

COMPETES Act contained additional provisions dealing with coordination and non duplication. Under Title VI of the bill, the Undersecretary for Science at the Department of Energy was given additional authority to coordinate energy technology research, development, and demonstration activities across the Department. There are also coordination provisions relating to the management of federal scientific collections and manufacturing research and development.

NASA ACQUISITION REFORM

Over the course of the past several years, the Committee on Science and Technology has investigated deficiencies in the awarding of major NASA contracts, with a focus on the flawed awarding of the Space Communications Networks Services Contract. This contract award, worth 1.3 billion dollars, has been successfully protested to the Government Accountability Office twice, and significant concerns regarding NASA's contract award management have been raised by these protests. To address these issues, the Committee devoted Title VIII of its 2010 NASA authorization (H.R. 5781) to acquisition management. Notably, this title attempts to avoid organizational conflicts of interest in major NASA acquisitions by prohibiting contractors providing systems engineering or technical assistance to NASA from competing for the underlying management or acquisition contract. Similar provisions applicable to the Department of Defense were included in the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009. In an effort to control spiraling acquisition costs, Title VIII of H.R. 5781 also strengthens a prohibition on expenditure of funds for acquisitions which exceed a 30 percent cost growth.

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT

As a component of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010, the Committee included a provision requiring the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to conduct an assessment of the governance of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program. In carrying out the assessment, the Director is instructed to use criteria established pursuant to the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. This novel approach is intended to require the director of NIST to use criteria generally applied in making assessments of private sector proposals on NIST's own programs. It is hoped that this critical assessment will lead to better management of the MEP program.

FUTURE AREAS OF FOCUS

The Committee on Science and Technology continues to look at ways of making the Federal scientific agencies more efficient and better managed. One area of future focus is the management of the Department of Energy's (DOE) civilian research laboratories. DOE's laboratories are currently regulated internally, and, to a large degree, to a single DOE set of standards. However, the safety, environmental, and security requirements of DOE's civilian and military laboratories vary greatly. The Committee has begun to investigate whether turning DOE's civilian laboratories over to non-DOE regulation would prove more cost effective than its current internal management structure. The Committee has also been looking at recommendations from a 2009 report by the National Academy of Public Administration to determine if DOE could imple-

ment practices aimed at better management of its human capital.

I hope these examples of the Committee's legislative work prove helpful to the Congress at large. As the Congress moves forward with future efforts toward deficit reduction and enhanced management of the Federal Government, the Committee on Science and Technology will continue to be an enthusiastic partner in these endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF MERYL FRANK

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Her Excellency Ambassador Meryl Frank, honoree at the Jewish Outreach Institute's 2010 Tribute Evening. For many years, Ambassador Frank has dedicated her time to serve the local community and advocate on behalf of women's rights. Her numerous achievements and accolades have earned her this prestigious recognition bestowed upon her by the Jewish Outreach Institute.

Ambassador Frank is a graduate of Livingston College, Rutgers University where she majored in history. She also earned multiple graduate degrees from Yale University in International Relations, Political Science, and Public Health in 1987 and 1988.

As Mayor of Highland Park, Ambassador Meryl Frank dedicated her life to serving her constituents. During her tenure, she was known for her commitment to ethics and good government. Under her direction, Highland Park maintained their title as New Jersey's first green community. The Borough of Highland Park continues to promote a tradition of diversity throughout the community and currently also houses one of the best public school systems in the nation. Highland Park's success is a result of Ambassador Frank's dedication to the residents and displays outstanding leadership.

Ambassador Frank touts thirty years of exceptional community service and advocacy work on behalf of women and children. Ms. Frank served at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Copenhagen, Denmark and prepared a report on the Implementation of the International Code on Breast Milk Substitutes. She has also served as Director of the Infant Care Leave Project at the Yale Bush Center in Child Development and Social Policy and President of the Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress. Ms. Frank co-authored and edited *The Parental Leave Crisis: Toward a National Policy*, was a key advocate of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act signed into law by President Clinton, and was an author of the New Jersey Family Leave Act signed by Governor Kean. As a result of her hard work, Ms. Frank was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in February 2010 after already having served as the U.S. Representative to the CSW for nearly one year. Her commitment to improving and empowering the lives of women globally has gained her acclaim as a mentor, trainer, and lecturer on women's leadership and political participation. Ambassador Frank's outstanding

work has undoubtedly touched the lives of many individuals and is worthy of recognition by the Jewish Outreach Institute.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing Ambassador Meryl Frank. Her life-time devotion to helping others will continue to serve as a shining example of what steadfast commitment and determination can accomplish.

CONSOLIDATED LAND, ENERGY, AND AQUATIC RESOURCES ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3534) to provide greater efficiencies, transparency, returns, and accountability in the administration of Federal mineral and energy resources by consolidating administration of various Federal energy minerals management and leasing programs into one entity to be known as the Office of Federal Energy and Minerals Leasing of the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes:

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chair, I submit an exchange of letters between the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Ways and Means concerning H.R. 3534.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, September 13, 2010.

Hon. NICK J. RAHALL II,
*Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR NICK RAHALL: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Ways and Means in your amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 3534, the "Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act of 2010."

Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides that the Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over "revenue measures generally." Section 802 of H.R. 3534, as amended, raises revenue by imposing a fee of \$2 per barrel of oil and 20 cents per million BTU of natural gas produced on Federal onshore and offshore lands. As a result, Section 802 of H.R. 3534, as amended, is within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of H.R. 3534, as amended. However, I agree to waive consideration of this bill with the understanding that this does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means and its jurisdictional prerogatives on H.R. 3534 or similar legislation.

Further, the Ways and Means Committee reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation on provisions of the bill that are within the Committee's jurisdiction. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Ways and Means for the appointment of conferees on H.R. 3534 or similar legislation. I also ask that a copy of this letter and your response be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill by the House.