

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS—APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION

(In millions of dollars)

	BA	OT
Current allocation:		
Fiscal Year 2009	1,482,201	1,247,872
Fiscal Year 2010	1,091,405	1,309,520
Changes for overseas deployment and other activities designations:		
H.R. 3326 (Department of Defense Appropriations):		
Fiscal Year 2009	0	0
Fiscal Year 2010	128,247	68,091
Revised allocation:		
Fiscal Year 2009	1,482,201	1,247,872
Fiscal Year 2010	1,219,652	1,377,611

OZARK-JETA PROJECT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join those Members of Congress who are concerned about the rapid growth of deficit spending by the Federal Government, lots of spending with little job growth. For that reason I rise today to express my concern that the administration budget attempts to cancel a project that will literally cost the taxpayers more to cancel than it will to complete.

On July 7 the New York Times reported on the Ozark Powerhouse Rehabilitation project. According to the Times: "Shutting down the Ozark-Jeta project won't save taxpayers a dime since the government would pay a \$12 million cancellation fee and reimburse utility ratepayers for their \$20 million share. Bottom line: Federal Taxpayers would spend \$32 million to kill the project, \$4 million more than it would cost to complete it."

I think it is important for the record to contain some background information on the Ozark Powerhouse Rehabilitation project. So let's take a moment to do that.

The Corps of Engineers is in the middle of a major rehabilitation of the Ozark-Jeta Taylor Powerhouse on the Arkansas River. Construction is under way. This project involves turbine redesign and replacement that will improve and allow the continued operation of this 100-megawatt hydropower facility. The electricity produced at the Ozark Powerhouse is sold to customers in Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. As the Times article noted, electricity customers have already invested \$20 million through their utilities in this project. Neither the President's fiscal year 2010 budget request nor the initial announcements of stimulus money for the Corps contain any funding for this project.

My hope is that the administration will now work with the Congress to do the right thing and ensure that funding is provided to complete this project. If the project is not funded in 2010, work would be closed out on the project as fiscal year 2009 funds are exhausted.

If that happens, what will we have? We will have one turbine unit dis-

assembled and inoperative. We will have another inoperative unit due to a cracked shaft. We will have three units that are available only on a day-to-day basis due to frequent outages caused by problems with old turbine runners. We will have five new units that have already been purchased and may be left sitting uninstalled and onsite with no place to store them. Most regrettably, the taxpayers will have an additional \$32 million bill on top of the money they have already spent on an incomplete project.

If this project is cut, how can we say we want to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and cut emissions? If this project is cut, how can we say we want to encourage renewable energy? If this project is cut, how can we say we will avoid wasting the taxpayers' money?

In fact, because the electricity produced by this Federal project will be sold, once the rehabilitation is complete, every taxpayer's invested dollar will be returned to the Treasury plus interest. At this point how could we even consider not completing the work?

I encourage the President to make an honest effort to reduce Federal spending, and we can start by completing this project rather than canceling it. During the Presidential campaign, then-Senator Obama talked about the importance of using a scalpel, not a hatchet, when cutting spending. A quick look at the facts shows that this project was thoughtlessly cut, the kind of cut that is made with a hatchet.

We have all seen crazy decisions made by both Republicans and Democrats in the White House; so I'm not trying to be partisan expressing my concern about the way this project is being handled. Instead, I believe this cut illustrates that the government too often makes poor decisions and mishandles taxpayers' dollars. It just doesn't make any sense to cancel a project in the middle of construction when it will cost more to cancel the project than it would to finish it.

Again, my hope is that the administration now will work with Congress to do the right thing and ensure that funding is provided to complete this project.

INTRODUCING H. RES. 680, REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT TO RETRACT AND APOLOGIZE FOR REMARKS CRITICIZING OFFICER CROWLEY; AND H.R. 3347, THE FREEDOM TRADE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, tonight I have introduced H. Res. 680, calling upon President Obama to retract and apologize for his remarks regarding the conduct of Cambridge, Massachusetts, police officer James M. Crowley, Jr. Mr. Speaker, I view this as a Presidential issue.

After admitting his bias and inadequate grasp of the facts, the President nevertheless stated Sergeant Crowley had "acted stupidly" when carrying out his duties as a law enforcement officer. Subsequently, in a public remark, the President said that Sergeant Crowley had "overreacted."

On his part, Sergeant Crowley has steadfastly denied any inappropriate conduct.

Mr. Speaker, this is the crux of the problem, and it is a situation patently unfair to Sergeant Crowley and his standing regarding potential legal and professional consequences. Therefore, I ask the President to retract his premature judgment, apologize for it, and allow the appropriate authorities to resolve this issue through due process.

With my view, Kenneth E. Grabowski, legislative director of the Police Officers Association of Michigan agrees. I quote Mr. Grabowski: "After admitting a bias against the police officer and an ignorance of the facts, the President used his bully pulpit to help a well-connected friend by unfairly accusing an officer of misconduct in the performance of his duties. It must not stand. If it does, what officer will be next?"

And I would add, what citizen will be next?

Mr. Speaker, tonight I have also introduced H.R. 3347, the Freedom Trade Act, which applies human rights as a criterion of trade with the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I believe H.R. 3347 is most timely, for today, in the Ronald Reagan Building, President Obama stated how "the relationship between the United States and China will shape the 21st century, which makes it as important as any bilateral relationship in the world."

On my part, I believe it is therefore imperative that this relationship be built upon a common and unbreakable commitment to every human being's God-given rights to liberty, including the rights of the free exercise of religion and speech and to the ability to form free and independent labor unions.

That is why this bill is necessary. It will show all our potential partners throughout the world that the United States remains a beacon of freedom that will never forget Natan Sharansky's warning that "how a government treats its own people cannot be separated from how that government could be expected to treat other countries."

Mr. Speaker, with this I wholeheartedly concur.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOHMERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)