

This amendment would bring the International Whaling Commission into line with other international fora, such as the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

It also would signal a shift in our approach to ending commercial whaling in all its forms at the IWC. Under the last Administration the U.S. Commissioner sought to negotiate an agreement that would legitimize commercial whaling and allow the continuation of so-called scientific whaling. This policy direction was very clearly at odds with the wishes of the American people, past Administrations, and numerous Members of Congress. Further, while we all want to reduce the number of whales killed, unfortunately the proposed agreement would not have achieved this goal.

Last year at this time, the House of Representatives passed House Concurrent Resolution 350, which, among other things, urged U.S. leadership to use all appropriate measures to put an end to all forms of commercial whaling around the globe.

In the first days of the Obama Presidency, I urged him to ensure that the Bush Administration's flawed policies and negotiation tactics become a thing of the past. Just last month, 34 of my colleagues joined me in calling upon the Obama Administration to modernize the IWC and bring it in line with other international conservation treaties.

This bill is the first step in that direction. It is time to set new goals for protecting whales with an explicit commitment to the accountability and transparency that were lost during the last eight years.

In her public statement issued prior to this year's Intercessional Meeting of the IWC, Council on Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley confirmed that the Obama Administration views the commercial whaling moratorium as a necessary conservation measure and believes that lethal scientific whaling is unnecessary for modern whale conservation management.

In that spirit, it's time for a new direction for the IWC, with a new policy and a new agreement to end commercial and so-called scientific whaling. I look forward to working with the Obama Administration, and this bill will ensure that the next U.S. Commissioner, who will be appointed this year, will be an employee of their Administration, fully in step with their new approach and commitment to opposing the resumption of commercial whaling.

As the 61st Annual Meeting of the IWC convenes next week in Madeira, Portugal, I again urge the Obama Administration to take the necessary steps to repair the damage done in recent years and to reestablish our nation's longstanding commitment to protecting whales.

As a symbol of that new day, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING SARAH YANG, MINNESOTA'S NATIONAL HISTORY DAY REPRESENTATIVE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Sarah Yang of Ramsey, Minnesota. Sarah is serving as the Minnesota

representative for the National History Day competition and it is my honor to call attention to the hard work and dedicated effort she has put into her project.

Since October, Sarah has been researching information on Xang Vang, a Hmong community advocate in Minnesota, in concert with the competition theme of, "The Individual in History: Action and Legacies." She was first selected as a winner from Anoka High School and then selected among 30,000 students from Minnesota. Her project, "Restoring Roots: Xang Vang & the Regeneration of Minnesota's Hmong Economy" has culminated in a website that chronicles the life and work of Vang.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sarah Yang and all the students who have participated in National History Day. We're often told, "We can't know where we're going until we know where we've been." Sarah is just one representative of thousands of students who have taken ambitious strides to learn the history that will guide them to a bright and successful future. Congratulations to Sarah for making it this far and I hope we will continue to see more students taking part in National History Day every year.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2847) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Mollohan Amendment, which increases funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) by \$100 million.

Each year, American taxpayers spend over \$36 billion to provide health care, education, and incarceration to illegal immigrants. In 2005, the Government Accountability Office found that states spend more than \$1.7 billion each year alone to incarcerate criminal aliens. Unfortunately, Congress has only reimbursed about 20 percent of these local expenditures over the years through the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program. The difference between actual expenditures and the SCAAP reimbursement level is particularly dramatic for my home state of California, which has the largest number of incarcerated illegal criminal aliens of any state in the nation. This year, the cost to California alone is estimated to be \$1 billion.

This year, the Administration proposed to terminate SCAAP by requesting no funding for this important program for Fiscal Year 2010. At a time when states, especially California, are experiencing unprecedented budget challenges, it is irresponsible for the Administration to terminate this program and place the costly burden of our nation's failed immigration policies on state governments. We cannot afford

to eliminate or reduce this vital program, which already falls far short of what states and local governments actually spend to incarcerate illegal criminal aliens.

Although I am pleased that House appropriators went against the will of the Administration by including \$300 million for SCAAP in H.R. 2847, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, this is still a far cry from acceptable. My colleagues and I have offered an amendment to increase SCAAP funding by \$100 million, which will fund the program at a grand total of \$400 million for Fiscal Year 2010, which is equal to last year's funding.

If Congress fails to increase funding for SCAAP, states will be forced to cut many of our local law enforcement agencies including sheriffs, police officers, anti-gang violence units, and district attorney offices. Taxpayers should not be burdened with funding the incarceration of criminal aliens who, by law, are the responsibility of the federal government. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this important amendment and provide the resources necessary to our state and local governments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 340 through 350. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each. Thank you.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
JUDY BARNES AS CEO OF THE
HOME BUILDING ASSOCIATION
OF GREATER GRAND RAPIDS

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with mixed emotions to honor my good friend, Judy Barnes, who retires as Chief Executive Officer of the Grand Rapids Home and Building Association, HBA, of Grand Rapids on June 30, 2009. Judy has been energetic and optimistic in her duties at the Association, where she has served as CEO for 25 years.

Judy's great attitude and outlook on life helped her successfully lead the homebuilding industry in Grand Rapids through good times and bad. When she took over as CEO in 1984, she helped grow the relatively small group to one of the largest HBAs in the nation through her solid work ethic and passion. Her professionalism and leadership skills garnered the respect of her constituency and the community, as she spoke on behalf of the HBA throughout the years.

The Parade of Homes is an annual tradition for the Grand Rapids area, and for Judy Barnes. She played a key role in planning this fantastic event each year, and helped expand the number of homes in the event to over 250 at its peak. While the downturn in the homebuilding industry has reduced the number of