

The current system of unclear mandates, fragmented authorities, overlapping responsibilities, antiquated rules and tortuous procedures hampers our ability to deliver aid to the people who need it at the lowest possible cost. One lesson of the 1990s is that reductions in force at USAID did not result in improved efficiency. Instead, a specialized and experienced federal workforce was largely replaced by a contractor bureaucracy that operates at higher cost and with less accountability. Another lesson was that elimination of the USAID office that conducted program monitoring and evaluation seriously hindered our ability to assess the performance of our aid programs and share and replicate best practices. When resource allocations are made without the benefit of quantitative program indicators and rigorous impact evaluations, there is little basis for determining which activities and approaches are most effective and where the needs are greatest. Both H.R. 2139 and the foreign aid reform bill currently being drafted contain mandatory requirements for monitoring and evaluation of all foreign assistance programs.

The second is a redraft of legislation under the Export Administration Act of 1979 to reauthorize, streamline and update the Act to ensure that it is responsive to both current security threats and the international commercial environment in which U.S. firms must compete.

The staff draft of the export administration legislation includes two provisions requiring a periodic independent evaluation of the system. One provision would require evaluations of the effectiveness of export controls in protecting U.S. national security and would require the evaluations, with recommendations for improvements, to be sent directly to the President and Congress. The second provision would require an evaluation of the effectiveness of U.S. diplomacy in engaging with the four multilateral export control organizations. These would be the first systemic evaluations of U.S. export controls and our diplomacy regarding controls. They would contribute to modernization of the current system, which is widely judged to be falling behind in its mission.

On a related point, the Committee staff is engaged in oversight of both the Export Administration Regulations (dual-use) and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (munitions) to strengthen the effectiveness of regulations, licensing and enforcement. Such oversight led to enactment of a provision in the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act (P.L. 111–195) to strengthen the enforcement authority of the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security.

Separate from the preceding, the Committee staff is drafting legislation that would provide the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee with new authority over agencies' programs and budgets. The draft legislation would require coordination of the federal government's 17 export promotion programs, to more effectively deploy existing budgetary and staffing resources to increase U.S. exports. The bill also would require a reallocation of resources in the U.S. Commercial Service to overseas markets with potential for increased purchase of U.S. exports. The draft legislation is in response to Committee staff inquiries and a series of GAO reports that have identified signifi-

cant overlap, gaps and inefficiencies in these programs.

Finally, in terms of the Committee's oversight of ongoing agency activities, Committee staff conduct assiduous review of agencies' advance notifications of grants and contracts under programs under the Committee's jurisdiction. The goal is to ensure that proposed expenditures are in line with applicable statutes, federal policy and program goals. Proposed expenditures that raise questions are examined and then blocked if found to be inappropriate. As an example, in August, Committee staff urged the Trade and Development Agency to reconsider a proposed contract for technical services that could be provided more cost-effectively by federal employees. The agency did so and cancelled the proposed contract.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT
ROLE ZOOS, AQUARIUMS, AND
OTHER WILDLIFE ORGANIZA-
TIONS HAVE PLAYED IN THE RE-
SPONSE EFFORTS IN THE GULF
REGION FOLLOWING THE DEEP-
WATER HORIZON OIL SPILL
THAT BEGAN ON APRIL 20, 2010

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing the important role zoos, aquariums, and other wildlife organizations have played in the response efforts in the Gulf region following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Even in difficult economic times, zoos, aquariums, and other wildlife institutions have provided valuable staff and resources for rescue and rehabilitation efforts in the Gulf region. This resolution would give these organizations the praise and support they deserve for their dedication and selfless contributions.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have identified zoos and aquariums as important partners in the rescue and rehabilitation efforts of the wildlife impacted by the oil spill. Many of these institutions already have in place established programs for animal rescue and rehabilitation as well as the resources needed to address short-term and long-term impacts of the oil spill on animals and habitats in the Gulf of Mexico region.

The unique expertise of the professionals at zoos and aquariums is invaluable to responding to environmental disasters like that in the Gulf region following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Additionally, their contributions to conservation programs, science education, and community development deserve our continued support and appreciation.

One of these valuable organizations is the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, AZA. Established in 1924, the AZA has been dedicated to advancing the work of zoos and aquariums in the areas of conservation, education, science, and recreation. There are over 200 AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums in 46 states, where they support more than 126,000 jobs and attract 180 million visitors annually. Of these AZA-accredited institutions, 70 have contributed to the rescue and rehabilitation ef-

forts in the Gulf of Mexico following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill which began on April 20, 2010.

I am proud to have the Palm Beach Zoo, an AZA-accredited institution, in my district. The Palm Beach Zoo actively promotes conservation and education programs, including the incorporation of Species Survival Plans and Population Management Plans through the AZA.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the important work that these organizations do and for their partnership in the recovery efforts in the Gulf region. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and the important contributions zoos, aquariums, and other wildlife organizations make in our communities.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, we have witnessed the personal courage and sacrifice made by so many West Virginians, who serve our great state and country proudly in our armed forces. But we must never forget those who lost their life on September 11, 2001—a most tragic day in our history.

Today, it is appropriate that the formal federal recognition ceremony at the West Virginia National Guard for its Joint Interagency Training and Education Center coincides with the ninth anniversary of terrorist attacks on America.

Those who delivered the blows hoped their cowardly actions would mark the beginning of our destruction. Instead, they reaffirmed our commitment to our founding values and inspired a renewed dedication to embrace once again that America's destiny is the world's destiny—to secure life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Today will always be a solemn day for Dr. Kenneth and Sharon Ambrose who lost their son, Dr. Paul Ambrose. He was on board American Airlines Flight 77 that was hijacked by terrorists and flown into the Pentagon. His passion to improve health care and the well being of West Virginians through better nutrition and activity lives on through the Paul Wesley Ambrose Health Policy Program, a fellowship program at Marshall University's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, and the Paul Ambrose Trail for Health being developed for Huntington with the Rahall Transportation Institute. PATH is a 26-mile walking and shared-road trail that encompasses nearly every part of the city.

The Puritan preacher John Winthrop proclaimed as he and his followers sailed for America and freedom, "The eyes of all people are upon us."

Many have looked to us in awe, over the last nine years and through the nearly four centuries of our history—inspired by our nation rooted in liberty, and today we must re-dedicate ourselves to continue our mission to improve life and protect those freedoms we all hold dear.