilbray	Boyd (FL)
Bachmann	Bilirakis	Boyda (KS)
Bachus	Bishop (GA)	Brady (PA)
Baird	Bishop (NY)	Braley (IA)
Baldwin	Blackburn	Broun (GA)
Barrett (SC)	Blumenauer	Brown (SC)
Barrow	Blunt	Brown, Corrine